

2 Samuel 4:1–12 (ESV)

4 When Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died at Hebron, his courage failed, and all Israel was dismayed. ² Now Saul's son had two men who were captains of raiding bands; the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon a man of Benjamin from Beeroth (for Beeroth also is counted part of Benjamin; ³ the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there to this day).

⁴ Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son who was crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled, and as she fled in her haste, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

⁵ Now the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, set out, and about the heat of the day they came to the house of Ish-bosheth as he was taking his noonday rest. ⁶ And they came into the midst of the house as if to get wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. ⁷ When they came into the house, as he lay on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him and put him to death and beheaded him. They took his head and went by the way of the Arabah all night, ⁸ and brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron. And they said to the king, "Here is the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life. The LORD has avenged my lord the king this day on Saul and on his offspring." ⁹ But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity, ¹⁰ when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. ¹¹ How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth?" ¹² And David commanded his young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet and hanged them beside the pool at Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the tomb of Abner at Hebron.

Fact Blitz! Focus on details. Interpret later!

People = Who? (Identify people by their connections – family, political, social. Meaning of name. etc.)

- Identify Baanah and Rechab familial and politically.
- What is unique about Mephibosheth? How old is he now? (Assume that the war between the families of Saul and David has been about seven years long [see 2Sam. 2:11].)
- Identify Ish-bosheth. (See family tree.) How old was Ish-bosheth at his death? (See 2Sam. 2:8-9 and do the math.) What's the age difference between Ish-bosheth and Mephibosheth?

Events = What happened? When? How?

- What was the reaction of Ish-bosheth and all Israel to Abner's death?
- What event impacted Mephibosheth for life? When?
- What time of day was Ish-bosheth murdered? What was he doing? (Think in terms of a culture where siestas are common.)
- What was David's reaction to the actions of Rechab and Baanah?

Places = Where ... physically, politically, historically?

- Where was Ish-bosheth's home? (Consult the map and 2Sam. 2:8-9.)

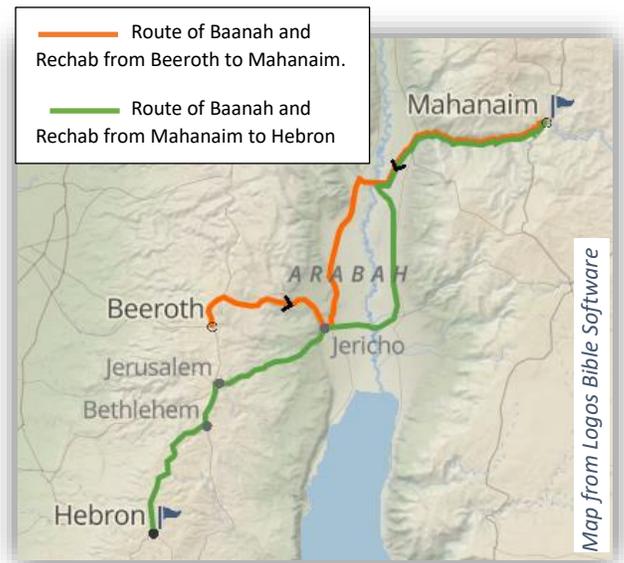
Explanations = Why? Look for comments that explain background or provide interpretation.

- How do Rechab and Baanah interpret the significance of their actions?
- How does David interpret the preservation of his life?
- To what does David compare the actions of Rechab and Baanah? (See 2Sam. 1:6-16.)
- What is David's reason for executing Rechab and Baanah?

Clarify the Facts.

What is this passage doing in the Bible?

- Why would Mephibosheth be a weak candidate to replace Ish-bosheth for continuing the battle against David's family?
- What is significant about bringing Ish-bosheth's head to David? What reaction did Rechab and Baanah expect from David?
- How does David honor Ish-bosheth in his death? How does he dishonor Rechab and Baanah in their deaths?
- Is David's treatment of Rechab and Baanah just? Explain.
- How does it connect with the whole book? (Consider 1Sam. 13:14; 15:11,23,28; 23:17; 24:20; 26:25; 28:17; 2Sam. 3:1; 1Kings 2:5-6, 28-35.)
- How does it connect with the whole Bible? (Consider Gen. 3:15; Matt. 1:1,6; 6:10,33; 28:18-20; 1Corinthians 15:24-28.)



So What? God's Word instructs, rebukes, corrects, trains (2Tim.3:15).

What does God show about Himself?

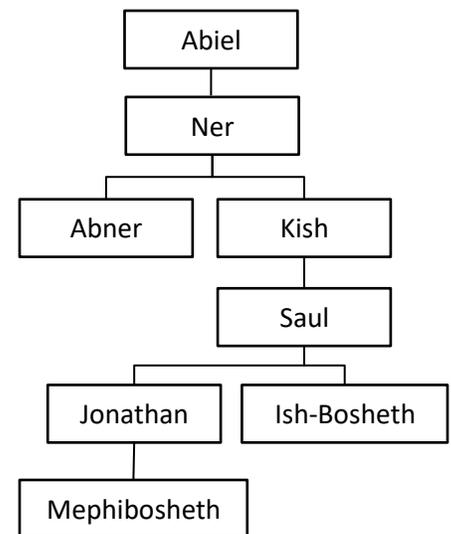
- What evil does God turn for the good of His kingdom? (2Sam. 4:8)
- How does king David's treatment of Rechab and Baanah give insight into the righteous judgment of Jesus Christ?

What becomes obvious (or confirmed again) about human beings?

- Rechab and Baanah must have been surprised by David's reaction. Who are likely to be surprised on the day of judgment? (See Luke 6:46-49; Matt. 25:41-46.)

What brokenness in this passage leaves us longing for God to do something?

- What does Rechab and Baanah's misjudgment teach us about our need for the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to us?



How does God's plan in Jesus Christ give hope for a solution?

- How does Christ's righteous judgment advance His kingdom?

How will I respond with my ... (choose one)?

- **Head:** Am I clear about what Christ's righteousness demands of me?
- **Heart:** Considering David's sudden justice, why should I value the righteousness that I have in Jesus Christ? (See Acts 5:5-11.)
- **Hands:** What should I be doing to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33)?