

2 Samuel 2

King James Version (KJV)

2 And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron. (David set up his capital there. Hebron is centrally located. It is in hilly country, therefore easier to defend)

² So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite.

³ And his men that were with him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

⁴ And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, That the men of Jabeshgilead were they that buried Saul. (David is approx 30 years old at this time)

⁵ And David sent messengers unto the men of Jabeshgilead, and said unto them, Blessed be ye of the LORD, that ye have shewed this kindness unto your lord, even unto Saul, and have buried him.

⁶ And now the LORD shew kindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing. (truth - can also be translated stability)

⁷ Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant: for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them. (David is asking for their support as king of Judah)

⁸ But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim; (over – over the River Jordan) (Mahanaim = two camps)

⁹ And made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel. (Abner had no right to do this. This is open rebellion against King David, and against God. God never said to anoint Ishbosheth king)

¹⁰ Ishbosheth Saul's son was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David. (Ishbosheth was no king. He was Abner's puppet. God was not

with him. He would eventually fail, and Abner would seize power illegally)

¹¹ And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months. (Since David didn't rule all of Israel until after 7 years, it is possible that the 10 northern tribes had no king in the years after Ishbosheth, or possibly Abner was their ruler. Ishbosheth's rule would have been during that last two of the 7½ years)

¹² And Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

¹³ And Joab the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out, and met together by the pool of Gibeon: and they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool.

¹⁴ And Abner said to Joab, Let the young men now arise, and play before us. And Joab said, Let them arise. (play = sparring – practice fighting)

¹⁵ Then there arose and went over by number twelve of Benjamin, which pertained to Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.

NOTE: (This may have been a way for them to fight <12 men on each side> without having total civil war. Abner had designs on ruling all of Israel, but God anointed David to be king. Abner will not prevail against God's plan)

¹⁶ And they caught every one his fellow by the head, and thrust his sword in his fellow's side; so they fell down together: wherefore that place was called Helkathhazzurim, which is in Gibeon. (Helkathhazzurim = the field of sharp blades) (These guys ended up killing each other; 24 dead)

¹⁷ And there was a very sore battle that day; and Abner was beaten, and the men of Israel, before the servants of David. (The rest of the men joined in the battle. Abner's men lost)

¹⁸ And there were three sons of Zeruiah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel was as light of foot as a wild roe. (roe = a deer; he

could run fast) (Zeruiah was David's sister. These 3 men were David's nephews)

¹⁹ And Asahel pursued after Abner; and in going he turned not to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner. (Abner can't outrun Asahel)

²⁰ Then Abner looked behind him, and said, Art thou Asahel? And he answered, I am.

²¹ And Abner said to him, Turn thee aside to thy right hand or to thy left, and lay thee hold on one of the young men, and take thee his armour. But Asahel would not turn aside from following of him. (Abner is saying - fight someone of your own abilities)

²² And Abner said again to Asahel, Turn thee aside from following me: wherefore should I smite thee to the ground? how then should I hold up my face to Joab thy brother? (Abner was warning Asahel. He didn't want to be forced to kill him)

²³ Howbeit he refused to turn aside: wherefore Abner with the hinder end of the spear smote him under the fifth rib, that the spear came out behind him; and he fell down there, and died in the same place: and it came to pass, that as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still. (They stopped to mourn Asahel)

(The hinder part of the spear is the unsharpened end. It may be that Abner only intended to wound Asahel, to stop him from fighting)

²⁴ Joab also and Abishai pursued after Abner: and the sun went down when they were come to the hill of Ammah, that lieth before Giah by the way of the wilderness of Gibeon. (Joab and Abishai also caught up with their men and took up the pursuit)

²⁵ And the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together after Abner, and became one troop, and stood on the top of an hill. (Saul was of Benjamin. They joined with Abner. They were ready for a possible battle with Joab and his men)

²⁶ Then Abner called to Joab, and said, Shall the sword devour for ever? knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end? how long shall it be then, ere thou bid the people return from following their brethren? (Enough men have died for nothing. There is no winner in a civil war)

²⁷ And Joab said, As God liveth, unless thou hadst spoken, surely then in the morning the people had gone up every one from following his brother. (Joab is saying that all this is Abner's fault, for starting this in the first place. Now the slain won't be following their brothers back home tonight)

²⁸ So Joab blew a trumpet, and all the people stood still, and pursued after Israel no more, neither fought they any more. (Joab put an end to the battle)

Deuteronomy-2 (God is against civil war. When Israel came out of Egypt, God told Moses not to fight Moab or Edom)

²⁹ And Abner and his men walked all that night through the plain, and passed over Jordan, and went through all Bithron, and they came to Mahanaim. (Abner was separating his men from Joab's men as fast as he could)

³⁰ And Joab returned from following Abner: and when he had gathered all the people together, there lacked of David's servants nineteen men and Asahel. (They lost 20 men of Judah. These men had been with David all along. They were seasoned veterans)

³¹ But the servants of David had smitten of Benjamin, and of Abner's men, so that three hundred and threescore men died. (Abner lost 360 men. His men were what was left of Israel's army; after they had lost the battle to the Philistines. These were not the best of the best. They were totally outmatched by Joab's men)

³² And they took up Asahel, and buried him in the sepulchre of his father, which was in Bethlehem. And Joab and his men went all night, and they came to Hebron at break of day. (David ruled Judah in Hebron at that time)