

ABNER: THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE



- Abner used a contrived crisis to confront *Ishbosheth*
- Abner determined to take the kingdom from Ishbosheth and transfer it to David
- The Northern tribes had been grouching for some time that they wanted David over Ishbosheth
- David was the new, stronger leader and so the tribes wanted to ally themselves with him

ABNER WAS POSITIONING HIMSELF FOR THE CHANGEOVER



- It was customary that the top military commander was 2nd in command to the king
- David's military commander was Yo'av
- Abner hoped by giving David the kingdom, he could negotiate a good position
- Abner had little trouble convincing the Northern coalition to swear allegiance to David

ABNER CAME TO DAVID WHILE YO'AV WAS AWAY

- No successful meeting would have been possible with Yo'av in attendance
- Joab in a blood feud with Abner
- *Rav shalal* = huge abundance
- *Yo'av* furious and used strong words on David
- Joab's words contained a sexual undertone
- His words are nearly identical to Abner's words to Ishbosheth about Rizpah



JOAB SLAYS ABNER



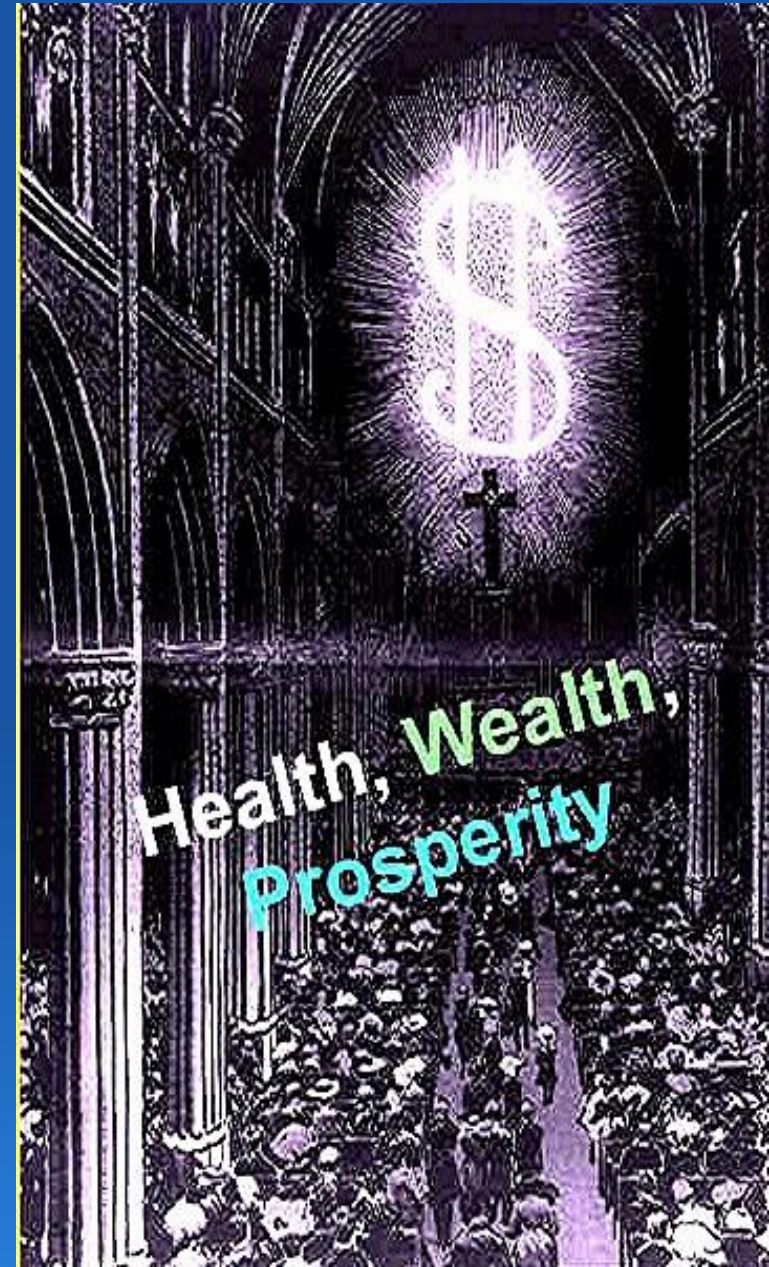
- Joab understood that if the north and south kingdoms combined, there would still only be ONE second-in-command
- Yo'av secretly sends messengers to have Abner return to Hebron
- Yo'av greeted Abner and took him to the city gate
- There Joab killed and extracted revenge upon the surprised Abner



- Symbolism by killing Abner at the City Gates
- Joab felt he was bringing Abner to justice **NO !!**
- In Torah Law death in battle is justifiable
- Sanctuary Cities did not protect murderers because what they did was Unjustifiable killing
- Asahel was trying to kill Abner, but Abner won

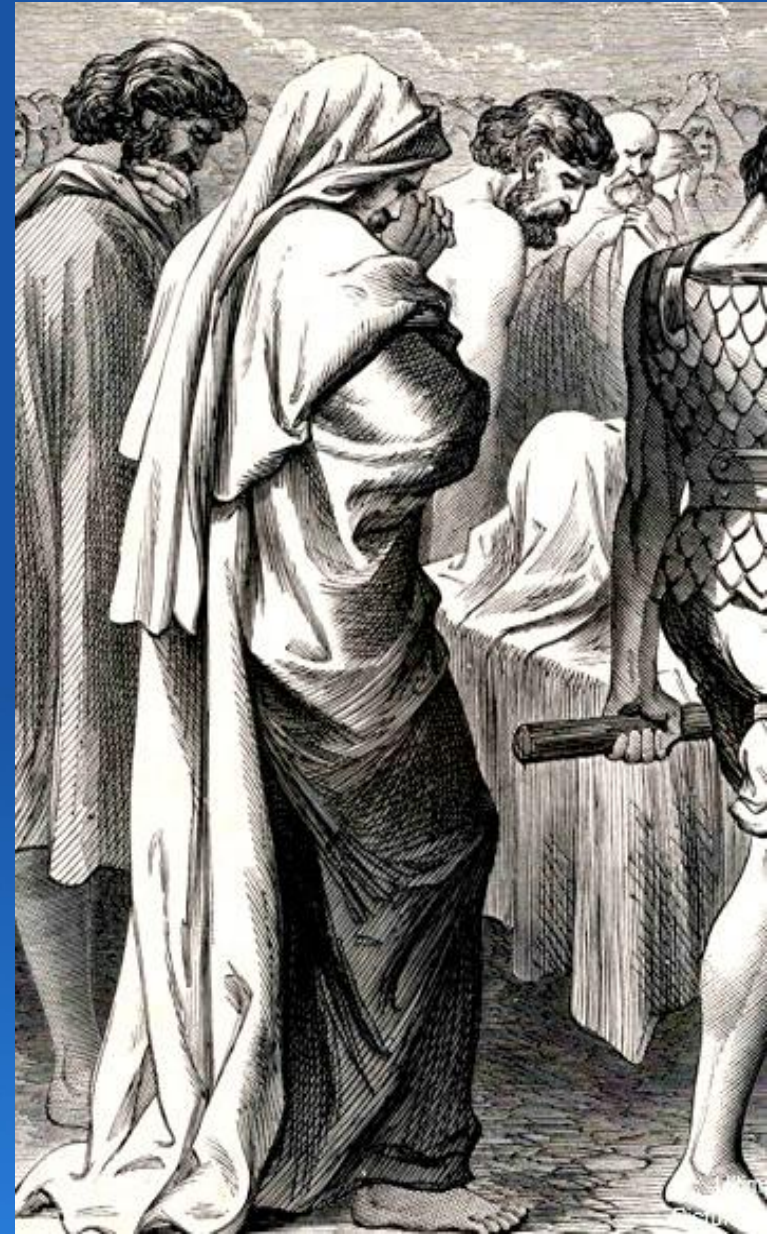
WE OFTEN TAKE JOAB'S VIEW

- We tend to twist and turn the Bible to have our way
- We change Biblical commands to suit our preferences and to fit in with the world
- We abolish the God ordained Holy Days and make-up our own
- Cultural customs and cherished symbols are powerful things, but they must never override God's principles

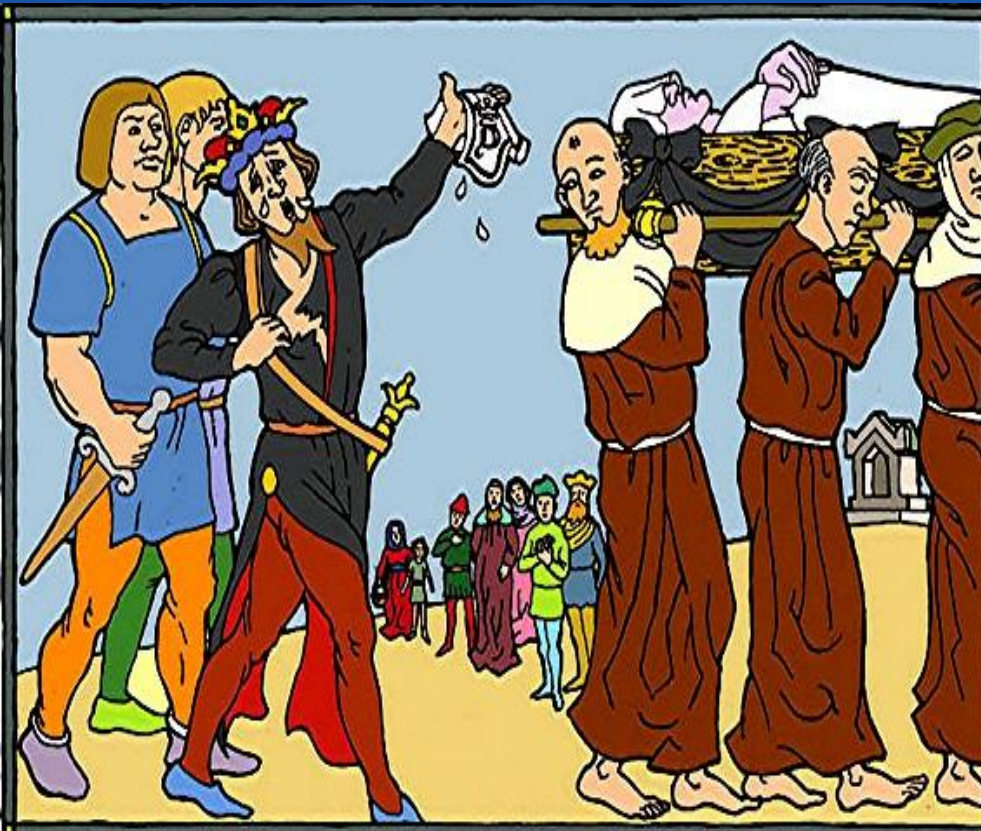


DAVID DECLARES HIS INNOCENCE

- A leader must balance what must be done with what can be done
- David showed great restraint in dealing with Saul and Ishbosheth
- David worried the North would interpret Abner's death as just the beginning of reprisals
- David curses Yo'av
- **Zuv** = discharge
- **Tzara'at** = skin disease
- Spiritually caused illnesses



DAVID PUBLICALLY MOURNS ABNER



- Vs. 30 is not a repeat of the facts
- *Harag* = murder
- *Muth* = execution
- It's a matter of justifiable vs. unjustifiable homicide
- David is in full damage control mode
- Not everyone believed David was innocent
- 2nd Sam 16 Shimei cursed and blamed David for Saul's and Ishbosheth's deaths

Kingdoms of Israel and Judah

0 10 20 30 40 miles
0 10 20 30 40 kilometers



2nd SAMUEL CHAPTER 4

- Ishbosheth still in Mahanaim
- Events here occurring at the same time as Abner's funeral
- "Israel" means the northern tribes
- Ishbosheth knew that without Abner he was in trouble

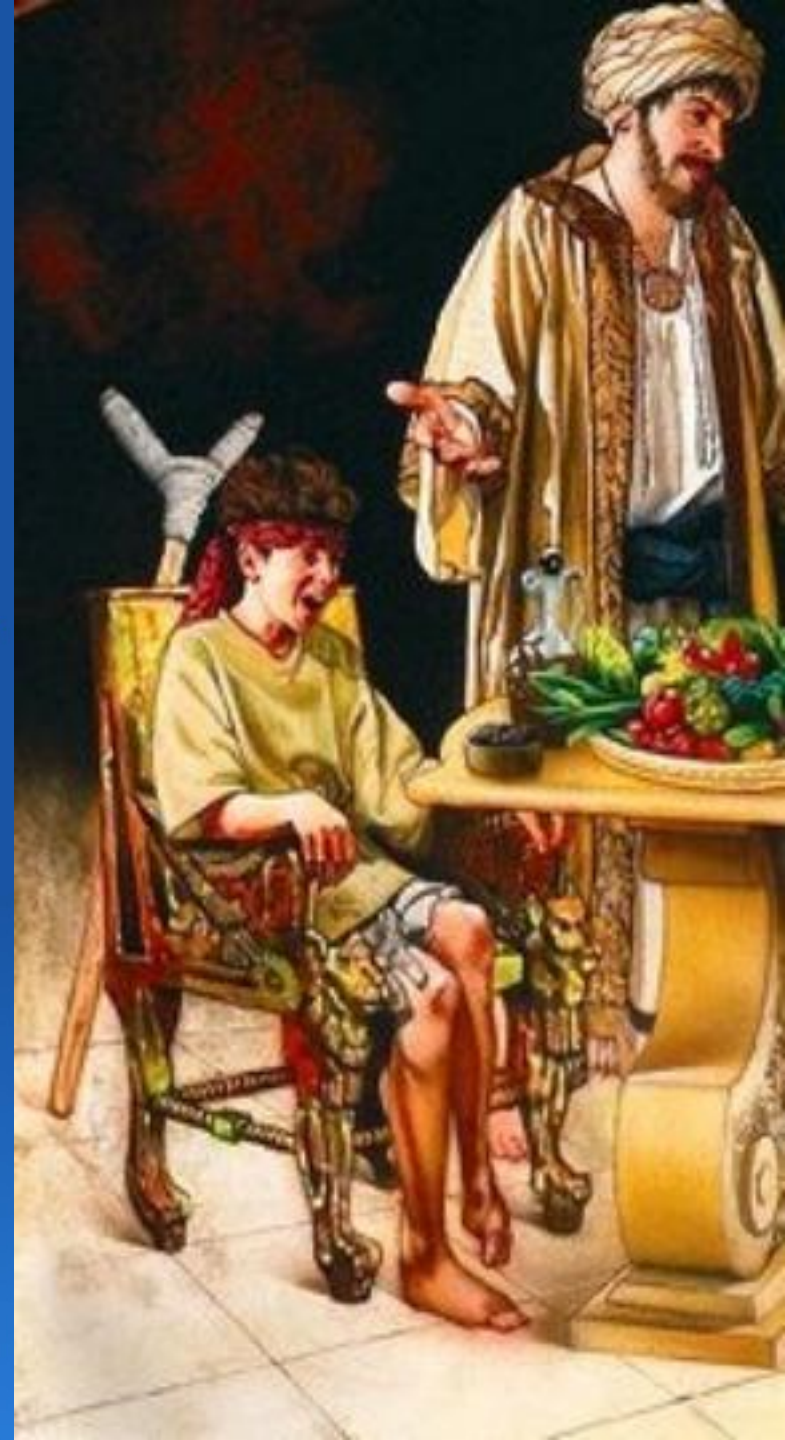
BA'ANAH AND REKHAV



- Be'eroth
- Joshua 18:21 – 28
- Gittaim
- This Canaanite village assimilated into the tribe of Benjamin
- This was in important detail to folks living 2500 years ago

MEPHI-BOSHETH

- Jonathan, David's friend, was *Mephibosheth's* father
- His mother was *Rizpah* (of Saul's old harem)
- *Mephi-bosheth* similar name to *Ish-bosheth*
- *Bosheth* replace "Ba'al" because Ba'al was deemed too offensive to write or say
- *Mephi-bosheth* = exterminate Ba'al
- The lame boy was unfit to be a king, therefore with *Ishbosheth's* death, the House of Saul was ended





- ***Ishbosheth*** assassinated by ***Ba'anah*** and ***Rekhav*** as he was taking an afternoon nap
- Their motive was to gain David's favor and to be included in his administration
- David ordered the brothers immediately executed, and their hands and feet to be cut off
- The mutilation was not permitted by Torah Law