2 Samuel Lesson 23 (2023)

**THE GIBEONITES AVENGED**

(2 Samuel 21:1-22)

**Open it;**

1. In your opinion, how much does a leader or governor need to know about the history of the people they lead or govern?

**Explore it:**

1. Read verses 1-4. Why was Israel suffering famine during David’s reign? How had Israel wronged the Gibeonites under Saul? (2) What bargain did David propose to strike with the Gibeonites in exchange for their blessing of Israel? (3-4)
2. Read verses 5-9. What price did the Gibeonites request to settle Israel’s wrongs against them? (5-6) What oath did David have to consider in meeting the Gibeonites’ demands? (7-9) Based on the case of Gibeonites, how seriously does God take our oaths, even those made to unbelievers?
3. Read verses 10-14. How did the mother of two slain Israelites demonstrate her devotion and grief for the dead? (10) What gesture of respect did David make toward Saul’s family in response to Rizpah’s devotion? (11-14) How did God respond to David’s gestures to right old wrongs? (14)
4. Read verses 15-17. What happened to David the next time he went out with his troops to fight the Philistines? (15-16) What new policy was established after Abishai rescued David from mortal danger? (17) As David got older, why was preserving his life more important than having his leadership at the battlefront?
5. Read verses 18-22. How did Israel fare against the giant Philistine warriors, descendants of Rapha? (18-22)

**Apply it:**

1. What unresolved conflict t should you address today to prosper spiritually in the future? What gesture of respect could help heal a damaged relationship?