



Second Samuel Pursuing the Heart of God

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“Cycles of Violence” War between the Houses of David & Saul 2 Samuel 3:6–4:12 May 6, 2018 Dr. Mark Strauss

Theme: War continues to rage between the House of Saul (Israel) and the House of David (Judah), with Joab leading David’s troops and Abner leading the armies of Israel. Because Abner killed Joab’s brother Asahel in battle, Joab plots his revenge. His opportunity comes when Abner defects to David’s side and tries to convince Israel to make David their king. Joab pretends to be Abner’s friend, then murders him. Emboldened by Abner’s murder, two Israelites, Rekab and Baanah murder Ishbosheth, king of Israel. While this clears the way for David to become king of all Israel, David is angry that Rekab and Baana murdered an innocent man in his bed and so has them executed. The apparently endless cycle of revenge and retribution continues.

Outline:

1. The Context: War between the House of Saul and House of David

2. Abner Switches His Loyalty to David (3:6–21)

3. Joab Murders Abner (3:22–27)

4. David Proves His Innocence in Abner's Death (3:28–39)

5. Rekab and Baanah Murder Ish-Bosheth (4:1–7)

6. David Exacts Justice against Ish-Bosheth's Murderers (4:8–12)

Takeaway: The hatred and revenge seen in the story of Joab and Abner reminds us of the evil within the hearts of people. Only through the salvation provided by David's descendant—Jesus the Messiah—will war and strife finally end, and true peace and reconciliation arrive.

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May 13, 2018

David Becomes King Over All Israel

2 Samuel: 3-6-4-12