

## 2 Samuel 4: Biblical Reading and Reflections

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[ 0 : 00 ] 2 Samuel chapter 4 When Ish-bosheth Saul's son heard that Abner had died at Hebron, his courage failed, and all Israel was dismayed. Now Saul's son had two men who were captains of raiding bands.

The name of the one was Beanna, and the name of the other Rechab, sons of Rimon, a man of Benjamin from Beiroth, for Beiroth also is counted part of Benjamin. The Beiroths fled to Gittayim, and have been sojourners there to this day.

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. Now the sons of Rimon the Beirothite, Rechab and Beanna, set out, and about the heat of the day they came to the house of Ish-bosheth, as he was taking his noonday rest.

And they came into the midst of the house as if to get wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Beanna his brother escaped. When they came into his house, as he lay on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him and put him to death and beheaded him.

[ 1 : 07 ] They took his head and went by the way of the Araba all night, 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. But David answered Rechab and Beanna his brother, the sons of Rimon the Beirothite, As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity.

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. 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?

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.

In 2 Samuel chapter 4, following the defection of Abner, Ish-bosheth's situation is fairly dire.

Ish-bosheth is described as Saul's son at the beginning of the chapter. He displays the same loss of courage that Saul often exhibited here.

[ 2 : 19 ] All the signs are that Ish-bosheth would make peace come to terms with David, given the chance. However, before he could do so, someone else acts. Rechab and Beanah are men of a Gibeonite city in the region of Benjamin, Beiroth.

The Benjaminites would likely have had tensions with the Gibeonites, as they had to live alongside each other, and we find out later on that Saul had killed a great number of the Gibeonites. Rechab and Beanah are Benjaminites, though.

They're not getting revenge for something that had been done to their people, but trying to take advantage of the turn in Ish-bosheth's fortunes. Mephibosheth is introduced to us at this point. Mephibosheth was crippled at the age of five, after his father and grandfather were killed in the battle at Jezreel.

Like Ichabod back in 1 Samuel chapter 4, he's a child whose life is indelibly marked on the day that he loses his father and grandfather in a great battle, in which Israel suffers a terrible defeat.

Both Ichabod and Mephibosheth stand as remnants of their father's houses, remnants that show the judgment that their father's houses have fallen under. At this point, after seven years of David's reign, Mephibosheth would be twelve years old.

