

II SAMUEL 4; April 19; David Enforces Capital Punishment

ANALYSIS:

1. When news of Abner's death reached Saul's son and all Israel, what were their responses? _____
2. How did Saul's son, Ishbosheth, die? _____
3. Who is Mephibosheth and how did he become lame? _____

4. What did the men who murdered Ishbosheth do with his head?

5. David compares this murder with what other reported murder, and what is his judgment? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

David, as the man after God's heart, being the king, was responsible to enforce God's death penalty for murder. "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man" (Gen 9:6). "He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall surely be put to death" (Ex 21:12). "And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death" (Lev 24:17). "For rulers are ... the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (Rom 13:12-13).

Let us believe, teach and support the Bible doctrine of capital punishment for murder. Are you willing to learn and present God's commands for the death penalty whenever the subject comes up in conversation, classroom, or by signing petitions or writing letters to legislators, judges or editors of publications? Let's make God's truth known!

HELP:

1. Saul's son's hands were feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled (v 1).
2. Baanah and Rechab, captains of bands, murdered Ishbosheth when he was on his bed in his house (vs 5-6).
3. Mephibosheth is the son of Jonathan. His nurse was fleeing with him the day Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle and he fell and became lame (v 4).
4. They brought the head to David, saying "the LORD hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed" (v 8).
5. The Amalekite's report of having killed Saul. David then commanded that the murderers be executed immediately (vs 10-12).