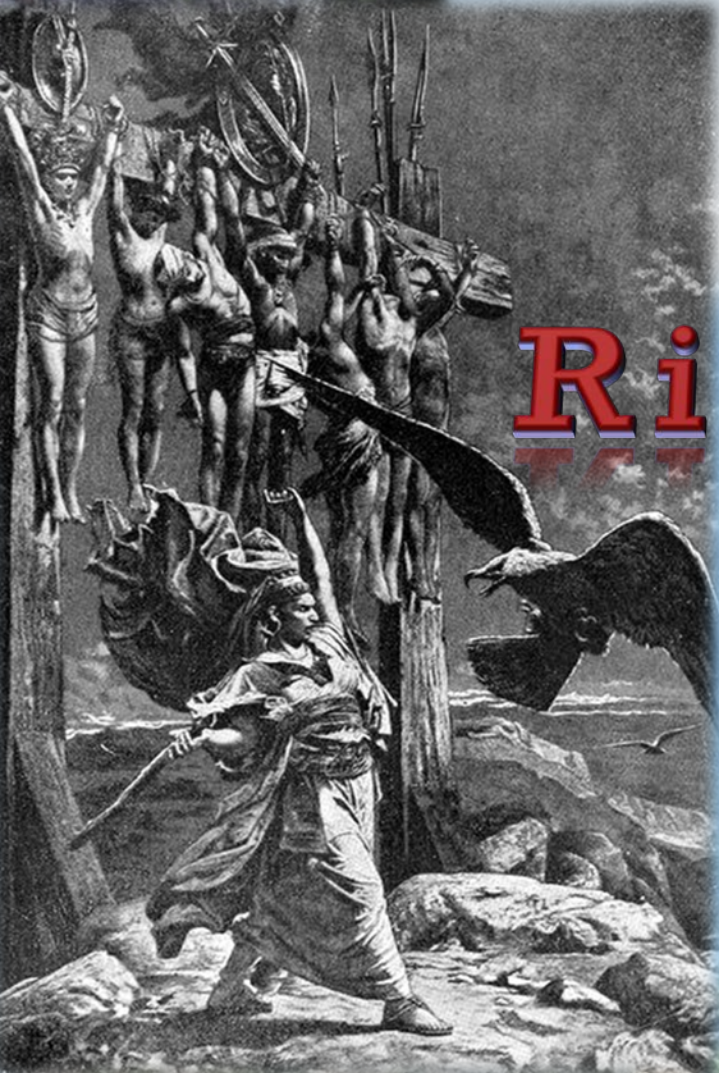


August 12 – 2 Samuel 21

RESOLVED

Rizpah— Defender of Her Sons



Rizpah Protecting Bodies of Her Sons, 1883
by Georges Becker (1845-1909)



King David, by Nicolas Cordier
Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore
est. A.D. 432. Rome. Italy

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS



2 Samuel

1.	June 3	Respected	1-2	David Mourns Saul, then Made King
2.	June 10	Crowned	3-4	Civil War – Abner Killed by Joab
3.	June 17	Celebrated	5-6	King David Moves Ark to Jerusalem
4.	June 24	Established	7	God's Covenant to Build House of David
5.	July 1	Valued	9	David Befriends Mephibosheth
6.	July 8	Accountable	11-12	David & Bathsheba, Repents to Nathan
7.	July 15	Grieved	13	Tamar Raped ... Absalom Kills Amnon
8.	July 22	Deposed	14-17	Absalom Rebels against David
9.	July 29	Restored	19	David Restored to Throne
10.	Aug. 5	Averted	20	Sheba Revolts against David
★ 11.	Aug. 12	Resolved	21	Gibeonite Revenge on House of Saul
12.	Aug. 19	Thankful	22	David's Song of Deliverance (Psalm 18)
13.	Aug. 26	Disciplined	24	David's Census Sin

2 Samuel Outline

- 1-7 David Secures the Kingdom over Southern and Northern Tribes** 1-7
- 1 David Mourns Death of Saul & Jonathan
 - 2-4 David Made King over Judah in Hebron
 - 5 David Made King over All of Israel ... Conquers Jerusalem
 - 6 Ark brought to Jerusalem
 - 7 Davidic Covenant ... David wants to Build Temple
- 8-10 David Extends the Kingdom** 8-10
- 8 War against Philistia, Moab, Syria, Ammon, Amalek
 - 9 David's Kindness to Saul's son Mephibosheth
 - 10 War against Ammon in Syria
- 11-12 David with Bathsheba, Adultery, Murder, Repents, Solomon's Birth** 11-12
- 13-19 Absalom's Revolt against David** 13-19
- 13-14 Amnon Rapes Tamar ... Absalom Kills Amnon, Flees, Returns
 - 15-17 Absalom Revolts against David ... David Flees
 - 18-19 David Defeats Absalom ... Joab Kills Absalom
- 19-24 David Re-secures the Kingdom** 19-24
- 20 Sheba's Revolt & Death
 - 21 Saul's Sons Killed – Appease Gibeonites**
 - 22 David Defeats Philistines ... David's Psalm of Victory
 - 23 David's Last Song ... David's Mighty Men
 - 24 David Takes Census of Israel
- 1 Kings 1-2 ... David Bedridden ... Appoints Solomon King ... David Dies**

You're HERE

2 Samuel 5-20
more exploits in
1 Chronicles 11-28

Theme

**God provides direction and strength
when His people face trying times.**

2 Samuel 21

21:1-3 The Cause – David Tries to Reconcile Gibeonites

21:4-6 The Request – Gibeonites Ask DEATH for 7 Kin of Saul

21:7-9 David GIVES Saul's 2 Sons & 5 Grandsons to Gibeonites to

KILL & Expose

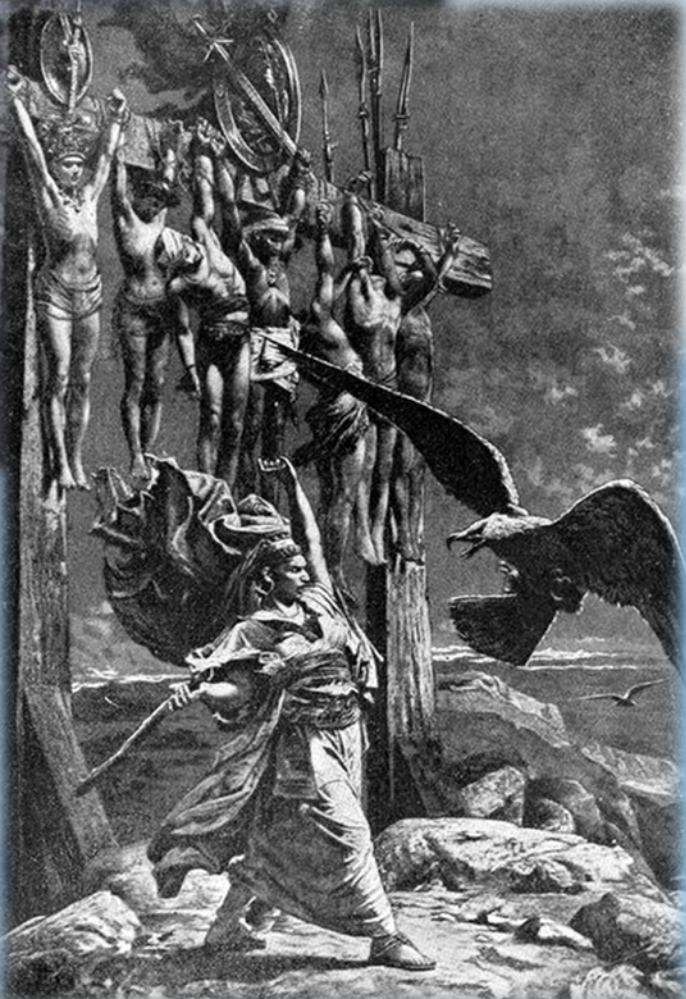
21:10-14 The Resolution – Rizpah Guards, David Gets Bones,

PRAYER Finally Answered



Key Verses – 2 Samuel 21:10

Rizpah ... took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on a rock. From the beginning of the harvest till the rain poured down from the heavens on the bodies, she did not let the birds touch them by day or the wild animals by night.



Rizpah Protecting Bodies of Her Sons, 1883
by Georges Becker (1845-1909)



The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

**Poe's POEM about GRIEF and LONGING
ponders the afterlife of his lovely Lenore**

**Raven comes into his study ... lands
on the bust of Pallas, God of war**

**He questions the Raven
About Lenore ... and more**

Raven repeatedly responds:

“Nevermore.”



Drawing by
Gustave Doré, 1884



The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

**Our passage today ... I dare say
begins to essay ... on a very bad day**

**Rizpa the mother comes to defend;
bodies of her sons, she does defend**

**As buzzard, bird, wolf & jackal
Come to more than heckle**

**She is there for much more
To say without end ...**

“Nevermore.”



**Rizpah Protecting Bodies of Her Sons, 1883
by Georges Becker (1845-1909)**

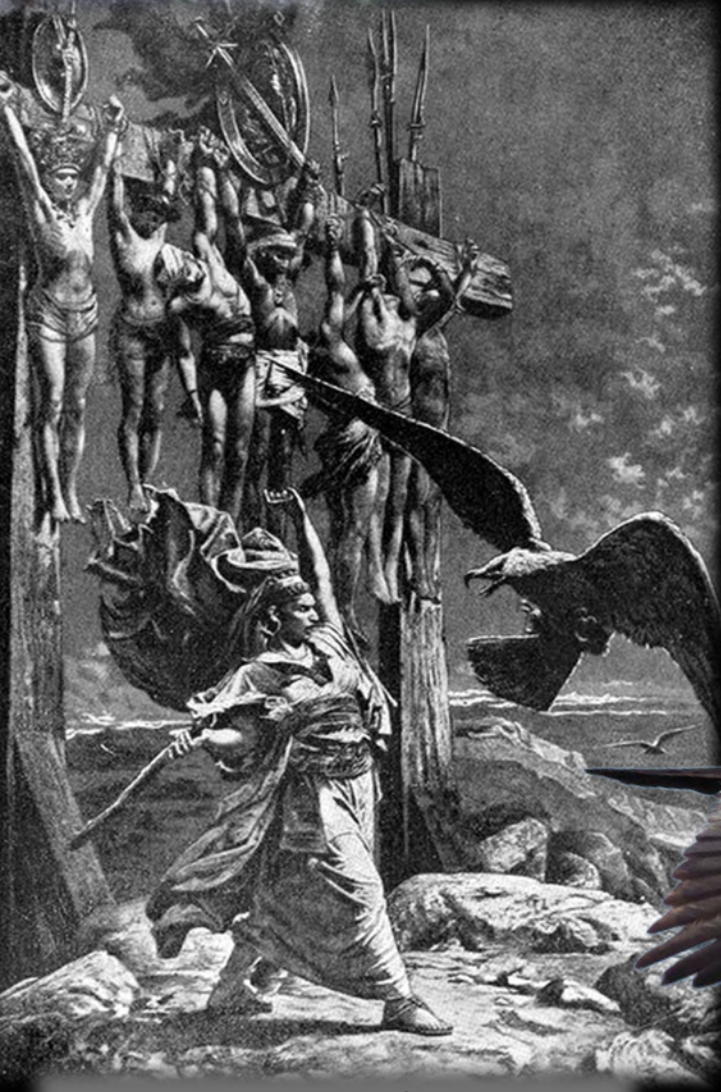


Once upon a midnight dreary,
while I pondered, weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious
volume of forgotten lore—
While I nodded, nearly napping,
suddenly there came a tapping,
As of some one gently rapping,
rapping at my chamber door.
“’Tis some visitor,” I muttered,
“tapping at my chamber door—
Only this and nothing more.”

The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845





Rizpah Protecting Bodies of Her Sons, 1883
by Georges Becker (1845-1909)

Alternative Title

**Rizpah Wards Off Birds
with Her Words,
with Much More &
Evermore**





Rizpah Protecting Bodies of Her Sons, 1883
by Georges Becker (1845-1909)

Alternative Title #2

**Rizpah Rights a Wrong
in Her Vigilance
Without a Song
And Much More for
Evermore**





Rizpah Protecting Bodies of Her Sons, 1883
by Georges Becker (1845-1909)

Alternative Title #3

**Rightness of David's
Gibeonite Gift
Is in Christ's Gift
Right Nevermore**



21:1-3 The Cause –
David Tries to Reconcile Gibeonites

We hear again of Gibeon ...

¹ During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; David sought the face of the LORD. The LORD said, “It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death.”

Bleak History of Gibeonite Blood Debt



20:3-13 David Sends Amasa, then Abishai
after Sheba – Joab Kills Amasa

Recall in the last chapter that
General Amasa met his end at Gibeon

2 Sam. 20:8 – Great Rock in Gibeon

Gibeon is about 6 miles NW of

Jerusalem

Joab stabbed Amasa there ...

Bible's first Road Kill

At the Great Rock in Gibeon?

Is this where the 7 men were hung?





The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

**And the silken, sad, uncertain rustling
of each purple curtain**

**Thrilled me—filled me with fantastic
terrors never felt before;**

**So that now, to still the beating
of my heart, I stood repeating**

**“’Tis some visitor entreating entrance
at my chamber door—**

**Some late visitor entreating entrance
at my chamber door;—**

This it is and nothing more.”

Modern Arab
village of
EL-JIB
on north side
of hill

Remains of
biblical city of
GIBEON

-5.6 miles nw of
Jerusalem
- Gibeon means
"hill-city"

Modern
RAMALLAH

High Place of Gibeon
(Gibeah of God)
(Nabi Samwil)



During the conquest by Joshua Gibeon hears what Israel does to Jericho

Hivites are residents in Gibeon

Josh. 9 ... Gibeonites go to Gilgal
incognito—make a treaty w Joshua

Joshua SPARES the Gibeonites ...
Joshua a bit peeved at deceit

Josh. 10:2, Gibeon is a GREAT city
& its men were mighty

Joshua keeps his word ... and
Gibeonites Serve Israel



Gibeon, Gibeon, Geba is in the heart of the territory of Benjamin

2 Sam 9, Saul is searching for donkeys

Saul's servant says, "ask man of God"

They meet Prophet Samuel

Lord had revealed to Samuel new king

Samuel invites Saul to dinner, says

"Don't worry, your donkeys are found"

2 Sam 10, Samuel anoints Saul



Samuel tells Saul to meet

2 Sam 10 – at Great Tree of Tabor

Saul will see men worshiping at Bethel

Take their bread ... then go to Gibeah

Mount Tabor

**11 miles west of
Sea of Galilee**



Off Saul goes

Philistine outpost is at Gibeah

There, you will meet some prophets

Spirit of the Lord will come on you

Saul joins prophets prophesying

2 Sam. 10:17 – Samuel calls ALL to Mizpah

Anoints Saul king – 10:26 Saul returns

his home in Gibeah

Gibeah the Area – Gibeon the City



Gibeah & Gibeon Important

Gibeah—Saul's birthplace and his Hometown or Home County

- ✓ **Gibeah of Benjamin**, 1 Sam. 13:15, 2 Sam 23:29
- ✓ **Gibeah of Saul**, 1 Sam. 11:14, Isa 10:19
- ✓ **Gibeah or Hill of God**, 1 Sam. 10:5
- ✓ **In Gibeon—Solomon offers 1,000 offerings after David dies** 1 Kgs 3:4

So Saul is from Gibeah ... but NOT a

Gibeonite



Remember 2 Samuel 2 ...

After David's crowning @ Hebron

Abner crowns Saul's son, Ishbosheth

@ Mahanaim

Abner meets Joab at Pool of Gibeon

Abner lets 12 of his fight 12 of Joab

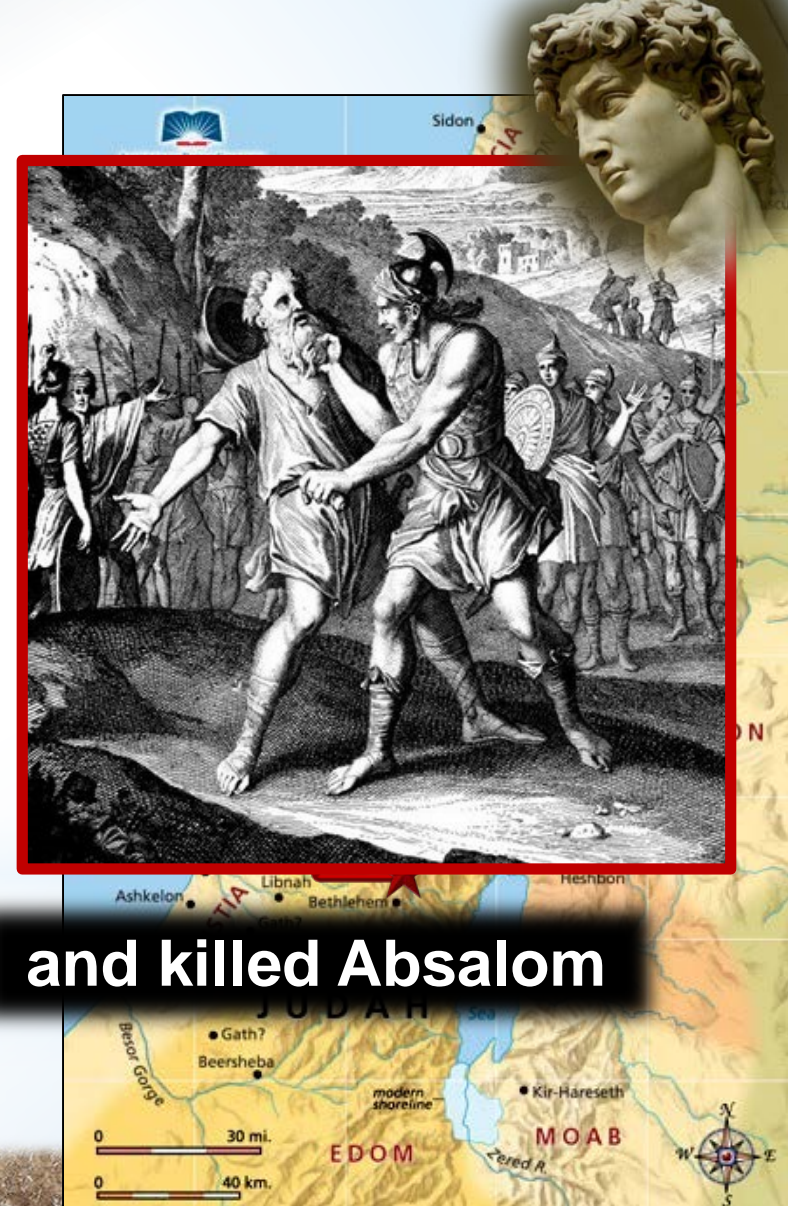
Fierce battle ensues

Asahel chases Joab

Joab kills Asahel



Abner makes PEACE w David
Abner returns wife Michal to David
Joab doesn't like peace treaty
Joab goes after and kills Abner
David mourns for Abner ...
MUCH, much later, in 1 Kings
David warns Solomon to NOT let Joab
Die in Peace BECAUSE
Joab killed Abner & Amasa in Peace
Solomon sends Benaiah to kill Joab

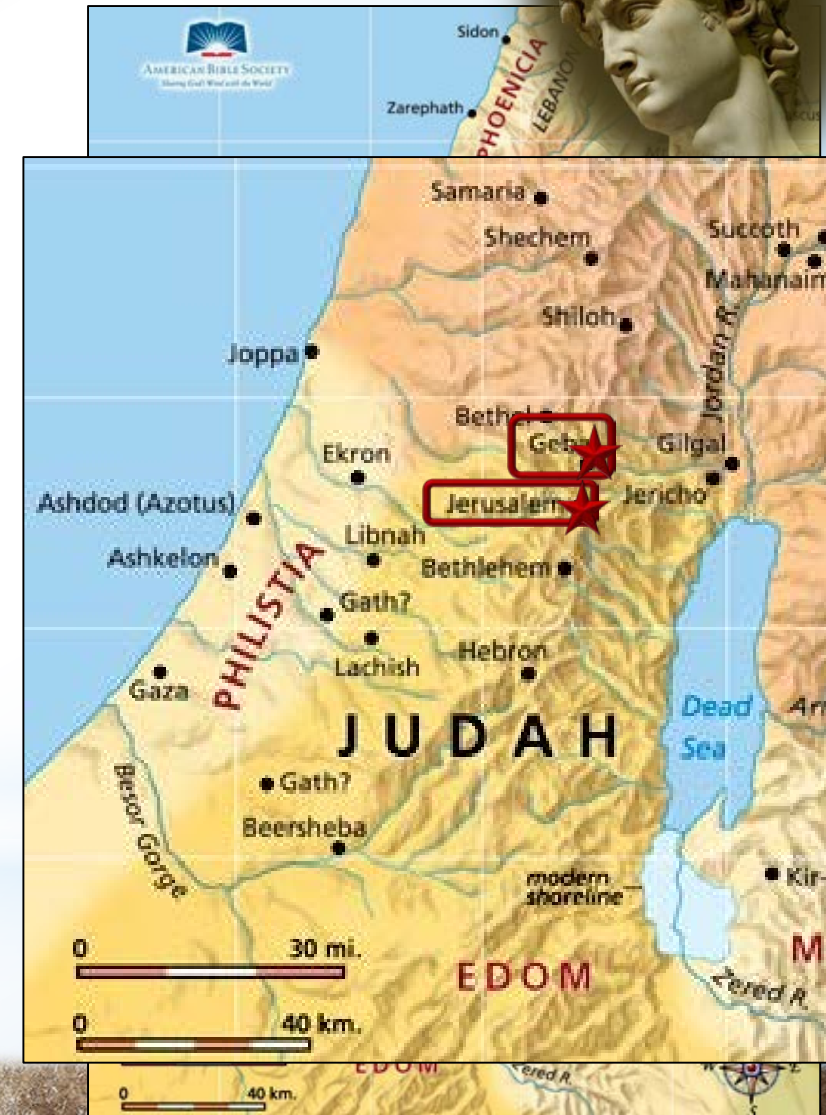


21:1-3 The Cause –
David Tries to Reconcile Gibeonites

After three years of famine ...
David inquires of Lord ...
Gibeonites OWED a Blood Debt from
King Saul

² King David summons Gibeonites
and spoke to them.

Dare I say ... this is one of the MOST
ethically troubling
passages in the O.T.
B e W A R N E D !





The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

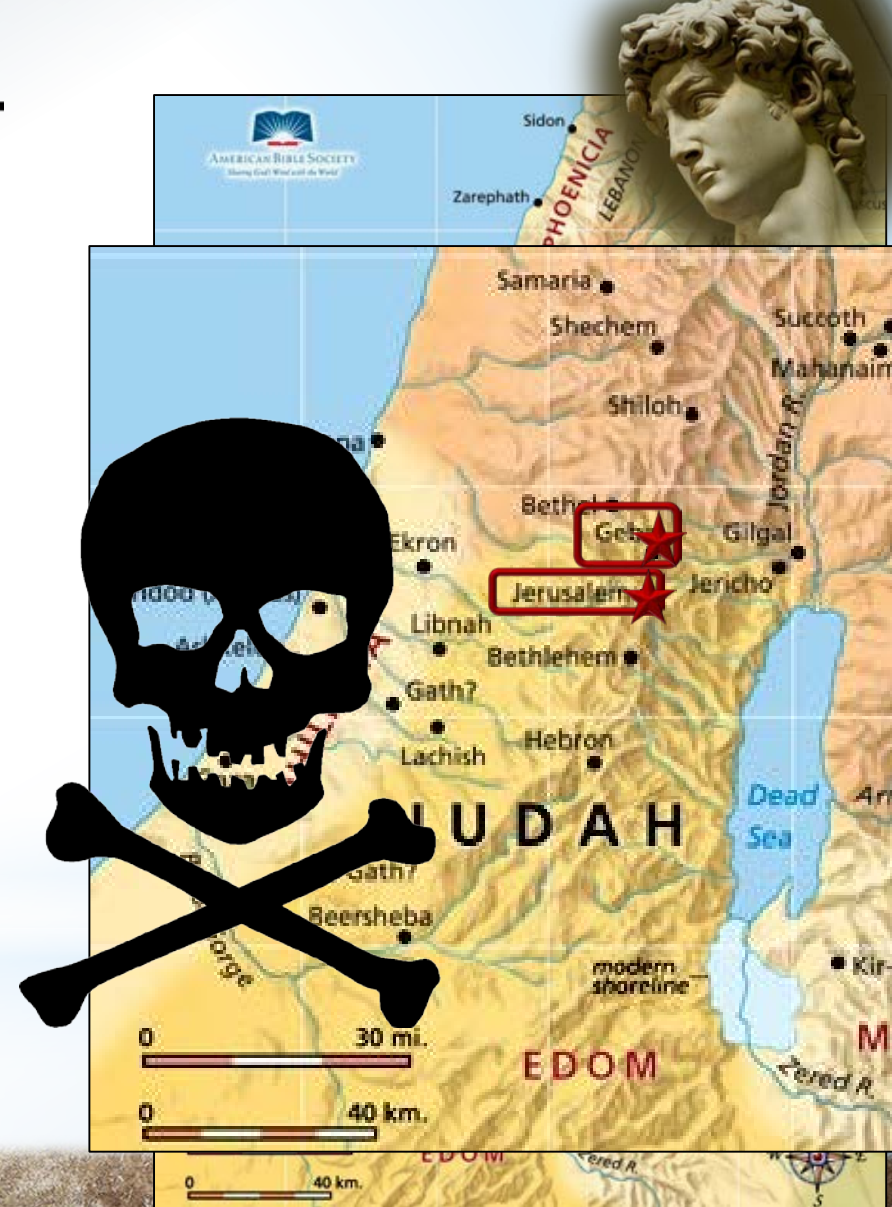
**Deep into that darkness peering,
long I stood there wondering, fearing,
Doubting, dreaming dreams
no mortal ever dared to dream before;
But the silence was unbroken,
and the stillness gave no token ...
Back into the chamber turning,
all my soul within me burning ...
Let my heart be still a moment
and this mystery explore;—
'Tis the wind and nothing more!”**

After three years of famine ...
David inquires of Lord ...
Gibeonites are OWED a
Blood Debt

2 King David summons Gibeonites

kind of footnote inserted into vs 2:

**Now the Gibeonites were not a
part of Israel but were survivors of
the Amorites; Israelites had sworn
to spare them, but Saul in his zeal
for Israel and Judah had tried to
annihilate them.**



Really ... did I hear that right?

Genocide?!?

Saul tried to KILL ALL Gibeonites!

✓ What is THAT?

✓ WHERE is that?

We have no record of that Genocide

Look closer at how David finds out

2 Sam. 21:1 ... FAMINE ... *then*

God tells David!

Nothing Gibeonites could do ...



But here we have **WHAT?**

REASON for Famine

Cause of what Saul did to Gibeonites

No Recompense – No Appeasement

No Restitution – No Justice

Only thing we have is **IMPLIED**

Saul TRIED to Annihilate them

God is **STARVING** David's Kingdom

David **MUST** make this **RIGHT** again

David **WILL** make this **RIGHT** again





The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

**Open here I flung the shutter,
when, with many a flirt and flutter,
In there stepped a stately Raven
of the saintly days of yore ...
By the grave and stern decorum
of the countenance it wore,
“Though thy crest be shorn and shaven,
thou,” I said, “art sure no craven,
Ghastly grim and ancient Raven
wandering from the Nightly shore—
Tell me what thy lordly name is
on the Night’s Plutonian shore!”
But the Raven said, “Nevermore.”**

How do you ... or ANYONE

Make Such RIGHT?

Go to the offended party & ASK
How Can I Make this RIGHT?

What is the PRICE of reconciliation?
What will SATISFY you for JUSTICE?

Well ... there has been a LOT of

Murder

What makes 2 Sam. 21:1-14 ... POP

God's FAMINE ... and God told David



Whatever happens NEXT is

God's Doing

God took the initiative ...

God sent the FAMINE ... then, yes,

God Told David

Whatever happens next ...

King David had NO CHOICE ...

Continue to STARVE ... or

APPEASE



How do you ... or ANYONE

Make Such RIGHT?

Here is what David does:

³ David asked the Gibeonites,

“What shall I do for you?

How shall I make atonement
so that you will bless the
LORD's inheritance?”

Seems reasonable ... however

Yet it is a **BLOOD DEBT**



21:4-6 The Request –
Gibeonites Ask DEATH for 7 Kin of Saul

4 The Gibeonites answered him,

“We have no right to demand silver
or gold from Saul or his family,
nor do we have the right to put
anyone in Israel to death.”

David asked,

“What do you want me to do for you?”

Now a FAMINE is ongoing ...

God came to David ... **GOD's Doing!**





**Much I marvelled this ungainly fowl
to hear discourse so plainly,
Though its answer little meaning—
little relevancy bore;
For we cannot help agreeing
that no living human being
Ever yet was blessed with seeing
bird above his chamber door—
Bird or beast upon the sculptured bust
above his chamber door,
With such name as “Nevermore.”**

The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

**21:4-6 The Request –
Gibeonites Ask DEATH for 7 Kin of Saul**

There is a high place near Gibeon

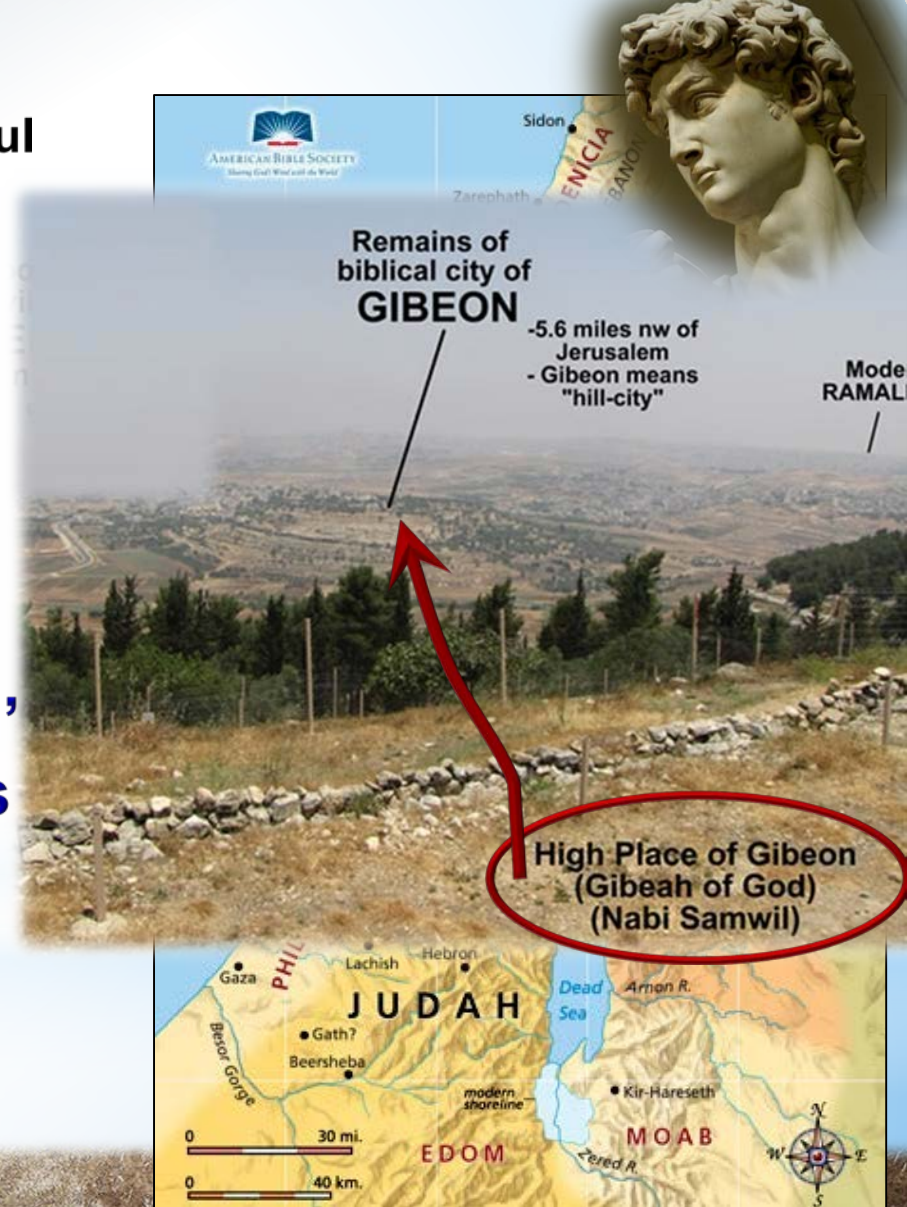
⁵ Gibeonite king answered,

**“As for the man who destroyed us
and plotted against us so that
we have been decimated and
have no place anywhere in Israel,**

**⁶ let seven of his male descendants
be given to us to be killed and**

PAUSE ... do you REALLY want to

Know?



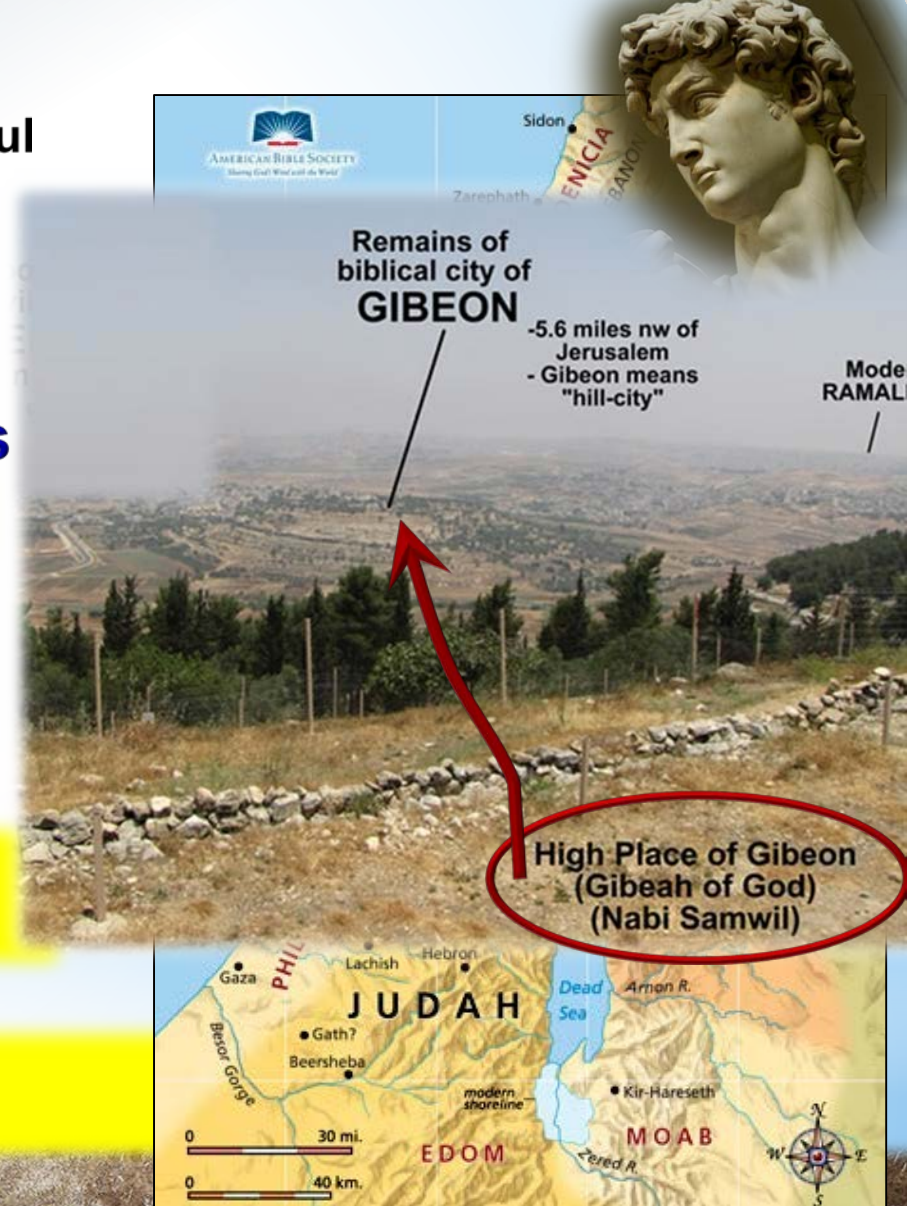
**21:4-6 The Request –
Gibeonites Ask DEATH for 7 Kin of Saul**

As tough ethically as it gets

- ⁵ Gibeonite king answered ...**
**⁶ let seven of his male descendants
be given to us to be killed **AND**
their bodies exposed before the
LORD at Gibeah of Saul—
the LORD's chosen one."**

Seven Innocent Men!

**King David said,
"I will give them to you."**



**21:7-9 David Gives 2 Sons of Saul and
5 Grandsons to Gibeonites**

Verses 7-9 tell who ...

spares Mephibosheth son of Jonathan

**Two sons of Rizpah, Saul's concubine
Armoni and Mephibosheth**

Five sons of Saul's daughter Merab

What happens next is atrocious

Prepare yourself for a gruesome scene

A scene of God's making ...

A scene that CONFOUNDS our senses





The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

**But the Raven, sitting lonely
on the placid bust, spoke only
That one word, as if his soul
in that one word he did outpour.**

**Nothing farther then he uttered—
not a feather then he fluttered—**

**Till I scarcely more than muttered
“Other friends have flown before—**

**On the morrow he will leave me,
as my Hopes have flown before.”**

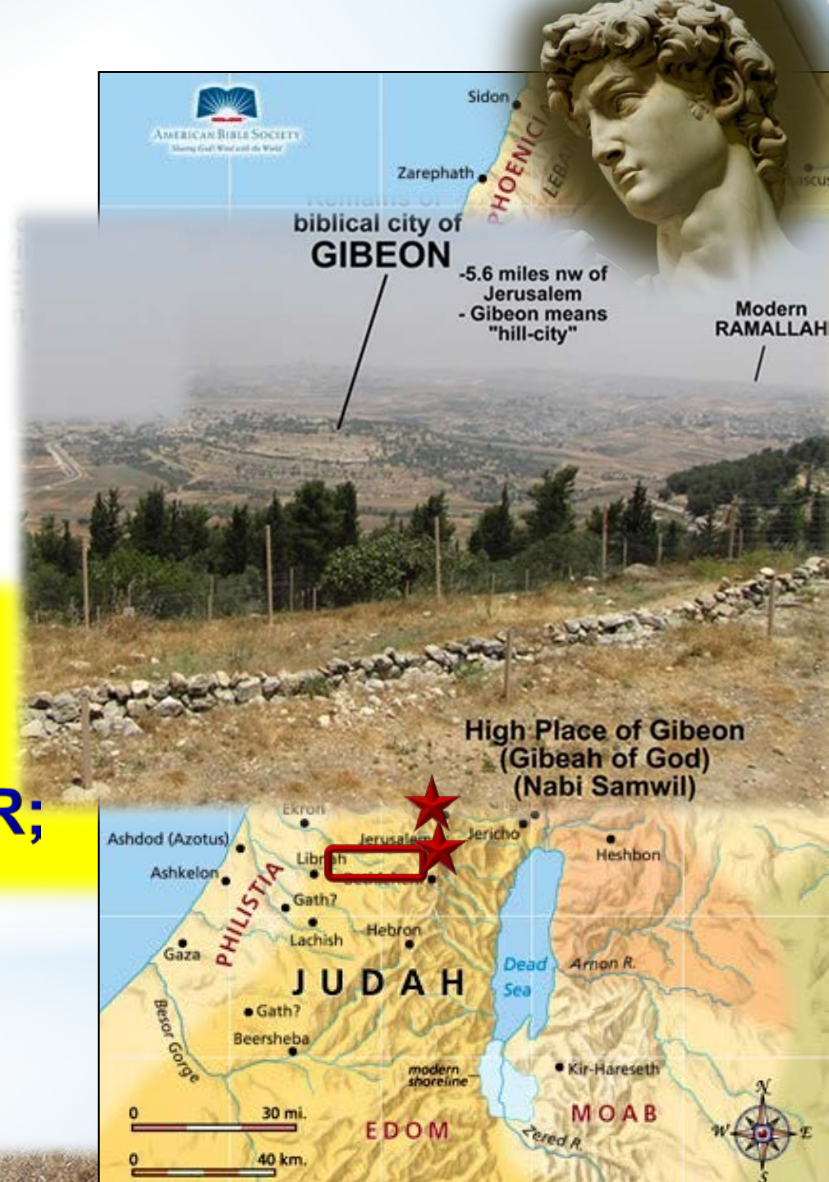
Then the bird said, “Nevermore.”

21:7-9 David Gives 2 Sons of Saul and 5 Grandsons to Gibeonites

Oh ... vv. 7-9 are not in your quarterly
Here is verse 9:

⁹ He handed them over to the
Gibeonites, who killed them and
**EXPOSED THEIR BODIES
ON A HILL before the LORD.**

All seven of them FELL TOGETHER;
they were put to death during the
first days of the harvest, just as
the barley harvest was beginning.



21:7-9 David Gives 2 Sons of Saul and
5 Grandsons to Gibeonites

You **MUST** understand this

Killing & Exposure

takes place short way from Jerusalem

Seven INNOCENT men are trotted up

Then ... killed and hung up ... to

ROT AWAY

Notice the 700-lb Gorilla in the room

No one wants to SEE it ... ALL quiet

See *hem-hawing* here, there, everywhere



21:7-9 David Gives 2 Sons of Saul and
5 Grandsons to Gibeonites

God caused the Famine ... GOD told

King David WHY

Furthermore ... moreover ... striking

Furthermore ... slap my face

The famine does NOT END until

Until ... until ... AFTER the flesh has

ROTTED OFF

Until AFTER the bones are buried





But the Raven still beguiling
all my fancy into smiling,
Straight I wheeled a cushioned seat
in front of bird, and bust and door;
Then, upon the velvet sinking,
I betook myself to linking
Fancy unto fancy, thinking what
this ominous bird of yore—
What this grim, ungainly, ghastly, gaunt,
and ominous bird of yore
Meant in croaking “Nevermore.”

The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

Joel Kaminsky, Morningstar Professor of Jewish Studies & Religion at Smith College, Northampton

Corporate Responsibility in the Hebrew Bible
(Sheffield Academic Press, 1995; 211p.)

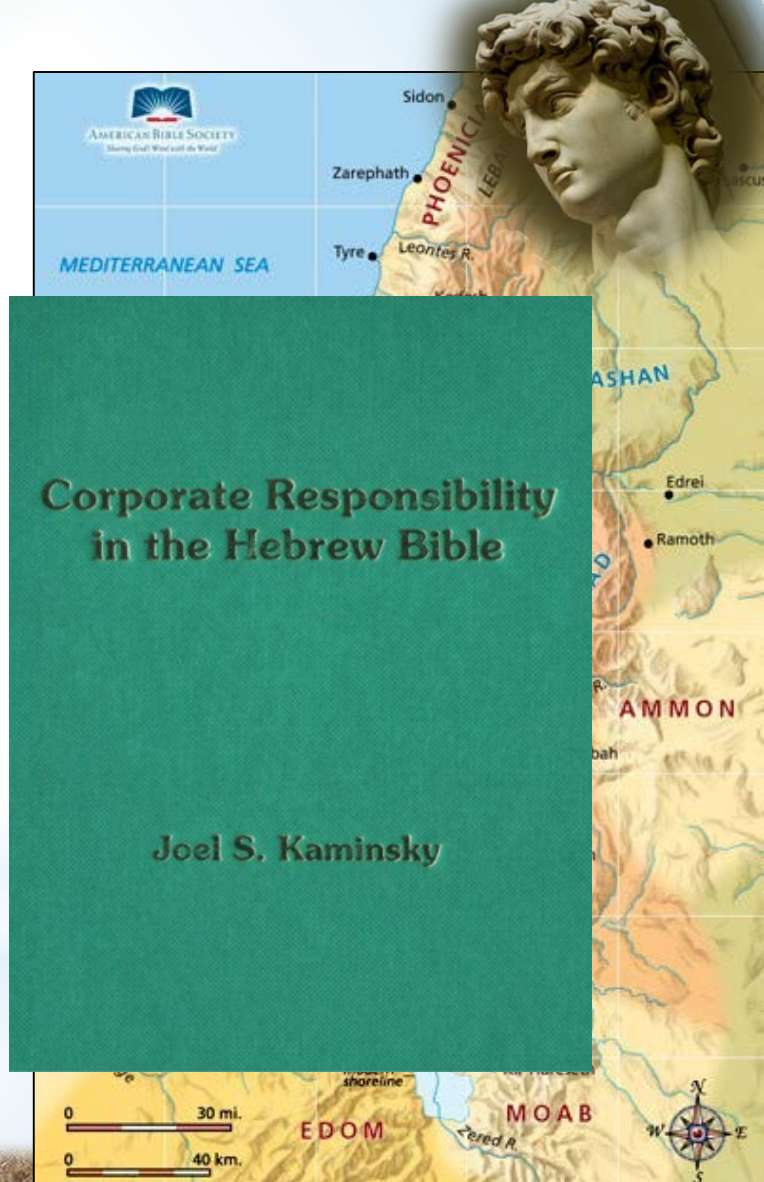
Kaminsky defends divine punishment as
inherently corporate

Kaminsky gives 4 chaps to key verses like

Joshua 7, Achan hiding blunder **CAUSED**
Israel to lose at Ai defenders

2 Samuel 21:1–14, Gibeonite debt **CAUSED**
the 3-year famine

CONTRAST Deut. 24:16, Jer. 31:29–30, Eze. 18
children **NOT** die for father's sin

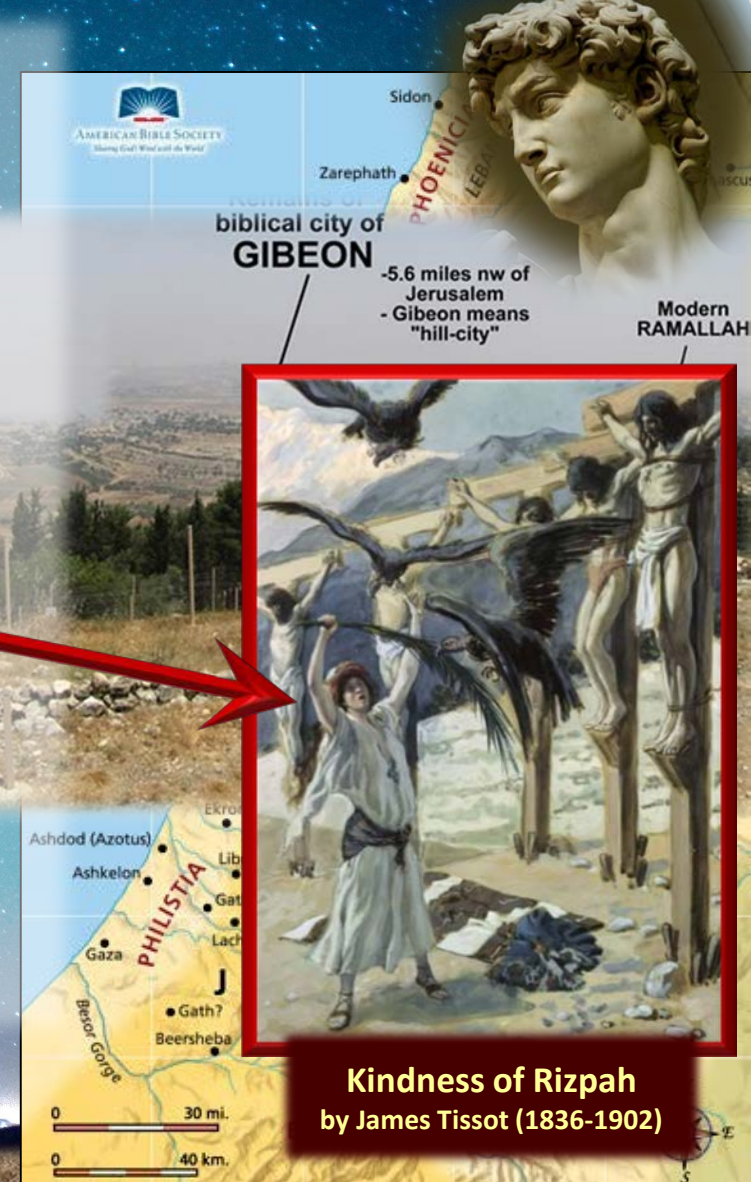


21:10-14 The Resolution –
Rizpah Guards, David Gets Bones, PRAYER

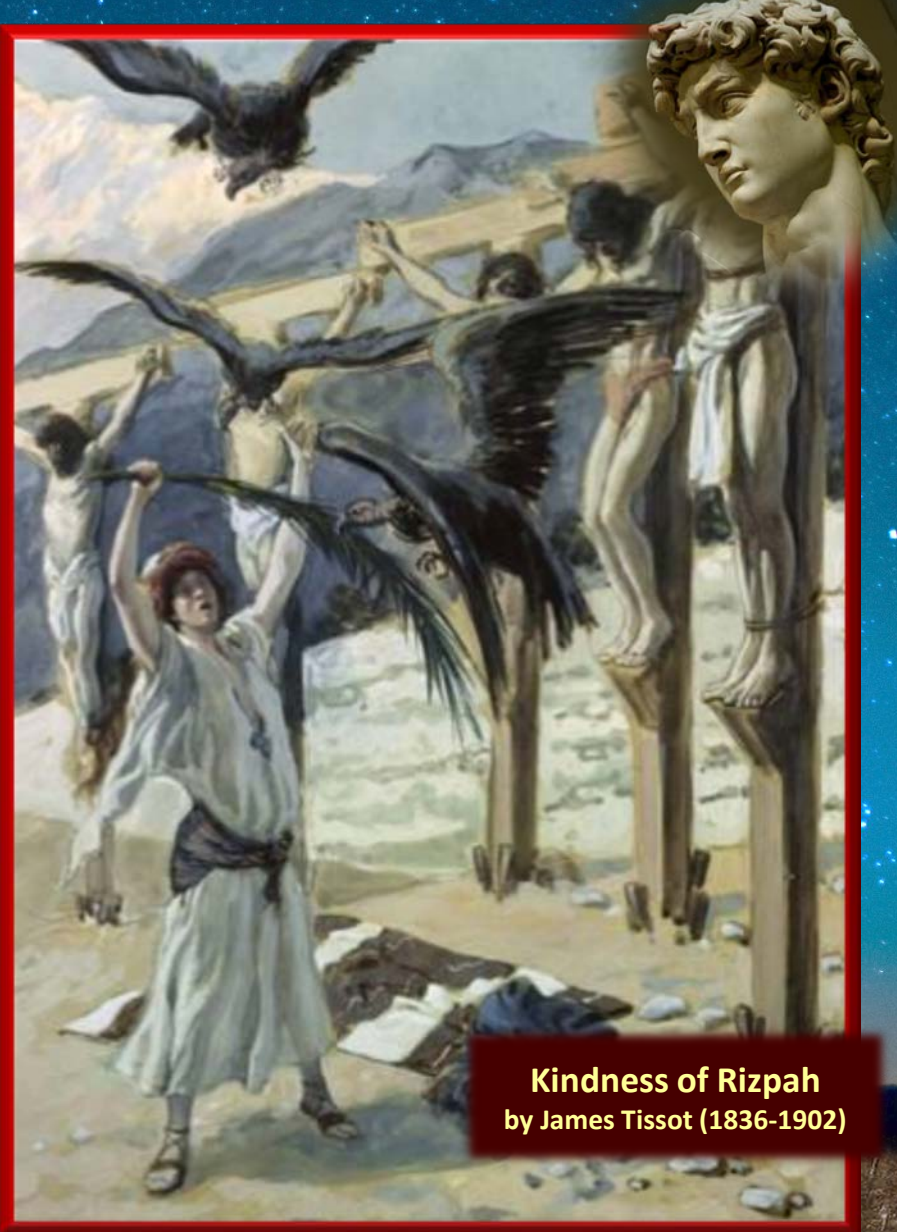
No one clearly ... cleanly justified this
Furthermore ... moreover ... striking

¹⁰ Rizpah ... took sackcloth and
spread it out for herself on a rock.

From the beginning of the harvest
till the rain poured down from the
heavens on the bodies,
she did not let the birds touch them
by day or the wild animals by night.



Several artists have portrayed
The sad plight that Rizpah played



Kindness of Rizpah
by James Tissot (1836-1902)



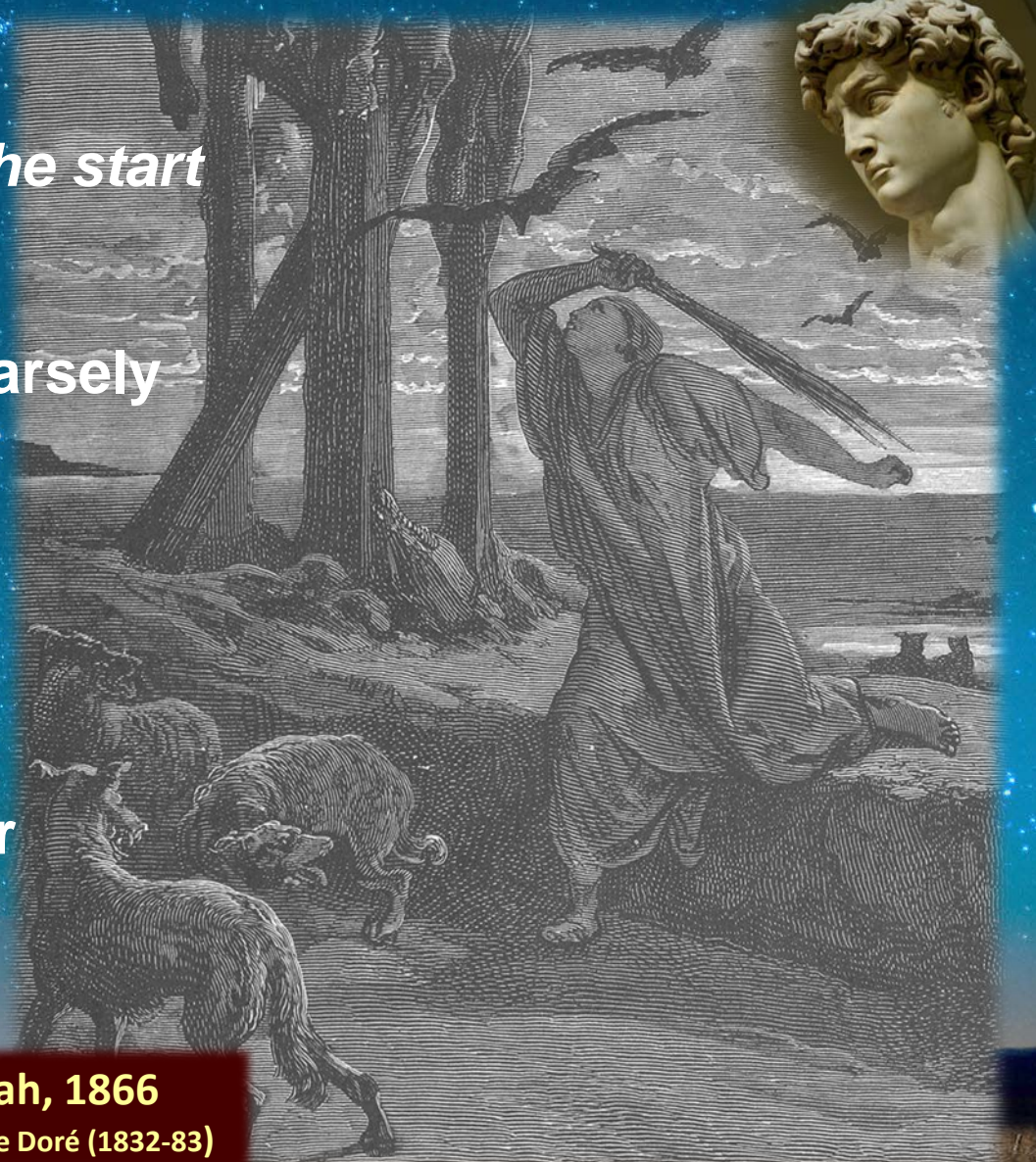
Rizpah, 1807
by Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775–1851)



Rizpah, 1866

by Gustave Doré (1832-83)

You know what this means!
This drawing is noble ... *just the start*
Rizpah was there day & night
DURING a famine ... eating sparsely
As the birds came she said
Nevermore
As the dogs came she said
Nevermore
Late at night ... would she ever
EVER have any more sons?
Perhaps ... Nevermore



Rizpah, 1866

by Gustave Doré (1832-83)

You know what this means!
Not *just the start* ... so much more

Rizpah was there day & night

A month later, the skin has changed

She cannot recognize her sons

Nevermore

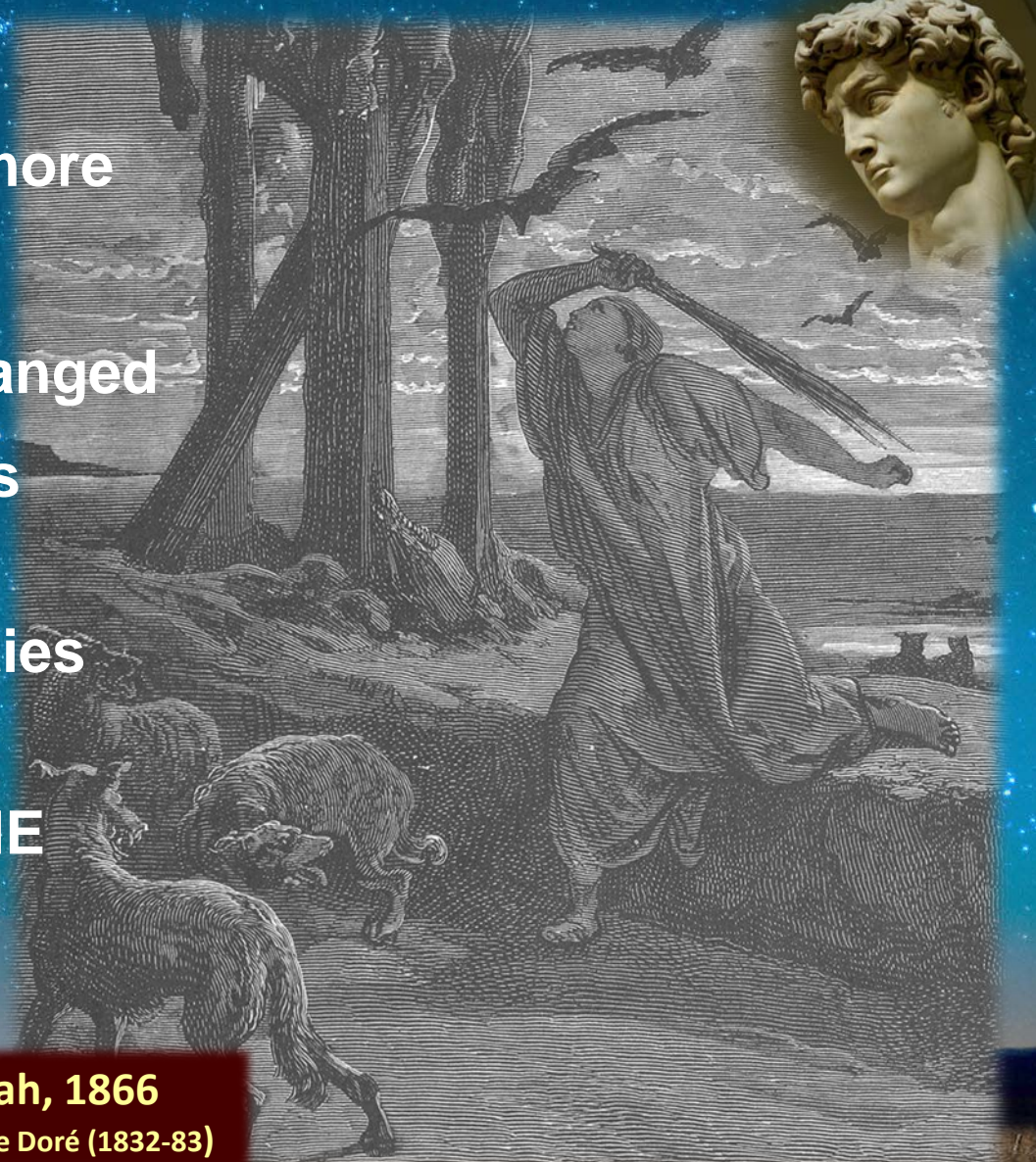
A month later ... after the cavities

Burst & Leak

Can she stand the smell **ALONE**

Yet she shall not leave them

Nevermore



Rizpah, 1866

by Gustave Doré (1832-83)



The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

To the fowl whose fiery eyes
now burned into my bosom's core ...

Then, methought, the air grew denser,
perfumed from an unseen censer

Swung by Seraphim
whose foot-falls
tinkled on the tufted floor.

“Wretch,” I cried, “thy God hath lent thee—
by these angels he hath sent thee ...
Quaff, oh quaff this kind nepenthe
Drink, oh drink this potion for forgetting pain
and forget this lost Lenore!”

But the Raven said, “Nevermore.”

21:10-14 The Resolution –
Rizpah Guards, David Gets Bones, PRAYER

Should not be too astonishing ...
Yet, along comes the MOTHER of two
Rizpah ... concubine = sex slave

Early in 2 Sam, Abner makes Ishbosheth
king ... until Ishbosheth complains

Why?—Abner took Rizpah ... *what is she?*
Abner goes to David – Joab kills Abner

Rizpah—now with her two sons
KILLED & EXPOSED TO ROT



Maybe should not tell you this ...

Today ... we never see this, but should know



Casper's Law of Decomposition:

“if all other factors are equal, then, when there is free access of air a body decomposes twice as fast than if immersed in water and eight times faster than if buried in earth.”

Do you want to know what happened to those

Seven Innocent Men?

Do you want to know what Rizpah saw?

What a MOTHER did for her INNOCENT sons?

Maybe you don't want to know ...



No photos here ... we are too sensitive for that

Eight Stages of Death:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Pallor mortis | Paleness | 20-25 mins |
| 2. Algor mortis | Coolness | 1-16 hours, till inmost cools |
| 3. Rigor mortis | Stiffing | 4 hours |
| 4. Livor mortis | Blueness | 2 hours, spreads to 12 hours |
| 5. Putrefaction | Liquefaction | 2-4 weeks |
| 6. Decomposition | Decay | 4-6 weeks |
| 7. Skeletonization | No Tissue | 7-9 weeks in hot weather |
| 8. Fossilization | | > 10,000 years old |



Maybe you don't want to know ...

No photos here ... we are too sensitive for that

But know that Sam Houston University is among about
20 universities have carry out decomposition STUDIES

Science of examining how human & animal remains

decompose

over time & under various conditions

Important for many reasons, including crime scenes

I suppose **DEcompose** is an smooth term for the process

One sure does lose their **COMPOSURE** after death



No photos here ... we are too sensitive

But here is a **Descriptive Timeline**

- 1–2 days:** First 4 steps before putrefaction
- 2–3 days:** Discoloration on skin of abdomen, swells from gas
- 3–4 days:** Discoloration spreads
- 5–6 days:** Abdomen swells, skin blisters
- 10–20 days:** Black putrefaction, noxious, body parts black
- 2 weeks:** Abdomen bloated; internal gas nears max capacity
- 3 weeks:** Tissues softened; cavities burst; nails fall off
- 4 weeks:** Soft tissues, internal organs begin to liquefy;
face unrecognizable



After the first month ... Rizpah could not recognize her sons



**“Prophet!” said I, “thing of evil!—
prophet still, if bird or devil!—**

**Whether Tempter sent, or whether
tempest tossed thee here ashore,**

**Desolate yet all undaunted,
on this desert land enchanted—**

**On this home by Horror haunted—
tell me truly, I implore—**

**Is there—is there balm in Gilead?—
tell me—tell me, I implore!”**

But the Raven said, “Nevermore.”

The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

Rizpah – **Hot Stone**

She is **STILL** a concubine ...

STILL a mother ...

Her vigil becomes a grand testimony

Her vigil marks her testimony

Your actions speak louder than words

I suppose the mother of the other 5
came ... and others, too ... for a day

Rizpah—fierce advocate for the dignity

Foremother of the *shmerah* – guardian



Shemira is a Jewish custom*

Shemira: "watching or guarding"

Jews **WATCH** over the deceased until

They are BURIED

Today in Israel, **shemira** can refer
to all kinds of guard duty

- ✓ male guardian – a **shomer**
- ✓ female guardian – a **shomeret**

Outside Israel, **SHEMIRA** is exclusively
used for rituals guarding the deceased

* www.Jewish-Funerals.org/shemira





**“Prophet!” said I, “thing of evil!—
prophet still, if bird or devil!**

**By that Heaven that bends above us—
by that God we both adore—**

**Tell this soul with sorrow laden if,
within the distant Eden,**

**It shall clasp a sainted maiden
whom the angels name Lenore—**

**Clasp a rare and radiant maiden
whom the angels name Lenore.”**

But the Raven said, “Nevermore.”

The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

**21:10-14 The Resolution –
Rizpah Guards, David Gets Bones, PRAYER**

11-12 When David was told what Aiah's daughter Rizpah, Saul's concubine, had done, he went and took the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from the citizens of Jabesh Gilead.

They had stolen their bodies from the public square at Beth Shan, where

the Philistines had hung them after they struck Saul down on Gilboa.

How someone's buried WAS important



21:10-14 The Resolution –
Rizpah Prays, David Gets Bones, PRAYER

- 13 David brought the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from there, **AND THE BONES** of those who had been killed & exposed were gathered up.
- 14 They buried the bones of Saul & his son Jonathan in the tomb of Saul's father Kish, at Zela in Benjamin, & did everything the king commanded. **AFTER THAT**, God answered prayer in behalf of the land.



**Because of Rizpah ...
David properly buries bones ...
Only AFTER the burial did God**

Answer Prayer

Lift the Famine

**Except for Corporate Judgment,
Why God allowed 7 Innocent Men to be
KILLED simply, sadly ESCAPES us?**

Today, we CANNOT see JUSTICE!

Such INJUSTICE darkens our soul





**“Be that word our sign of parting,
bird or fiend!” I shrieked, upstarting—**

**“Get thee back into the tempest
and the Night’s Plutonian shore!**

**Leave no black plume as a token
of that lie thy soul hath spoken!**

**Leave my loneliness unbroken!—
quit the bust above my door!**

**Take thy beak from out my heart,
and take thy form from off my door!”**

But the Raven said, “Nevermore.”

The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

Because of Rizpah ...

David properly buries bones ...

Only AFTER the burial did God

Answer Prayer – Lift Famine

Except for Corporate Judgment,

Why God allowed 7 Innocent Men to be
KILLED simply, sadly ESCAPES us?

Today, we CANNOT see JUSTICE!

Such INJUSTICE darkens our soul

May this Never Happen ... **Nevermore!**



Complicating our dark grief is
Rizpah ... a Mother's Love

Such devotion has never been heard?

Four-Five Months

From the beginning of harvest to rains
No man that we know ...

Only this one woman ... stayed by her

Sons

As they Turned to Bones

May this Never Happen ... **Nevermore!**



Complicating our dark grief is
Rizpah ... a Mother's Love

Bones they are, never to flesh again

Nevermore

Yet ... by faith she looks forward

Prophets have foretold a time where
the judgment that befell her sons

Will Never Happen Again

Nevermore





The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

**And the Raven, never flitting,
still is sitting, still is sitting**

**On the pallid bust of Pallas
just above my chamber door;**

**And his eyes have
all the seeming of a
demon's that is dreaming,**

**And the lamp-light o'er him streaming
throws his shadow on the floor;**

**And my soul from out that shadow
that lies floating on the floor**

Shall be lifted—Nevermore!

**As unresolved as is the INJUSTICE
Rizpah ... a Mother's Love**

**Stalwart, steadfast ... when others had
Long forsaken her ... alone on the hill
She remained as her son's bones**

Fell Off Their Crosses

Bleached White in the Sun

**We look back and have this comfort
Never Again ... Never Again**



Because of Christ ...
Because of His Sacrifice ...
No Corporate Judgment EVER Again
Each Man, Each Woman ...
NEVER ALONE ... though we

Face the Dark Demon Birds
that Fly Fast Against US
None us will EVER Suffer
for the Sin of Another
Nevermore

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS

