

# Scripture\_background

## Background Notes: 2 Samuel 21

### Historical Context:

- Time Period: The events in 2 Samuel 21 occur during the reign of King David, which is around 1000 BC.
- Israel and Gibeonites: The Gibeonites were not Israelites but had made a treaty with the Israelites during the time of Joshua. King Saul had violated this treaty by attacking them, which led to consequences later addressed in this chapter.

### Cultural Insights:

- Famine: During David's reign, there was a severe famine lasting three years. In ancient times, people viewed such natural calamities as possible signs of divine displeasure or the result of societal wrongs.
- Treaties: Treaties and promises made in ancient times were considered very serious and sacred. Breaking them could result in severe consequences and needed to be corrected to restore peace and justice.
- Reconciliation Practices: The Israelites had specific customs and practices for making amends, including seeking divine guidance and making reparations to those wronged.

### Theological Insights:

- Divine Justice: This passage highlights the importance of justice and faithfulness to agreements. It demonstrates that past wrongdoings need to be addressed to bring peace and healing to a nation.
- Role of a King: King David seeks God's guidance to solve the problem, showing the importance of looking to God for wisdom in leadership.
- Atonement: The resolution of the conflict with the Gibeonites involved an act of atonement, which means making things right to restore a broken relationship, pointing to themes of forgiveness and reconciliation important in the Bible.

### Key Takeaway:

This story teaches that keeping promises and doing the right thing are important in building trusting relationships, and it emphasizes the need to seek guidance from God when dealing with difficult situations.