

## OT 504 REPORT

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Brian Neil Paterson's paper explained that dark side of King David's the Gibeonite revenge of 2 Sam 21:1-14. In the second Samuel 21: 1-14, David allowed the Gibeonites killed seven sons of Rizpah and Merab with the famine. Saul attempted to exterminate the Gibennites with whom the Israelites had a covenant (Josh 9). In the time of David, the people experience a famine related to Saul's sin. David learns the cause of the famine and asks the Gibeonites how he can make restitution. They ask for seven descendants of Saul to be killed, and David grants their request. He argued that David's action was extreme brutal like tyrant and some other reasons with motifs of settling scores for throne preparation.

In my opinion, I agreed with his conclusion that David is acting within the context of ANE treaties and within his legal right. On the same time, David not only is acting in a calculated manner based on past faults with Saul but also removed obstacles to the smooth transition to Solomon.

He also explained that the literary purpose of 2 Sam 21-24. These chapters served as preparations for Solomon's rise to the throne. It is clear that 2 Sam

21-24 brings David's life to close and sets the stage for both the smooth transition of the kingship and peaceful reign of Solomon.

His action was basically one stone to kill two birds with wise choice for the past and future Israel. I don't think that it showed example of David's darker side or a picture of a shrewd monarch.