

2 Samuel 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For when they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night.

Analysis

For when they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night.

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וַיָּבֹא אֹוֹתָהּ	וְיָבֹא אֹוֹתָהּ	וְיָבֹא אֹוֹתָהּ	וְיָבֹא אֹוֹתָהּ	וְיָבֹא אֹוֹתָהּ	וְיָבֹא אֹוֹתָהּ
For when they came	into the house	H1931	he lay	H5921	on his bed
H935	H1004	H7901	H4296		
בְּתִימָתָהוּ	וְיָמָתָהוּ	וְיָמָתָהוּ	וְיָמָתָהוּ	וְיָמָתָהוּ	וְיָמָתָהוּ
in his bedchamber	and they smote	H5221	him and slew	H4191	him and beheaded
H2315	H4904				H5493
וְיָלַכְתִּי	וְיָלַכְתִּי	וְיָלַכְתִּי	וְיָלַכְתִּי	וְיָלַכְתִּי	וְיָלַכְתִּי
his head	him and took	H853	his head	H1980	through
H7218	H3947	H7218	H1870		H6160
כָּלְלִילָה	כָּלְלִילָה	כָּלְלִילָה	כָּלְלִילָה	כָּלְלִילָה	כָּלְלִילָה
all night					
H3605					
H3915					

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