

2 Samuel 4:1-12 **Ishbosheth Murdered on his bed – David executes Justice**

Ishbosheth Is Murdered

¹ When Saul's son heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost heart, and all Israel was troubled.

² Now Saul's son had two men who were captains of troops. The name of one was Baanah and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin. (For Beeroth also was part of Benjamin, ³ because the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there until this day.)

⁴ Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.

⁵ Then the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, set out and came at about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who was lying on his bed at noon. ⁶ And they came there, all the way into the house, as though to get wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. ⁷ For when they came into the house, he was lying on his bed in his bedroom; then they struck him and killed him, beheaded him and took his head, and were all night escaping through the plain. ⁸ And they brought the head of Ishbosheth to David at Hebron, and said to the king, "Here is the head of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul your enemy, who sought your life; and the Lord has avenged my lord the king this day of Saul and his descendants."

David executes Justice

⁹ But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, "As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from all adversity, ¹⁰ when someone told me, saying, 'Look, Saul is dead,' thinking to have brought good news, I arrested him and had him executed in Ziklag — the one who thought I would give him a reward for his news.

¹¹ How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous person in his own house on his bed? Therefore, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and remove you from the earth?"

¹² So David commanded his young men, and they executed them, cut off their hands and feet, and hanged them by the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth and buried it in the tomb of Abner in Hebron.

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Facts Revealed:

Ishbosheth king of Israel, Saul's son is Murdered [2 Samuel 4:1-8]

- ✧ Ishbosheth and all Israel were troubled when they heard of the death of Abner in Hebron.
- ✧ Abner had gone to Hebron with the approval of the elders of Israel to make David king over all Israel, which covenant David had accepted. [2 Samuel 3:6-21]
- ✧ Joab had taken Abner aside and killed him in revenge for the death of his brother Asahel. [2 Samuel 3:22-27]
- ✧ David had led the people in mourning for the loss of Abner, a great man in Israel. [2 Samuel 3:31-39]
- ✧ Still the death of Abner discouraged Ishbosheth and troubled all Israel. [2 Samuel 4:1]

- ✧ Two captains of Ishbosheth's army came into his house and killed him on his bed then took his head to David thinking to gain favor with David. [2 Samuel 4:2-8]
- ✧ The only one left of the house of Jonathan was Mephibosheth, who had been crippled when he fell after news of the death of Saul and Jonathan in the battle with the Philistines. [2 Samuel 4:4]
- ✧ Though there had been war between Israel and Judah for seven years from the time David was anointed king of Judah, [2 Samuel 3:1] still David loved Saul and his family and had made a covenant with Jonathan to protect his family when David became king of Israel. [1 Samuel 20:1-17, 23:16-18]

David executes Justice [2 Samuel 4:9-12]

- ✧ David told Rechab and Baanah how he had responded toward the one who brought him news of the death of Saul, claiming to have been the one who killed Saul, hoping to gain favor with David, but David had him put to death for laying hands on the Lord's anointed. [2 Samuel 1:1-16, 4:9-10]
- ✧ Now David gave the same verdict concerning the men who had killed Ishbosheth on his bed in cold blood. They were put to death. [2 Samuel 4:11-12]