

# 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

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**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, מִשְׁפָּט) and righteousness (tsedeq, צֶדֶק) 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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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## **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

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אִישׁ	כִּי	אֶף	רַשָּׁעִים	הָרְגוּ	אֶת	אִישׁ
H376	H3588	H637	H7563	H2026	H853	H376
person			How much more when wicked	have slain		person
הֵל וְאֵל	וְעַתָּה	מִשְׁכָּבִי	עַל	בְּבֵיתִי	צַדִּיק	יֵק
H3808	H6258	H4904	H5921	H1004	H6662	
		upon his bed		in his own house	a righteous	
וּבְעֵרְתִּי	מִדָּכְךָ	דָּמִי	אֶת	אֲבִקְךָ	שׁ	
H1197	H3027	H1818	H853	H1245		
and take you away	of your hand	his blood		shall I not therefore now require		
			הָאָרֶץ:	מִן	אֶתְּךָ	ם
			H776	H4480	H853	
			from the earth			

## Additional Cross-References

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