

2 Samuel 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth?

Analysis

How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth?

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

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

אִישׁ כִּי אֵת
H637 H3588 person How much more when wicked
H376 H7563

רְשָׁעִים הָרְגָּגָה
H2026 H853

אִישׁ אֶת הָרְגָּגָה
H376

צָדִיק יְהִי
H6662

בָּבִית וְ
H1004

עַל מִשְׁכָּב וְ
H4904

כָּל וְאַ וְעַת הַ
H3808

אָבְקָן שׁ
H1245

אֶת דָּמוֹ
H853

מִדְּכָם
H1818

וְגַעֲרָת
H3027

שְׁאֵלָת
H1197

שְׁאֵלָת
shall I not therefore now require

מִן אַתָּךְ מִן
H853 H4480

בָּאָרֶץ
H776

from the earth

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 9:12 (Blood): When he maketh inquisition for blood, he remembereth them: he forgetteth not the cry of the humble.

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