

[22] And behold, David's servants and Joab came from the troop, and they brought much spoil with them. And Abner was not with David in Hebron, for he sent him and he went in peace. [23] And Joab and all the army that was with him came, and they declared to Joab, saying, "Abner, son of Lamp, came to the king, and he sent him and he went in peace." [24] And Joab went to the king and said, "What have you done? Look, Abner came to you. For what is this? You sent him, and he surely went? [25] You know Abner, son of Lamp, that he came to deceive you and to know your going out and your coming in, and to know all that you are doing."

[26] And Joab went out from with David, and sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from well of Sirah.¹ And David did not know. [27] And Abner returned to Hebron, and Joab turned him aside to the midst of the gate to speak with him in private. And he struck him there in the belly, and he died for the blood of Asahel his brother.

[28] And David heard afterwards and said, "I and my kingdom are innocent before Yehvah forever from the blood of Abner, son of Lamp. [29] May it whirl² upon Joab's head and to all his father's house. And from Joab's let there not be cut off a discharge and a leper and one who grabs on the spindle³ and who falls by the sword, and lacks bread." [30] And Joab and Abishai his brother killed Abner, because he killed Asahel their brother in Gibeon in the battle.

[31] And David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes and gird on sackcloth and lament for Abner." And the king went after the coffin. [32] And they buried Abner in Hebron. And the king lifted up his voice and wept at Abner's grave, and all the people wept. [33] And the king recited to Abner and said, "As the death of a fool Abner died? [34] Your hands were not bound. Your feet not drawn near to fetters. As falling before sons of injustice⁴ you fell." And all the people began to weep again over him.

[35] And all the people came to persuade David to eat bread while yet the day. And David swore saying, "Thus Gods, may he do to me and thus do again, if before the coming in of the Sun I taste bread or anything else." [36] And all the people took notice, and it was good in their eyes, as all that the king did was good in the eyes of all the people. [37] And all the people and all Israel knew on that day that it was not from the king to put Abner, son of Lamp, to death. [38] And the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a ruler and a great one has fallen this day in Israel? [39] And I today am weak and anointed king, and these men, sons of Zeruiah, are too harsh for me. Yehvah repay to the doer of bad according to his bad."

4[1] And Saul's son heard that Abner had died in Hebron, and his hands became feeble and all of Israel were dismayed.⁵ [2] And there were of Saul's son two men, leaders of troops. The name of the one was Baanah,⁶ and the name of the

1 סִרָּה (sirâh) "Sirah" - only here.

2 יָחַל (yâchlu) "whirl" Green, NET, TLV; "rest" NKJV; "fall" NAS; "stay" YLT - this verb is also used for dancing (e.g. Judges 21:23), for pain (e.g. 1 Samuel 31:3), and for waiting longingly (e.g. Job 35:14).

3 פֶּלֶךְ (pelekh) "spindle" (= "spindle" Proverbs 31:19 NKJV) CSB, NET, WYC, etc.; "distaff" NAS; "staff" NKJV.

4 בְּנֵי-עוֹלָה (venêy-`avlâh) "sons of injustice"; YLT "sons of evil" - עוֹלָה (`avlâh) = "injustice" (e.g. Job 6:29 NKJV).

5 נִבְהָלוּ (nivhâlu) "were dismayed" - plural verb, i.e. *they* were dismayed.

6 בַּעֲנָה (ba'anâh) "Baanah" - found also in 2 Samuel 4:5-6, 9, and others by this name in 2 Samuel 23:29; 1 Kings 4:16;

second, Rechab,⁷ sons of Pomegranate the Beerothite⁸ from sons of Benjamin (for Beeroth was also considered in Benjamin, [3] and the Beerothites fled to Gattaim;⁹ and they have been there sojourning until this day). [4] And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son with crippled feet. He was a son of five years when the news of Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled. And it was, in her haste to flee, so he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.¹⁰

[5] And sons of Pomegranate the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went and came during the heat of the day to Man of Shame's house, and he was lying down, the lying down of noon. [6] And they came in unto the midst of the house taking wheat, and they struck him to the belly. And Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. [7] So, they came in the house, and he was lying upon his bed in his bedroom. And they struck him and killed him and removed his head and took his head and went the way of the plain all the night.

[8] And they brought Man of Shame's head to David, and said to the king, "Behold, head of Man of Shame, son of Saul, your enemy who sought your soul, so, Yehvah has given to my lord, the king, vengeance this day from Saul and from his seed." [9] And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, sons of Pomegranate the Beerothite, and said to them, "Yehvah lives, who has redeemed my soul from every distress, [10] when one told me saying, 'Behold, Saul died.' And it was as good news in his eyes. So, I grabbed him and killed him in Ziklag, what I gave him for news. [11] How much more, when wicked men have killed Man of Shame in his house upon his bed. And now, will I not seek his blood from your hands and burn¹¹ you from the earth." [12] And David commanded the young men and they killed them, and they cut off their hands and their feet and hung them by the pool in Hebron. And Man of Shame's head they took and buried in Abner's grave in Hebron.

1 Chronicles 11:30; Ezra 2:2; Nehemiah 7:7; 10:27(H28).

7 רַכָּב (rêkhâv) "Rechab" - found also in 2 Samuel 4:5-6, 9; 2 Kings 10:15, 23; 1 Chronicles 2:55; Nehemiah 3:14; Jeremiah 35:6, 8, 14, 16, 19.

8 בְּאֶרֶתִי (be'eroti) "Beerothite" - found also in 2 Samuel 4:3, 5, 9; 23:37; 1 Chronicles 11:39.

9 גִּתַּימָה (gittâyâmâh) "Gattaim" - found also in Nehemiah 11:33.

10 מִפִּיבֹשֶׁת (mephiyvoshet) "Mephibosheth" - found also in 2 Samuel 9:6, 10-13; 16:1, 4; 19:24-25, 30; 21:7, 8 (vs 8 is a different Mephibosheth).

11 בָּעֵרְתִּי (vi'artiy) "burn" - see footnote Deuteronomy 13:5.