

## 2 Samuel 4

Verses 1 - 3

**Now when Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died in Hebron, his courage failed, and all Israel was horrified. <sup>2</sup> And Saul's son had two men *who were* commanders of troops: the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the sons of Benjamin (for Beeroth is also considered *part* of Benjamin, <sup>3</sup> and the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have lived there *as* strangers until this day).**

**Now when Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died in Hebron, his courage failed, and all Israel was horrified.**

The death of Abner had a huge effect on Israel because Ish-bosheth was a weak king and the people recognized Abner as the real power behind the throne.

**<sup>2</sup> And Saul's son had two men *who were* commanders of troops: the name of the one was Baanah and the name of the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the sons of Benjamin (for Beeroth is also considered *part* of Benjamin,**

Baanah & Rechab where Gibeonites from the town of Beeroth.

See Joshua 9:16-17

**<sup>16</sup> However, it came about at the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they heard that they were neighbors and that they were living within their land. <sup>17</sup> Then the sons of Israel set out and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim.**

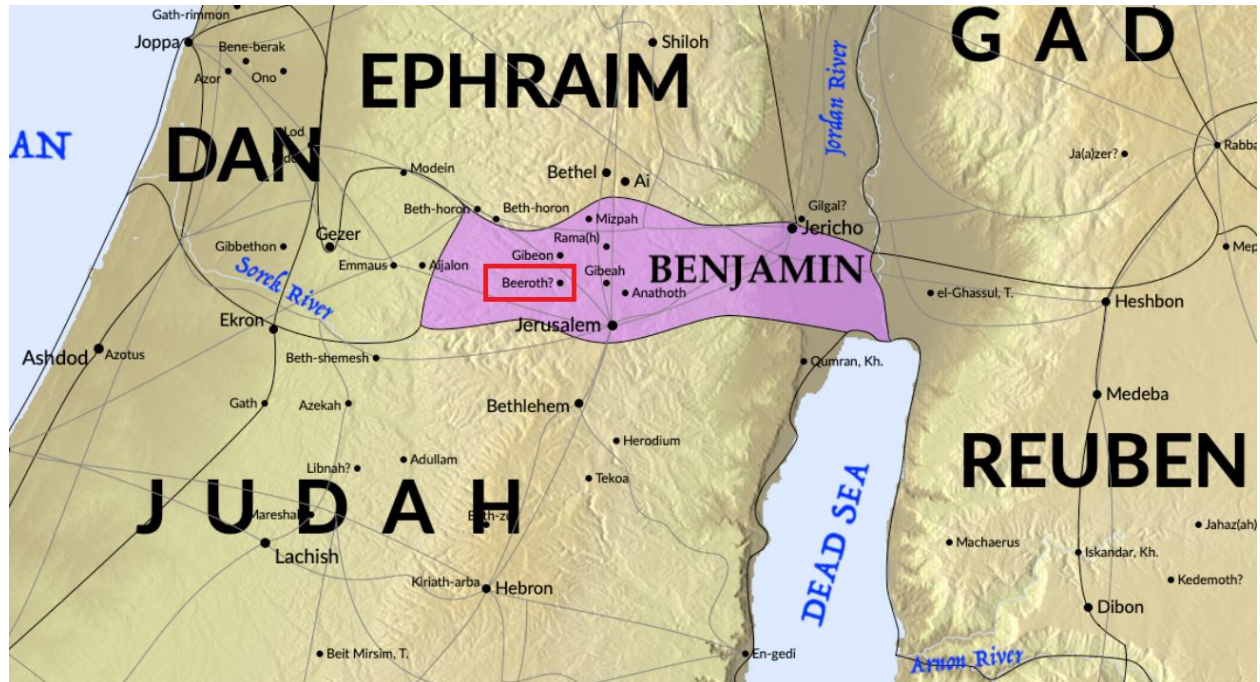
The Gibeonites deceived Israel into making a covenant with them by pretending to be from a distant country. 375 years later the Gibeonites were persecuted by Saul and fled to Gittaim.

See 2 Samuel 21:1-2

**Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David sought the presence of the Lord. And the Lord said, "It is because of Saul and his bloody house, because he put the Gibeonites to death."**

<sup>3</sup> and the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have lived there as strangers until this day).

See Maps 405



The Gibeonites from Beeroth were still at Gittaim when the author wrote this. The Bible is a book of real history. Isn't it interesting that "modern" science presents a fake history of the world to back up their theory of evolution and then criticize the bible as fantasy.

Verse 4

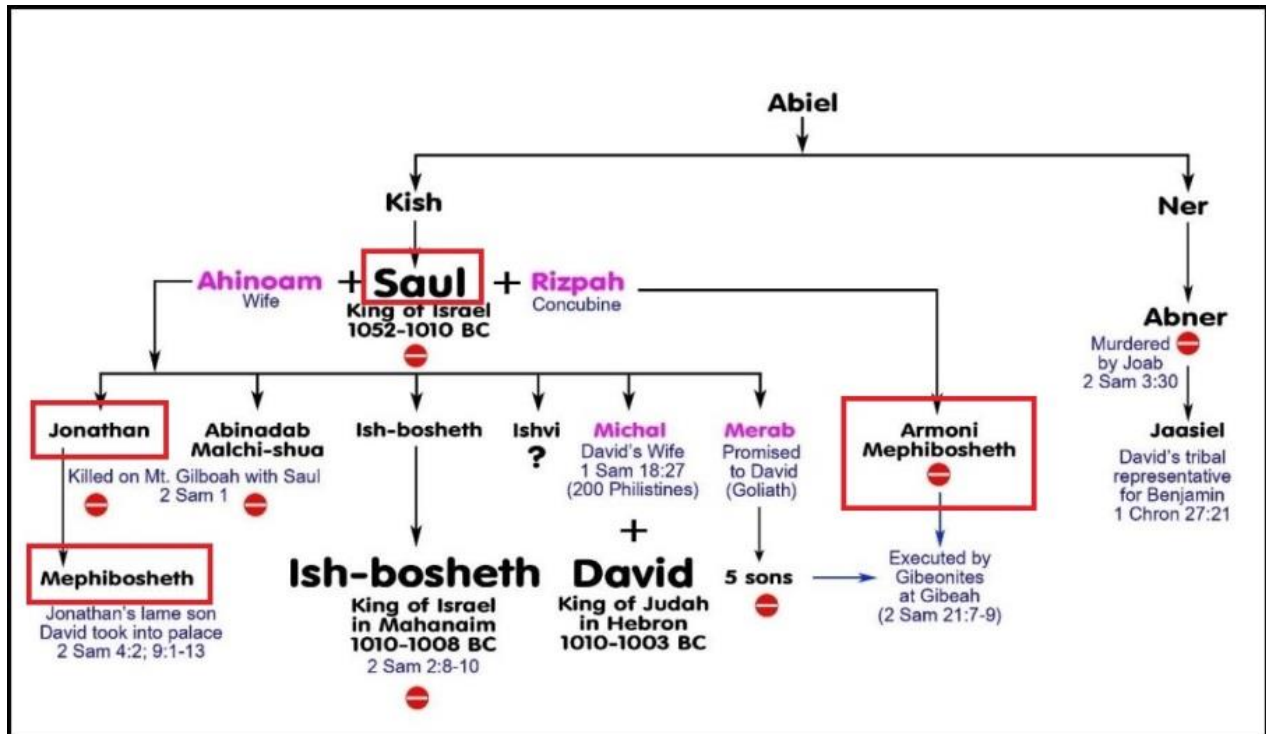
<sup>4</sup> Now Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was disabled in both feet. He was five years old when the news of Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse picked him up and fled. But it happened that in her hurry to flee, he fell and could no longer walk. And his name was Mephibosheth.

The name Mephibosheth means exterminator of idols. Two men in the lineage of Saul had this name.

One Mephibosheth was the son of King Saul by his concubine Rizpah. He was executed by the Gibeonites, who wanted to exterminate the lineage of King Saul.

The other Mephibosheth was the grandson of Saul thru Jonathan.

See chart 410



Verses 5 - 8

<sup>5</sup> So the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, departed and came to the house of Ish-bosheth in the heat of the day, while he was taking his midday rest. <sup>6</sup> And they came to the interior of the house as if to get wheat, and they struck him in the belly; and Rechab and his brother Baanah escaped. <sup>7</sup> Now when they had come into the house, as he was lying on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him and killed him, and they beheaded him. And they took his head and traveled by way of the Arabah all night. <sup>8</sup> Then they brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron, and said to the king, "Behold, the head of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life; so the Lord has given my lord the king vengeance this day on Saul and his descendants."

<sup>5</sup> So the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, departed and came to the house of Ish-bosheth in the heat of the day, while he was taking his midday rest.

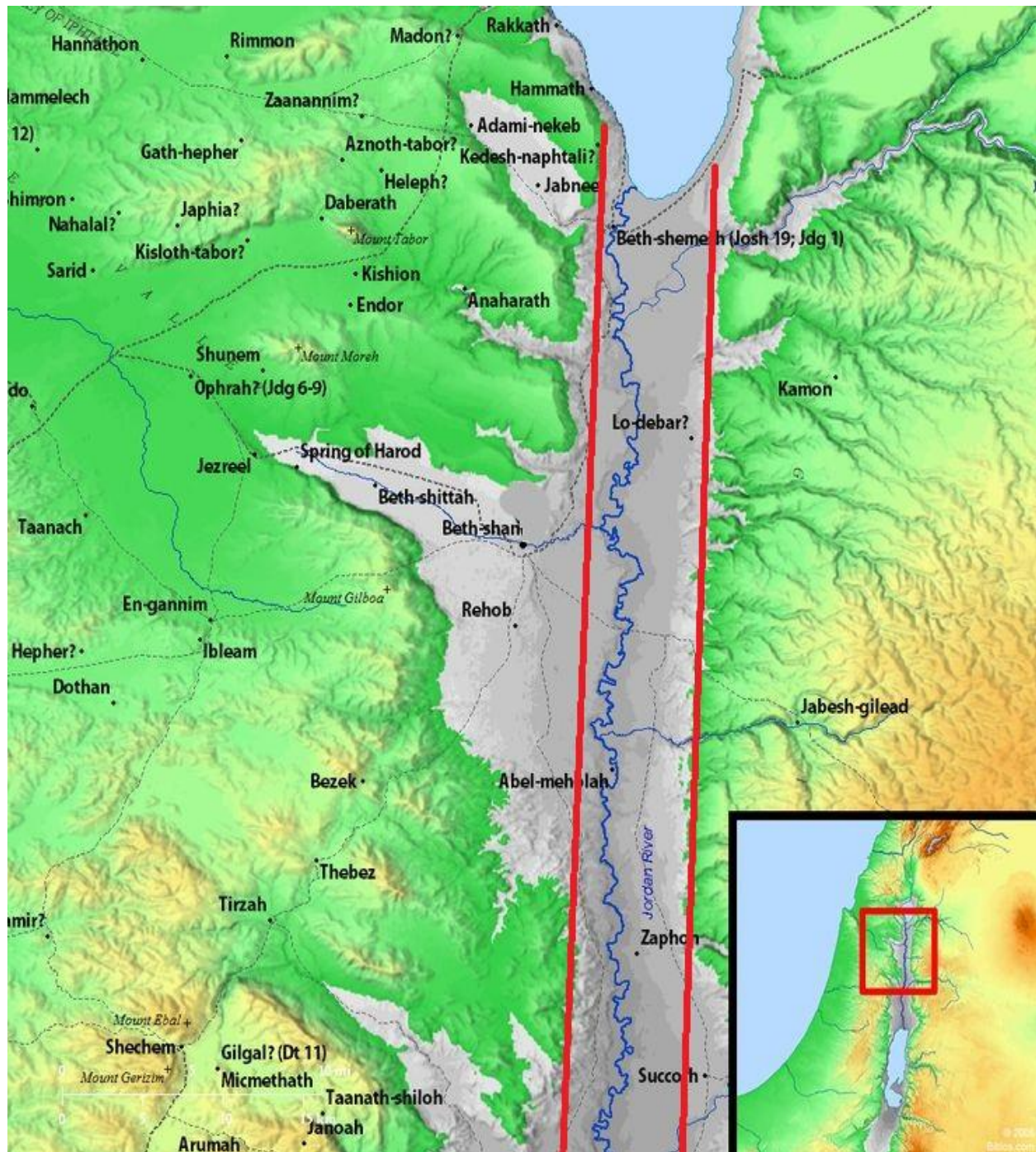
Rechab and Baanah were able to enter and leave the presence of the king without any notice because of their position as commanders in the army of the king.



<sup>7</sup> Now when they had come into the house, as he was lying on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him and killed him, and they beheaded him. And they took his head and traveled by way of the Arabah all night.

This is the name given to the valley that the Jordan River flows through.

See Map 415



They traveled from Mahanaim to Hebron around 60 to 70 miles.

See Map 420



Verses 9 – 12

<sup>9</sup> But David replied to Rechab and his brother Baanah, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, “As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress, <sup>10</sup> when the one who informed me, saying, ‘Behold, Saul is dead,’ also viewed himself as the bearer of good news, I seized him and killed him in Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for *his* news. <sup>11</sup> 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 from your hands and eliminate you *both* from the earth?”

<sup>12</sup> Then David commanded the young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet, and hung them up beside the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the grave of Abner in Hebron.

**<sup>10</sup> when the one who informed me, saying, ‘Behold, Saul is dead,’ also viewed himself as the bearer of good news, I seized him and killed him in Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for *his* news.**

From a political point of view, the Amalekite thought he had good news but David was a man of principle that rejected the idea of killing a sitting king.

**<sup>11</sup> 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 from your hands and eliminate you *both* from the earth?**

In this statement David is comparing Ish-bosheth (a righteous king) with Saul (one that was not righteous)

Rechab and Baanah should have been loyal to Ish-bosheth and looked out for his well-being and safety rather than treating him like the enemy.

David, as head of state, was executing judgment but it was also politically necessary. To not punish them would suggest that David had been involved in the king’s murder.

**<sup>12</sup> Then David commanded the young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet, and hung them up beside the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the grave of Abner in Hebron.**

The cutting off of their hands and feet may have been done to communicate the idea that these men had raised their hands against the king and then travelled by foot to deliver the “good” news.