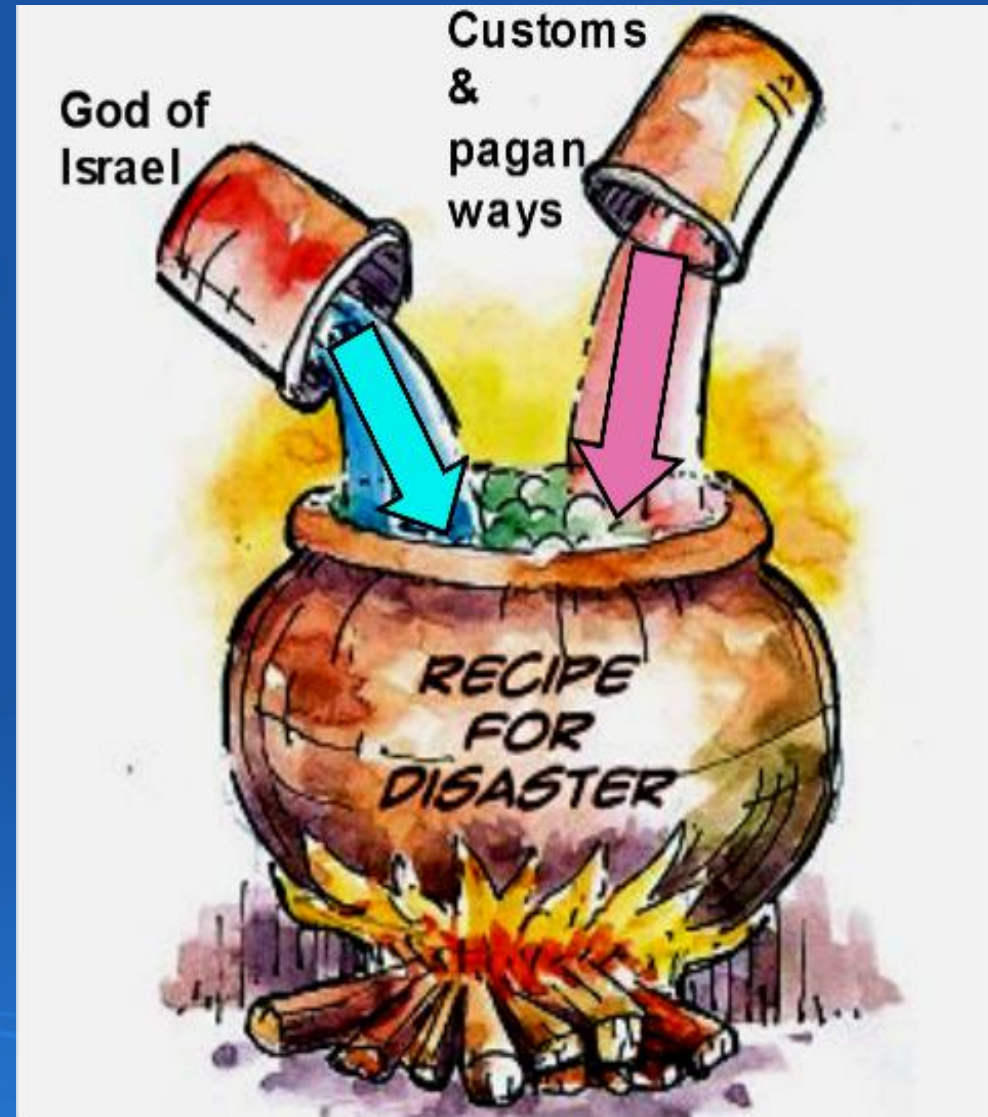


2ND SAMUEL 21: AN APPENDIX

- David had been dealing with a famine for 3 years
- The solution of executing 7 members of Saul's household was a mix of Torah Law, customs, and pagan ways
- Israel had steadily moved away from the High Priest as it's moral authority

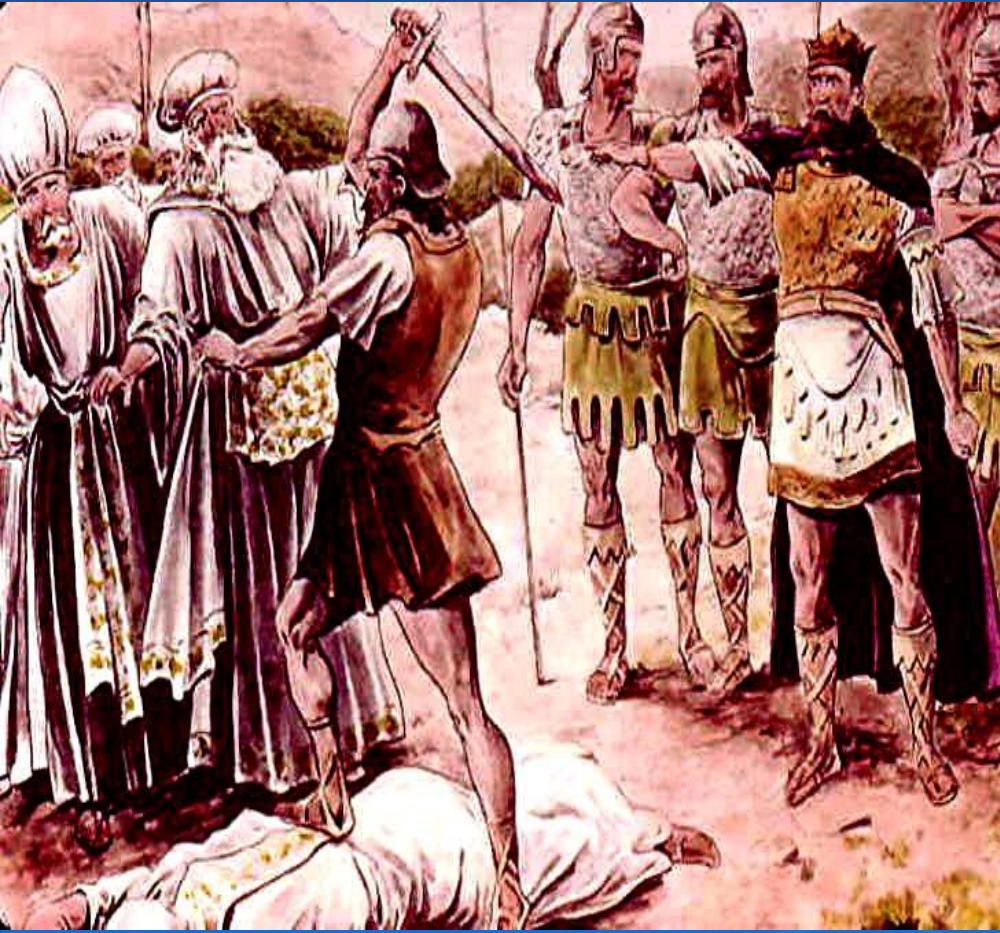


THE GENOCIDE UPON THE GIBEONITES



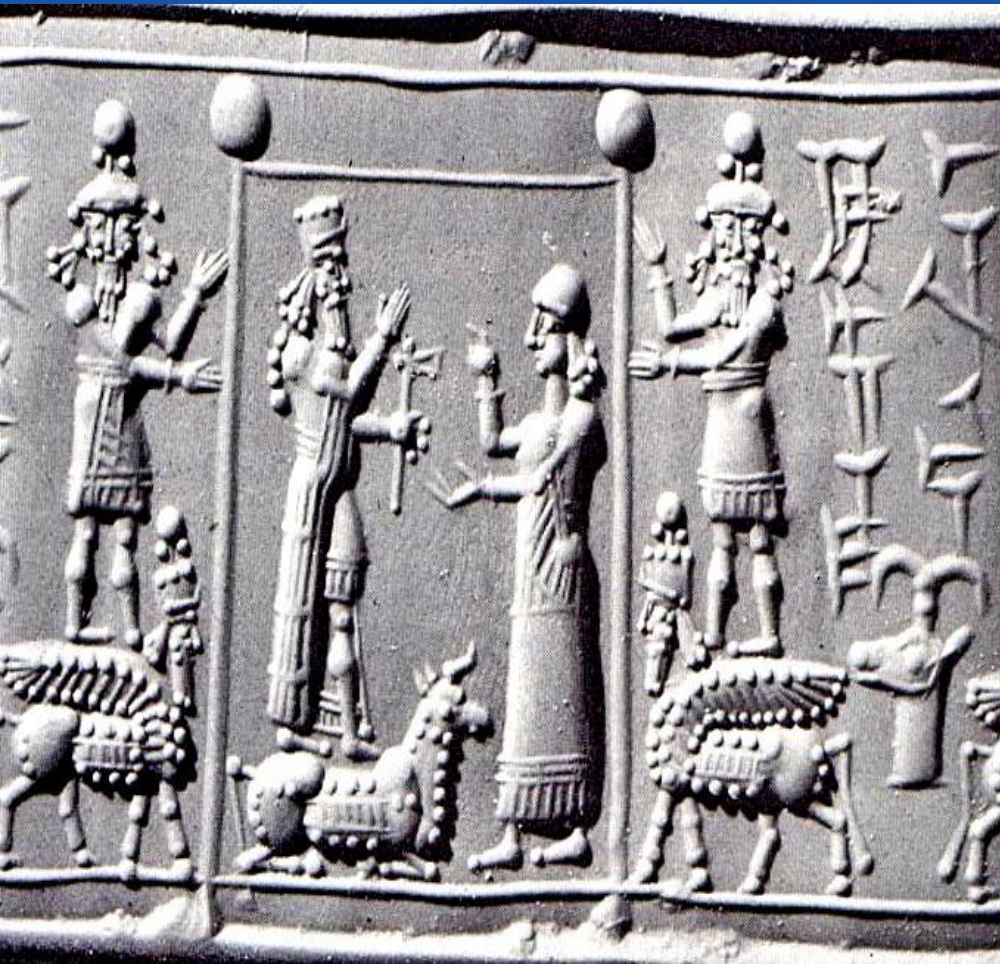
- Cause of the famine is the House of Saul's blood guilt
- Unjust murder of the Amorites (Gibeonites)
- Joshua entered into a rash vow with the deceitful Amorites
- 4 centuries passed from Joshua's vow to the mass killings by *Sha'ul*

SAUL'S "ZEAL FOR THE PEOPLE"



- Some Rabbis say that many Amorites killed by Saul along with the Priests at Nob
- This caused bad blood between the Amorites and Saul
- More likely the Gibeonite atrocity was only Saul trying to gain the people's and God's favor
- Result was that God's holiness was tarnished

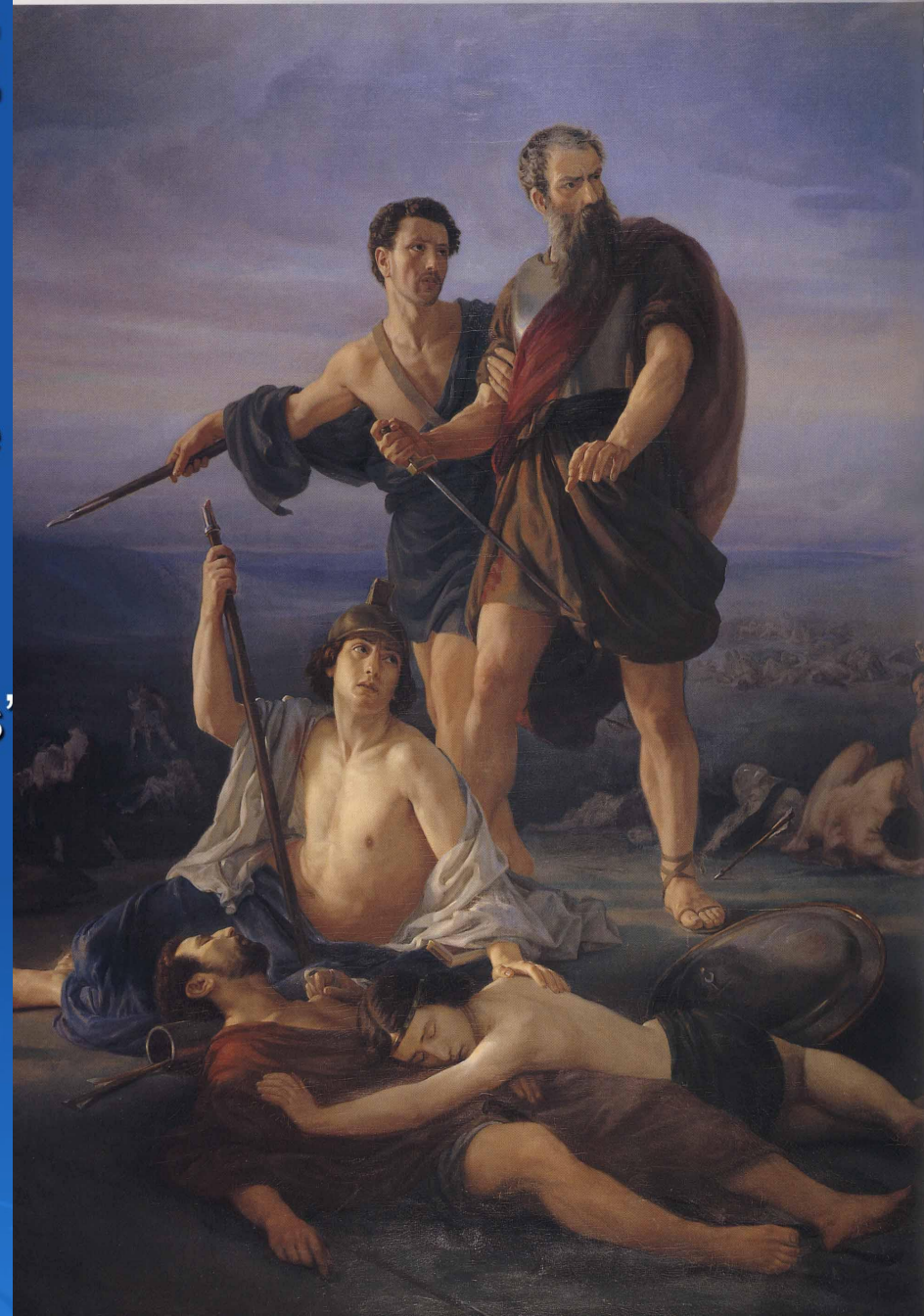
AMORITES OF GIBEON WERE PAGANS



- YHWH says the problem is blood-guilt by Saul's house, but He does NOT prescribe a remedy
- These Amorites continued as pagans
- *Go'el Hadam* = blood avenger
- Gibeonites were resident aliens so had no automatic rights to blood vengeance against Israelites

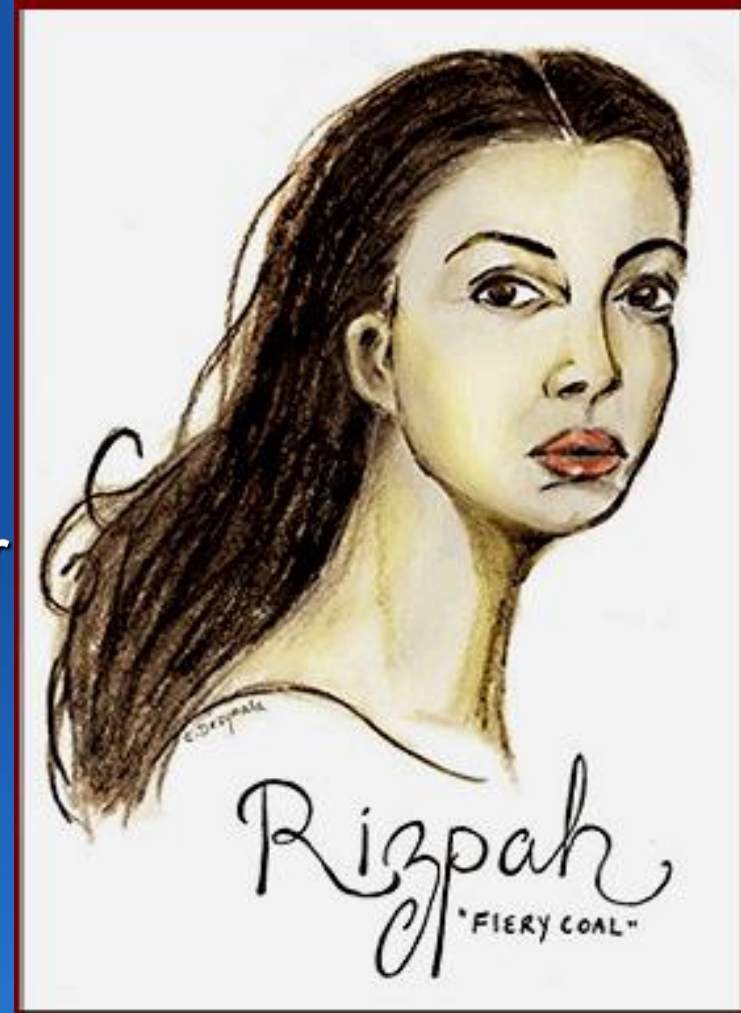
SAUL AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE ARE DEAD

- 30 – 40 years passed since the Gibeonite massacre and the time of this story
- David asks Amorites what can be done so that they can “bless” Israel
- 7 men to be executed “before YHWH”
- To be done at a *bemah*, a high place, supposedly dedicated to God
- NOTE: God did NOT instruct this to happen !



GIBEONITES' GOAL WAS TO EXTERMINATE HOUSE OF SAUL

- David refused to allow death of Mephibosheth due to an oath he gave to Jonathan
- King David decided who would be turned over for death
- Rizpah a revered woman, former concubine of Saul
- 2 of *Rizpah's* children and 5 children of *Merab* (NOT Michal)
- 1Sam 18:17 – 19
- 2 sons and 5 grandsons of Saul



IMPALEMENT NOT CRUCIFIXION



- Crosses not used in Middle East
- Invented by Persians about 300 B.C.
- Condemned first killed, then impaled on tall stakes
- Done at the beginning of the Barley harvest
- Means about the time of *Bikkurim* (Firstfruits)

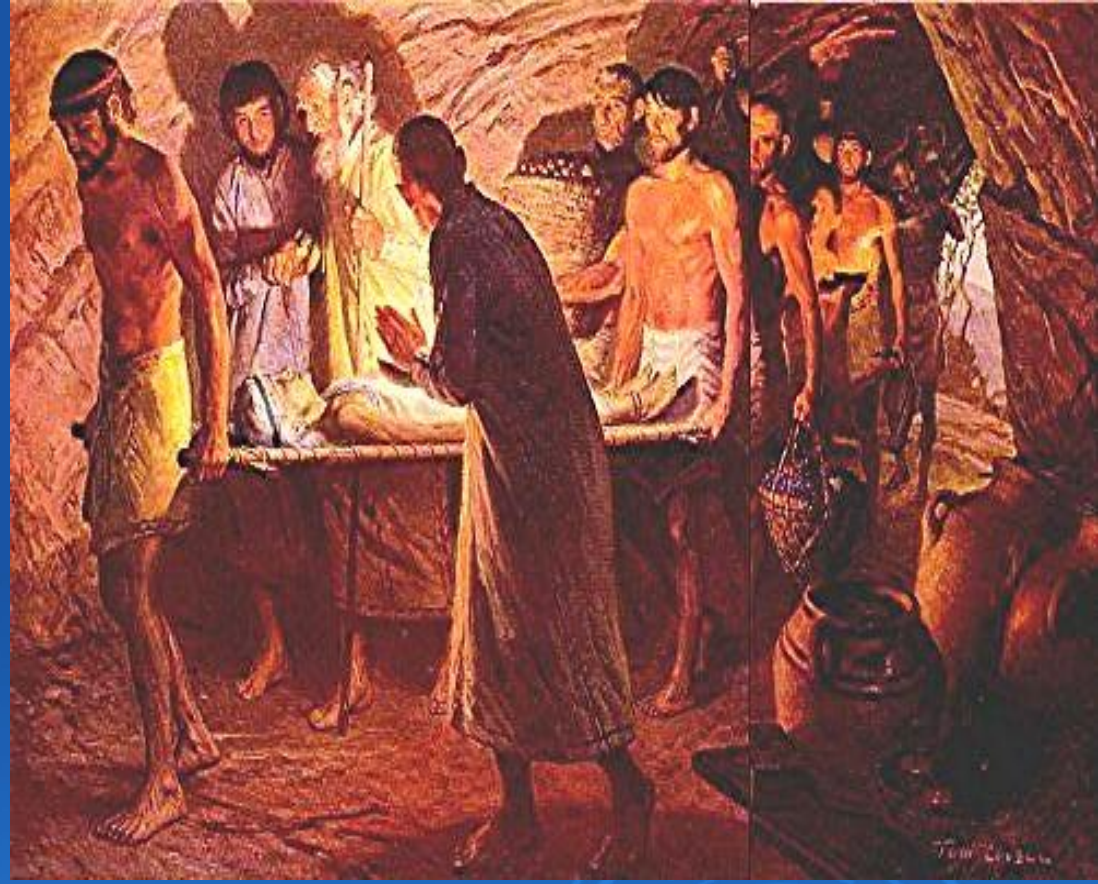
RIZPAH GUARDS THE BODIES

- By Torah Law the bodies should have been taken down by nightfall
- Rizpah remained there from April to August
- Stayed until it rained
- It was a sign to her that God had accepted the sacrifice and the land was now cleansed
- Rabbis do not blame David for allowing the bodies to remain hanging for so long



PROPER BURIAL GIVEN TO SAUL, JONATHAN, AND THE 7 EXECUTED

- All were buried in *Kish's* tomb
- Place called *Zela* (unknown today)
- “Bones of” mean whatever the remains consisted of
- Saul and Jonathan’s remains were ashes



WAS THE BLOOD-GUILT PAID FOR BY THE 7 DEATHS?

- 1) The text does NOT say that the deaths atoned for the blood-guilt
- God did NOT prescribe the death of those 7 descendants of Saul, nor to be impaled, nor for execution to be at a cult site
- 2) All parties had something to gain. By the descendants of Saul being killed, David removed most threats to throne from Saul's old family

READ THE TEXT CLOSELY !

- 3) Amorites had been living in hatred of House of Saul for 2 generations. David asking them what they wanted allowed them blood revenge
- 4) Verse 14 does NOT say that the 7 executions caused God to accept it as proper atonement to cleanse the land
- Rather it only says that sometime AFTER Saul's, Jonathan's and the 7 bodies were buried that God accepted their prayers for rain

AGAINST TORAH LAW TO EXECUTE AN INNOCENT PERSON FOR THE OFFENSE OF ANOTHER

- Deut. 24:16 *“Fathers are not be executed for sins of their children....”* or vice-versa
- However iniquities CAN be passed down in the form of BURDENS on later generations
- Ex. 20:5 *“.....God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on 3rd and 4th generations....”*
- **BOTTOM LINE:** These 7 executions did NOT atone for the blood guilt of the land, or of Saul’s household
- Rather, God’s mercy prevailed otherwise NO nation would ever receive rain!