

# 2 Samuel 4:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who thought that I would have given him a reward for his tidings:

## Analysis

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**When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who thought that I would have given him a reward for his tidings:**

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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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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

כ	ה	יהוָה	שָׁאֵל	מִתְּמִימָה	הַנְּפָה	לְאָמֵר	לִ	הַמְּגִיד	כ
H3588	<b>When one told</b>	הָ	<b>me saying</b>	H2009	<b>is dead</b>	<b>Behold Saul</b>		H1931	H1961
	H5046		H559	H4191	H7586				

כְּמַבְשֵׁר	בְּעֵין יְ	בְּאֵת הַ	בְּ וְ	תִּאֱכִי הַ	אָהָרֶג הַוּ
good tidings	thinking to have brought	I took hold	חֹ	of him and slew	H2026

ל	ו	לְתַתִּי	אָשָׁר	בָּצְקָלְךָ	him in Ziklag	H834	who thought that I would have given	H5414	H6860
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**בְּשַׁרְתָּה:**  
**him a reward for his tidings**  
H1309

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