

# 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

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**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, 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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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## 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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וַיָּבֹאוּ For when they came H935	הֵבִי יָת into the house H1004	וַהֲוָה H1931	עַל שָׁכַב ב he lay H7901	מִטָּתוֹ on his bed H4296	
בְּחִדְרֵי in his bedchamber H2315	מִשְׁכָּבוֹ H4904	וַיִּזְנוּ and they smote H5221	וַיַּמָּתוּ him and slew H4191	וַיַּסֵּי יָרֹוֹ him and beheaded H5493	
אֶת רֹאשׁוֹ H853	וַיִּקַּח him and took H3947	אֶת רֹאשׁוֹ H853	וַיַּלְכֵהוּ H1980	דָּךְ through H1870	הַעֲרֵבָה the plain H6160
כָּל H3605	לַיְלָה: all night H3915				

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