

2Samuel 21:15–22

“Great Is God's Faithfulness to Us, through Us, for Us, and Especially in Christ”

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¹⁵ When the Philistines were at war again with Israel, David and his servants with him went down and fought against the Philistines; and David grew faint. ¹⁶ Then Ishbi-Benob, who was one of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose bronze spear was three hundred shekels, who was bearing a new sword, thought he could kill David. ¹⁷ But Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to his aid, and struck the Philistine and killed him. Then the men of David swore to him, saying, “You shall go out no more with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel.”

¹⁸ Now it happened afterward that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbechai the Hushathite killed Saph, who was one of the sons of the giant. ¹⁹ Again there was war at Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare-Oregim the Bethlehemite killed the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

²⁰ Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; and he also was born to the giant. ²¹ So when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him.

²² These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

Main Idea: God is faithful to us when we are weak, in His chosen One, through servants 'great' and small, and for the sake of His Name.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Second Samuel, 21. Beginning in verse 15 and going through the end of the chapter. These are the words of God when the lessons were at war, again with Israel. David and his servants with him, went down and fought against the flestance, and David grew faint, then it should be Benob, who was one of the sons of the giant.

The way to who's bronze spear was 300 shekels, who was bearing a new sword? Thought he could kill David. That have a size son of zeroia came to his aid and struck the fist and killed him. Then the men of David swore to him saying, you shall go out no more with us to battle, lest you.

Quench the lamp of Israel. Now, it happened afterward, that there was again about battle with the Philistines at God, then civilized the husatite killed saff who was one of the sons of the giant again. There was war at gob with the flistens where El Hanan, the son of Yari or Raheem the Bethlehemite killed, the brother of Goliath.

The Guitite this shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam yet. Again there was war at gas where there was a man of great stature who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot 24 and number. And he also was born to the giant.

So when he defied israel, Jonathan, son of Chemeha. David's brother killed him. These four were born to the giant and gas and fell by the hand of David. And by the hand of his servants thus far, the reading of God's inspired and inerrant word. Very interesting. As we come towards the end of the account of David's life and David's rain in scripture, how things have not turned out as we might have expected.

Sure, we remember all of the difficulty, getting David to the throne and there is a triumphant portion at the beginning of second, Samuel about David on the throne and God giving him victory over all of his enemies and establishing his kingdom. But things do not go. Swimmingly. Well from then we have his sin with Basheba, we have the consequences and punishment of that sin.

And when we have the, the tying up of the loose ends as it were, the end of second Samuel, it's actually a recounting of several crises that had occurred during David's rain. So the the idea that God got David to the top and then once we had the king after God's own heart on the throne everything just kind of sailed smoothly into the sunset.

That's a fiction. God God's kingdom depended hung by a thread all the way until David got on to the throne and then God's kingdom continue to hang by a threat for the time that David was on the throne. But the

thread by which the kingdom of God, hangs is the faithfulness of God.

It's okay to hang by a thread. If the thread has an infinite tensile strength, and that is the thread by which God's church, God's kingdom has always hung will always hang Jesus builds his church and the gates of hell, cannot prevail against it. And so, the faithfulness of God is really behind, not just this section of second Samuel, generally into which we're jumping as it flips with Colossians.

Because we, we finished Philippians last week, and Colossians went into the morning service, but we're jumping into this section. At the end of second Samuel, where the faithfulness of God is the theme generally. But even very specifically, one of the things that God had said about David early on second Samuel, chapter three verse 18 was that, he would say his people from the Philistines by the hand of David.

And so, when we come to these several accounts, which occurred at different times, and God collects them all together, we see him announcing to us. That just like we saw in the Luke passage this morning and God's good providence to us God's word, holds perfectly true. And so when he says when the Philistines were at war again, verse 15, and when he says in verse 18 now it happened afterward that there was again a battle with the Philistines he's reminding us that he said he was gonna say Israel from the hand of the Philistines by the hand of David and he saved Israel from the flesh and by the hand of David and you actually see that in the concluding statement verse 22, these four were born to and we should probably instead of the giant we should use the name.

That's in the text Hachishai and Goliath fell by the hand of David by the hand of his servants. Now we see in the passage, that it's not just by the hand of it. In fact, after the first incident, they say, you probably shouldn't do this anymore David and so highlighting David and his hand very specifically in verse 22 intentionally recalls what the Lord had said about saving by David's hand.

In second Samuel 3 for the same reason instead of saying the giant, the giant, the giant, the giant and then at the end these four were born to the giant. And Goliath if you say Raphael then you have the name that is descended from Raphael the sons of Raphael God all the way back in the book of Genesis Genesis 15 verse 20 told Abraham that the land that he was giving to Abraham and his offspring, God would expel all of this place and displace all of God's enemies that he was judging and among them are the Hittites.

This is the last we hear of the giants. There are different, there are different sons of different families in, especially in the book of Genesis, you hear about the Nephilim and the Anakim and the refined and the Israelites displays the Anakim team earlier than they do. The ref aim, the referee are the last of the giants to go in the Bible, but you see the faithfulness of the Lord to keep all his words regardless of how strong or fearsome, the opposition appears.

And the opposition does appear fearsome when they are quite literal giants and second Samuel 21, verses 15 through 22. So as we see God, announcing to us his faithfulness, to keep it all his word and give all his accomplish, all his salvation. We see three particular things about his faithfulness here.

No, four particular things. One, he is faithful to his promises even when his servants are not up to it to. He is faithful to his promises through his chosen one, the one whom he is selected three, he is faithful to his promises, but he does so through the service of his servants and it's not inappropriate, it's right for us to recognize and be thankful for and honor those whom he uses.

And finally, he is faithful to vindicate. His people very quickly. He's faithful when his servants aren't up to it David was out of gas at the end of verse 15 and Ishbosheth thought he saw his opportunity. He thought now that he could kill David and verse 16. And yet, the Lord is pleased to use our weakness.

And in fact, the Lord was pleased to add weakness to himself. Isn't what is true of David in a small way here, even much more true when God the Son, humbles himself to become a man and he takes on weakness and Satan takes the opportunity to attack him and yet our Lord, Jesus was not like David in this in that he did not that others did not come to his rescue, but he accomplished the salvation himself.

The Lord Jesus is the strength of God for us, but the Lord is faithful to his promises. Even when his servants aren't up to it. In the second place, though, we do see that the Lord is faithful to his promises through the chosen one, Even though David wasn't up to it.

He was the one that God had set apart for himself to be the anointed king over his people. And you see the, the mighty men, Abishai son of Neri and the men of David. Swear to him in verse 17, you shall go out no more with us to battle, lest you.

Quench the lamp of Israel. They recognized David as a picture to them of Christ that their hope, their life was bound up in Jesus and they didn't want David to go out to battle. Well, we don't have that problem. We not only have a Christ who wins the victory, but he has risen from the dead.

He's taken his seat at the right hand of Majesty. The New Testament calls us to think. And remember, where is our Savior now? Where is anointed king. He's sitting on the throne of heaven. Our life is hidden with Christ in God. Nothing can take your life, your righteousness, your inheritance, which is imperishable, and cannot be touched by the enemy because it is bound up in Christ That which David's men recognized about him, that the light or the lamp of Israel was intimately connected with David, that put the lamp of Israel at risk.

It's exactly the opposite for us, isn't it The fact that the lamp the light of God's Israel, the Israel of God is bound up in Christ. Doesn't put it at risk, It puts it out of reach for the enemies of God. God is faithful through his chosen. One, God is faithful, even when his servants aren't up to it, God is faithful through his chosen.

One. God is faithful, but he also recognizes his servants. There's a little bit of a hall of fame. Isn't isn't there here now. And you might think that the whole thing here for the servants of God are abashai and sibilify and El Hanan and Jonathan, you know, those are the guys, he dealt the death blows in the cases of these four giants.

And there are those whom God uses to do mighty works, but you know who else are marvelous servants of the Lord, his who's labors. The Lord blessed here, zeroia, abyss mama, and hush siblings, dad or grandpa or great. Grandpa and y'all are again of the city of Bethlehem. Who the only thing we know about him is that he was El Hanan's daddy.

And then Shemaiah, David's brother, who in this case is famous, not for being David's brother. But for being Jonathan's daddy, you see you may not get to do those things that get front page news in defense of the kingdom today, magazine. But the Lord may use you in ordinary faithfulness.

Raising a son, raising a child. Whom he does use in an extraordinary way. Raising a daughter whom he uses an extraordinary way. Ordinary faithfulness is blessed of God and is essential in even extraordinary moments in what he does in his kingdom. Do not be discouraged. If the Lord does not appoint you the providence of being one of the four mighty men.

He may appoint you the providence of being the parent of or grandparent or great, great, great. Great, great grandparent and you won't see it in this life. He may appoint. You just the providence of being a faithful church member through whom the others, in the body of Christ were built up into the head, who is Jesus Christ?

And the church is glorified, and Christ is glorified in her. Finally, the Lord is faithful to vindicate. His people, you see that just a little bit in verse 21 where he where Holy Spirit, just includes that little snippet. So when he defied israel, the Lord has invested his name in you, who believe in Jesus Christ, he will not allow his honor to fall by.

You being put to shame when you trust in him, your trust in him. Guarantees that that trust will be vindicated that those who despise you for the sake of Christ that he will take his vengeance and put them down. Even if they have a literal or metaphorical appearance of a 24 digit, digit, 24, fingered and towed, giant.

The Lord vindicates his own name and he's invested that name in you by saving you through Jesus Christ by placing his name upon you. The Lord is faithful. The referee gone. God did say by the hand of David, but even more than that, the seed of the woman has come that he has crushed the serpent's head and he is soon crushing Satan even under your own feet.

Dear Christian. So let's just pray. Father we thank you for the roles that you have given us in your work and the church help us to obey. All that you have commanded to depend upon you day by day in those things that seem ordinary help us to remember and rest upon you who are our extraordinary God who have given us this extraordinary salvation in your son.

Our Lord Jesus. We praise you. Lord, Jesus for, you have risen again from the dead. And you have ascended into heaven and death, cannot do anything to you. Indeed, we have died with you and death cannot harm us either. So we thank you and praise you. And we ask that you would remind us that our salvation is bound up in you and that you are on the throne of glory.

Give us that confidence and that joy as we seek to serve you day by day, we do thank you for those servants of yours whom you have used in our life. We thank you for the opportunity to be used in their life. We pray that your design for the church would bring you much glory and we pray that you had vindicate.

Your name for, we see your law, your gospel, your identity is a creator and God and your identity as the redeemer and Christ. We see all of these under constant attack, we see those who cling to you, who simply want to gather to worship you, despised and slandered and detect for it but we pray.

Oh, God, that you who have always been faithful to vindicate, that name, which you have put upon your

people that whoever defies Israel, whoever defies your church, that you would make us confident that you will at the last vindicate, your name and honor yourself and honor those whom you have sustained by your grace in faithfulness to yourself.

Keep us faithful. We pray through Jesus Christ. Amen.