

1 Now when Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost courage, and all Israel was disturbed. 2 And Saul's son had two men who were commanders of bands: the name of the one was Baanah and the name of the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the sons of Benjamin (for Beeroth is also considered part of Benjamin, 3 and the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and have been aliens there until this day). 4 Now Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the report of Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened that in her hurry to flee, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth. 5 So the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, departed and came to the house of Ish-bosheth in the heat of the day while he was taking his midday rest. 6 And they came to the middle of the house as if to get wheat, and they struck him in the belly; and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. 7 Now when they came into the house, as he was lying on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him and killed him and beheaded him. And they took his head and traveled by way of the Arabah all night.

I-B *lost courage*--Sad & bad to place your courage in man & not God.

When the man goes so goes your courage. But **God is the same yesterday, today and forever...He will never leave you nor forsake you. As goes the leader so goes the people**-- *disturbed*, sudden dismay-frightened.

Whenever there's a failure in leadership Satan takes advantage to **rob steal and destroy**...I-B had two officers under Abner, now dead, who took advantage of this weak king. Loyalty is key to an administration--**disloyalty tend to stab in back**. Tension w/in the tribe of Benjamin, two men belonging to Benjamin stage a power grab after Abner's assassination....still today using same tactic character assassination to gain power. When exposed there are consequences to pay.

Mephibosheth son of Jonathan qualified as next heir apparent yet disqualified because of age & handicap--honored by David in chs to come.

Abner made a treaty w/ David to bring over the rest of Israel to his side, that David reign as king over all Israel. But jealousy of Joab, David's commander, assassinated Abner leaving Ish-Bosheth to fend for himself.

But he was a weak king over 11 tribes that divided off after Saul's death. David became king over Judah. Now 7 1/2 years later as Saul's house grew weaker & weaker. Lazy I-B in bed at noon not w/ his men or treaty w/ David

***Pr 24:33 "A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest," 34 Then your poverty will come as a robber And your want like an armed man.***

Lazy saint's become prey to enemies deceptions. Baanah & Rechab entered the house pretending to get food for the soldiers. At that time the nations corn-chamber & kings bed-chamber were close by each other. Perfect ruse for their murderous plot.

***8 Then they brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron, and said to the king, "Behold, the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life; thus the LORD has given my lord the king vengeance this day on Saul and his descendants." 9 And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress, 10 when one told me, saying, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him in 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 from your hand, and destroy you from the earth?" 12 Then David commanded the young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet, and hung them up beside the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the grave of Abner in Hebron.***

We understand right from wrong, good from evil, but what do we choose? These two to their own advantage try to make what is evil, good. ***Rom 2:15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,***

Twisted logic, think David is like them in their perverse thinking that they are doing David a service by murdering I-B while using the Lord as a cover for their wicked deed. Bringing I-B head as a present to David. Thinking to get a promotion in David's court--curry favor w/ him as if concerned for David's life & kingship & not for advancing themselves.

David understood I-B situation was political, fomented by Abner & naively thinking as Saul's son the crown was his, likely at the urging of others. He truly was weak & a pawn of others & David understood this.

David points to the fact that God has redeemed his life, helped him and delivered him all these years on the run & how he dealt w/ the killing of Saul...*Deut 27:24 'Cursed is he who strikes his neighbor in secret.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'*

How much more in your wickedness, killing a man in his house & in his bed a cowardly act deserving of what you get....death. Mouths drop, eyes widen, knees go slack....they reap what they sow. It is an affront to David that they assumed he would think like they think.

David acts justly putting fear into the hearts of lawbreakers & those who think they can buddy up to David w/ calculated deceit. He shows his hatred for what they had done by swift action...death

***Eccl 8:11 When the sentence for a crime is not speedily executed, the hearts of men become fully set on doing evil.***

Cut off hands & feet & hung them in plain sight to put the fear of David's kingdom and his righteous justice in the hearts of all especially lawbreakers.

**Ch 5** Justice served now a happy change follows w/ David's reign

***1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. 2 "Previously, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and in. And the LORD said to you, 'You will shepherd My people Israel, and you will be a ruler over Israel.'" 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them before the LORD at Hebron; then they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. 5 At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.***

They knew David was their leader, a brother, conqueror in battle, chosen shepherd & king over Israel. Why so long, making it hard on themselves? **God's sovereignty!**...we often learn our best lessons in wildernesses times, in the bleakest years of life, when all seems to go against us is when the learning curve is the sharpest for growth, insight and maturity.

Now realizing they are sheep w/o a shepherd. This is third time David anointed king. Advancement is by increments that we grow in grace & power & humility. David 30 yrs (Levites began ministry Num 4:3).

Hebron David's headquarters for now, Jerusalem became city of David.

*6 Now the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, and they said to David, "You shall not come in here, but the blind and lame shall turn you away"; thinking, "David cannot enter here." 7 Nevertheless, David captured the stronghold of Zion, that is the city of David. 8 And David said on that day, "Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him reach the lame and the blind, who are hated by David's soul, through the **water tunnel**." Therefore they say, "The blind or the lame shall not come into the house." 9 So David lived in the stronghold, and called it the city of David. And David built all around from the Millo and inward. 10 And David became greater and greater, for the LORD God of hosts was with him.*

Blind and lame a message of contempt unable to breach the walls or get into the city. David's answer calling their gods blind & lame...**they have eyes but cannot see, feet but cannot walk....**who guard the city are hated by David. Thought the city impregnable the way it situated and fortified. Maybe they positioned blind, feeble, lame, invalids on walls to mock David.

God's enemies often are overconfident of their strength...**as Goliath was.**

Spring Gihon 1800 yrd thru limestone to pool Siloam w/in wall dug water shaft to water below Joab climbed up entered city.

*11 Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David with cedar trees and carpenters and stonemasons; and they built a house for David. 12 And David realized that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people Israel. 13 Meanwhile David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron; and more sons and daughters were born to David. 14 Now these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ibhara, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada and Eliphelet. (11sons)*

David builds a royal palace where he hold court for dignitaries and court officials. Hiram sends skilled men to build each w/ their gifting. Jews were farmers, herders, & shepherds skilled in their area of calling.

What God establishes He sustains and protects for the good of His people. A witness to saints & sinners what God has done, never had the nation looked so good.

MH The bad example of the patriarchs might make him think there was no harm in it, & he might hope it would strengthen his interest, by multiplying his alliances, & increasing the royal family. ***Happy is the man that has his quiver full of these arrows.*** But one vine by the side of the house, w/ the blessing of God, may send boughs to the sea & branches to the rivers. Adam, by one wife, peopled the world, & Noah re-peopled it. David had many wives, & yet that did not keep him from coveting his neighbor's wife & defiling her, for men that have once broken the fence will wander endlessly

*17 When the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek out David; and when David heard of it, he went down to the stronghold. 18 Now the Philistines came and spread themselves out in the valley of Rephaim. 19 Then David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Wilt Thou give them into my hand?" And the LORD said to David, "Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand." 20 So David came to Baal-perazim, and defeated them there; and he said, "The LORD has broken through my enemies before me like the breakthrough of waters." Therefore he named that place Baal-perazim (Lord of the breakthrough). 21 And they abandoned their idols there, so David & his men carried them away.*

God had told David that he was to save Israel out of the hand of the Philistines 3:18. God's providence had the Philistines attack that David accomplish Gods plan. They attack when they heard he was king. But David restores what Saul had lost in the battle & killed but David went beyond to conquer enemy nations.

*22 Now the Philistines came up once again and spread themselves out in the valley of Rephaim. 23 And when David inquired of the LORD, He said, "You shall not go directly up; circle around behind them and come at them in front of the balsam trees. 24 "And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then you shall act promptly, for then the LORD will have gone out before you to strike the army of the Philistines." 25 Then David did so, just as the LORD had commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer.*

Philistines come a second time to recover what they had lost, hearts hardened to reality of God w/ David against them. Tho beaten back once David doesn't take battling the enemy for granted he know *the battle belongs to the Lord* and prays.

God gives strategy. Marching in the trees where wind rustles leaves & it sounds like an army marching, confusing the enemy to where it seems soldiers are marching in all directions bringing confusion.

Struck Philistines from Geba to Gezer about 12 miles. God's providence stirs faith in one (David and his men) and fear in the other (army of Philistines).

***But in all things we are more than conquerors thru Christ who loved us Rom 8:37***