

2 Samuel 4:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands were feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled.

Analysis

And when Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands were feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Ish-bosheth Murdered, emphasizing righteous vs unrighteous means. The assassination of Ish-bosheth and David's execution of the murderers demonstrates crucial distinctions between godly and ungodly means. While the result (removing Saul's dynasty) aligned with God's purposes, the method (treacherous murder) violated divine standards. Hebrew concepts of justice (mishpat, מִשְׁפָט) and righteousness (tsedeq, צְדָקָה) permeate David's response.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 4 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding righteous vs unrighteous means provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid

anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of righteous vs unrighteous means?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

בְּחִבּוּר וּן אֶבְנֶר יְשִׁמְעָם עַל שָׁא וְלֹא מֵת כִּי שָׁא וְלֹא מֵת אֶבְנֶר בְּחִבּוּר וּן

heard son And when Saul's was dead that Abner in Hebron

H8085

H1121

H7586

H3588

H4191

H74

H2275

נְבָלָה יְשַׁבָּא לְיַעֲגֵל יְצַדְּקָה וְלֹא מֵת אֶבְנֶר בְּחִבּוּר וּן

were feeble his hands and all the Israelites were troubled

H7503

H3027

H3605

H3478

H926

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 4:4 (Parallel theme): Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,

Isaiah 13:7 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:

Jeremiah 6:24 (Parallel theme): We have heard the fame thereof: our hands wax feeble: anguish hath taken hold of us, and pain, as of a woman in travail.

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