

## Enquired of the LORD during Famines

*“1 Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites. 2 And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.) 3 Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD? 4 And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, that will I do for you. 5 And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel, 6 Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give them. 7 But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD's oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. 8 But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite: 9 And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest. 10 And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water dropped upon them out of heaven, and suffered neither the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night. 11 And it was told David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done. 12 And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabeshgilead, which had stolen them from the street of Bethshan, where the Philistines had hanged them, when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa: 13 And he brought up from thence the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered the bones of them that were hanged. 14 And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was intreated for the land.” (2 Samuel 21:1-14)*

King David in the chosen passage sought the face of God for the famine that was there for three successive years. *“During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; so David sought the face of the LORD. The LORD said, “It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death.” (2 Samuel 21:1 NIV)* From such an event and what had happened we can learn the following about seeking the face of God.

**1. Certain problem in your life it can be God’s way for you to seek His face:** If everything is alright you will not think to start to seek God and draw near to Him. The problem had caused your attention to be drawn toward God.

**2. Seeking God’s face is not a short term process:** You may not be able to achieve that in few days or months. It may take years. Seeking God’s face is looking for more details from God about His pleasant, good and perfect will.

**3. For God to reveal to you His will, you need to be humble and willing to listen:** *“The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.” (Psalms 25:9 KJV)* God will not speak to you if you are not willing to listen. If you want to seek God’s face, humble yourself and kneel down before Him, and be willing to listen from Him to all the things; even the matters that you don’t like to hear. In seeking God’s face be willing to change your mind and adapt the new things that God is speaking to you.

**4. To seek God’s face is not an easy thing:** When you come to God to know His will you need to do what He says to you. That in certain might not be easy. In the passage that we read David was requested to hand over seven men to be executed, and this is not an easy matter. But David as he set his heart to seek God’s face, he was willing to obey Him. Among the sevens whom David needed to hand over is, *“the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite.” (2 Samuel 21:8 KJV)* As we study from the Scriptures the previous days of King David then we will realize what King David did in order to please God and entreat for His blessing to come back to Israel.

David after his triumph over Goliath was supposed to marry Merab Saul’s daughter as was promised to the person who would kill Goliath, *“25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.” (1 Samuel 17:25 KJV)* King Saul did not fulfill what he promised: *“19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.” (1 Samuel 18:19 KJV)* Instead, King Saul gave David his second daughter Michal, *“25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired. 27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.” (1 Samuel 18:25-27 KJV)* But later on Michal was taken from David and given to another man, *“But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.” (1 Samuel 25:33 KJV)* After the death of Saul, David requested back His wife Michal to be brought back to him, *“12 And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose is the land? saying also, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee. 13 And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee: but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face. 14 And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines. 15 And Ishbosheth sent, and took her from her husband, even from Phaltiel the son of Laish. 16 And her husband went*

*with her along weeping behind her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, Go, return. And he returned.” (2 Samuel 3:12-16 KJV)* Michal after that lived with King David, and we can read one of the recorded event between them as husband and wife, **“16 And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. 17 And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. 18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. 19 And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house. 20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! 21 And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD. 22 And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour. 23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.” (2 Samuel 6:16-23 KJV)** Michal as we noticed is a hard wife. Now going back to the event of famine, when David found out that he needed to hand over, **“the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite.” (2 Samuel 21:8 KJV)** The five sons was for her sister Merab, because Michal has no children till her death, but Michal was the one who brought up these five sons of Merab, for Merab married **Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite** and not Michal.

Michal at that time was living with David as his wife and he needed to hand over the five sons that she brought up to be put to death. It is a hard thing to do, but David compelled to obey God and comply with His will not for the sake of solving the issue of famine, but in order to please God because he had set his heart to please God. The same thing is to be for you. As you set your heart to seek God's face then be willing to obey Him and do whatever He would commanded you to do.

**5. Certain sin in the past done by some people before, God might call you accountable to correct what had happened:** As Christian and true believer in Christ Jesus God calls you to declare the truth to others; not to cover wickedness and to compromise. God wants to use you as an instrument of righteousness. So you need to be at that level of expectation. David obeyed God and did whatever He asked him to do. And truly the Lord testified about David in saying the following: **“I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.” (Acts 13:22)** The same should be for you; to obey God and do exactly what He wants you to do.

**My Dear and Beloved:** Use the opportunity today to seek God's face. The problem, the famine that is today in your life it might be the way that God uses to call your attention to certain sinful act had happened in the past and God wants you to deal with it today as you agree to pray.

**My prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died for my sins on the cross and rose again from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I humble myself at your feet and seek your face with all my heart. I am willing to listen, to change my mind and to obey your voice in doing what you would asked me to do. This is my prayer in Jesus name. Amen*