

**Monday, June 3**

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**2 Samuel 20:14 - 21:22**

**20 14** Meanwhile, Sheba traveled through all the tribes of Israel and eventually came to the town of Abel-beth-maacah. All the members of his own clan, the Bicrites, assembled for battle and followed him into the town. **15** When Joab's forces arrived, they attacked Abel-beth-maacah. They built a siege ramp against the town's fortifications and began battering down the wall. **16** But a wise woman in the town called out to Joab, "Listen to me, Joab. Come over here so I can talk to you." **17** As he approached, the woman asked, "Are you Joab?" "I am," he replied. So she said, "Listen carefully to your servant." "I'm listening," he said. **18** Then she continued, "There used to be a saying, 'If you want to settle an argument, ask advice at the town of Abel.' **19** I am one who is peace loving and faithful in Israel. But you are destroying an important town in Israel. Why do you want to devour what belongs to the LORD?" **20** And Joab replied, "Believe me, I don't want to devour or destroy your town! **21** That's not my purpose. All I want is a man named Sheba son of Bicri from the hill country of Ephraim, who has revolted against King David. If you hand over this one man to me, I will leave the town in peace." "All right," the woman replied, "we will throw his head over the wall to you." **22** Then the woman went to all the people with her wise advice, and they cut off Sheba's head and threw it out to Joab. So he blew the ram's horn and called his troops back from the attack. They all returned to their homes, and Joab returned to the king at Jerusalem. **23** Now Joab was the commander of the army of Israel. Benaiah son of Jehoiada was captain of the king's bodyguard. **24** Adoniram was in charge of forced labor. Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was the royal historian. **25** Sheva was the court secretary. Zadok and Abiathar were the priests. **26** And Ira, a descendant of Jair, was David's personal priest.

**21 1** There was a famine during David's reign that lasted for three years, so David asked the LORD about it. And the LORD said, "The famine has come because Saul and his family are guilty of murdering the Gibeonites." **2** So the king summoned the Gibeonites. They were not part of Israel but were all that was left of the nation of the Amorites. The people of Israel had sworn not to kill them, but Saul, in his zeal for Israel and Judah, had tried to wipe them out. **3** David asked them, "What can I do for you? How can I make amends so that you will bless the LORD's people again?" **4** "Well, money can't settle this matter between us and the family of Saul," the Gibeonites replied. "Neither can we demand the life of anyone in Israel." "What can I do then?"

David asked. "Just tell me and I will do it for you." **5** Then they replied, "It was Saul who planned to destroy us, to keep us from having any place at all in the territory of Israel. **6** So let seven of Saul's sons be handed over to us, and we will execute them before the LORD at Gibeon, on the mountain of the LORD ." "All right," the king said, "I will do it." **7** The king spared Jonathan's son Mephibosheth, who was Saul's grandson, because of the oath David and Jonathan had sworn before the LORD . **8** But he gave them Saul's two sons Armoni and Mephibosheth, whose mother was Rizpah daughter of Aiah. He also gave them the five sons of Saul's daughter Merab, the wife of Adriel son of Barzillai from Meholah. **9** The men of Gibeon executed them on the mountain before the LORD . So all seven of them died together at the beginning of the barley harvest. **10** Then Rizpah daughter of Aiah, the mother of two of the men, spread burlap on a rock and stayed there the entire harvest season. She prevented the scavenger birds from tearing at their bodies during the day and stopped wild animals from eating them at night. **11** When David learned what Rizpah, Saul's concubine, had done, **12** he went to the people of Jabesh-gilead and retrieved the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan. (When the Philistines had killed Saul and Jonathan on Mount Gilboa, the people of Jabesh-gilead stole their bodies from the public square of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hung them.) **13** So David obtained the bones of Saul and Jonathan, as well as the bones of the men the Gibeonites had executed. **14** Then the king ordered that they bury the bones in the tomb of Kish, Saul's father, at the town of Zela in the land of Benjamin. After that, God ended the famine in the land. **15** Once again the Philistines were at war with Israel. And when David and his men were in the thick of battle, David became weak and exhausted. **16** Ishbi-benob was a descendant of the giants ; his bronze spearhead weighed more than seven pounds, and he was armed with a new sword. He had cornered David and was about to kill him. **17** But Abishai son of Zeruiah came to David's rescue and killed the Philistine. Then David's men declared, "You are not going out to battle with us again! Why risk snuffing out the light of Israel?" **18** After this, there was another battle against the Philistines at Gob. As they fought, Sibbecai from Hushah killed Saph, another descendant of the giants. **19** During another battle at Gob, Elhanan son of Jair from Bethlehem killed the brother of Goliath of Gath. The handle of his spear was as thick as a weaver's beam! **20** In another battle with the Philistines at Gath, they encountered a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in all, who was also a descendant of the giants. **21** But when he defied and taunted Israel, he was killed by Jonathan, the son of David's brother Shimea. **22** These four Philistines were descendants of the giants of Gath, but David and his warriors killed them.

**1** **1** In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. **3** During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. **4** Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. **5** John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” **6** So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” **7** He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” **9** After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. **10** As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. **11** “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!” **12** Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. **13** When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the Zealot), and Judas (son of James). **14** They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. **15** During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. **16** “Brothers,” he said, “the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. **17** Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us.” **18** (Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. **19** The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name which means “Field of Blood.”) **20** Peter continued, “This was written in the book of Psalms, where it says, ‘Let his home become desolate, with no one living in it.’ It also says, ‘Let someone else take his position.’ **21** “So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus— **22** from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus’ resurrection.” **23** So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. **24** Then they all prayed, “O Lord, you know every heart. Show

us which of these men you have chosen **25** as an apostle to replace Judas in this ministry, for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs.” **26** Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven.

### **Psalm 121:1 - 8**

**121** **1** I look up to the mountains— does my help come from there? **2** My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth! **3** He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber. **4** Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps. **5** The LORD himself watches over you! The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade. **6** The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night. **7** The LORD keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. **8** The LORD keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.

### **Proverbs 16:18**

**16** **18** Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.