

31. Rizpah

One day Ishbosheth, Saul’s son, accused Abner of sleeping with one of his father’s concubines, a woman named Rizpah. Abner became furious. (2 Samuel 3-8a NLT)

But he gave them Saul’s two sons Armoni and Mephibosheth, whose mother was Rizpah daughter of Aiah. He also gave them the five sons of Saul’s daughter Merab, the wife of Adriel son of Barzillai from Meholah. The men of Gibeon executed them on the mountain before the LORD. So all seven of them died together at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Then Rizpah, the mother of two of the men, spread sackcloth on a rock and stayed there the entire harvest season. She prevented vultures from tearing at their bodies during the day and stopped wild animals from eating them at night. When David learned what Rizpah, Saul’s concubine, had done, he went to the people of Jabesh-gilead and asked for the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan. (When Saul and Jonathan had died in a battle with the Philistines, it was the people of Jabesh-gilead who had retrieved their bodies from the public square of the Philistine city of Beth-shan.) So David brought the bones of Saul and Jonathan, as well as the bones of the men the Gibeonites had executed. He buried them all in the tomb of Kish, Saul’s father, at the town of Zela in the land of Benjamin. After that, God ended the famine in the land of Israel.

(2 Samuel 21:8-14 NLT)



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| ABNER | FURIOUS | RIZPAH |
| ADRIEL | GIBEON | ROCK |
| AIAH | ISHBOSHETH | SACKCLOTH |
| ANIMALS | JABESH | SLEEPING |
| ARMONI | KISH | SQUARE |
| BARZILLAI | MEHOLAH | STOPPED |
| BATTLE | MEPHIBOSHETH | TEARING |
| BONES | MERAB | VULTURES |
| EATING | NIGHT | WILD |
| EXECUTED | PUBLIC | ZELA |