### 2 Samuel

## Chapter 2

1Then after that, David asked this of Jehovah:  
  
 ‘Should I now return to one of the cities of Judah?’  
  
And the Lord replied:  
  
 ‘Go!’  
  
Then when David asked where he should go, the Lord told him:  
  
 ‘To HebRon.’  
  
2So David thereafter moved to HebRon with his women (AhiNoam the JezreElite and AbiGail the woman of NaBal the CarMelite) and his men. 3There, each man [obtained] his own house and they all started living in and around HebRon.  
  
4And after that, the men of Judah came and anointed David to be the ruler over the house of Judah.  
  
  
Well later, when David received the report that the men of JabIsh GileAd had put Saul’s [body] in a tomb, 5he sent a message to the leaders of JabIsh of GileAd that said:  
  
 ‘May you be blest by Jehovah for showing such mercy to your lord Saul the anointed of God by building a tomb for him and his son JoNathan, 6and may Jehovah grant you mercy and truth.  
  
 ‘From now on, I’ll treat you in the same [kind] way that you’ve treated [Saul and JoNathan].  
  
 7‘So, prepare yourselves for this and make yourselves strong; because, now that your lord Saul has died, I’ve been anointed to rule over the house of Judah and to become your king!’  
  
  
8However, AbNer (son of Ner), Saul’s commander-in-chief, took Saul’s son IshBosheth from his camp to ManaEm 9and set him up as the ruler over:  
  
 • GileAd,  
 • ThasiRi,  
 • JezreEl,  
 • Ephraim,  
 • BenJamin, and   
 • All the rest of IsraEl.  
  
10Well, when IshBosheth was appointed the king over IsraEl, he was 40-years old, and he ruled from there for the next 2 years.  
  
However, the house of Judah followed David as their ruler, 11and he ruled from HebRon for the next 7 years and 6 months.  
  
12Then AbNer (son of Ner) and the servants of IshBosheth came from ManaEm to GibeOn, 13and JoAb (son of ZeruJah) and David’s servants came from HebRon to meet with them at the spring of GibeOn. So they all sat down together at the spring, with each group sitting on opposite sides of the spring.  
  
14And AbNer said to JoAb:  
  
 ‘Have your servants get up and play [in combat] in front of us.’  
  
So JoAb said to them:  
  
 ‘[Okay men], get up!’  
  
15Then 12 of IshBosheth’s servants (BenJaminites) stood up as 12 of David’s men stood up, 16and they all grabbed each other by the head and jabbed each other in the side with their swords… And they all fell together.  
  
So from then on, that place was known in GibeOn as ‘The Place of the Plotters.’  
  
17As a result, a battle started that day, which was hard fought; and AbNer and the men of IsraEl lost to the servants of David.  
  
18Now, ZeruJah had three sons that were there; JoAb, AbiShai, and AshaEl… And AshaEl was very light on his feet… Like a deer in the field. 19Well, he chased AbNer without slowing or swerving. 20And when AbNer looked back and saw him, he shouted:  
  
 ‘Is that really AshaEl?’  
  
And he replied:  
  
 ‘It’s me!’  
  
21Then AbNer shouted:  
  
 ‘You should really turn aside and put on one of your servant’s armor.’  
  
However, AshaEl didn’t want to slow down, because he was hot on the heels of AbNer.  
  
22Then AbNer said to AshaEl:  
  
 ‘Turn back or I’ll have to kill you! And if I do that, how could I ever show my face to JoAb again?  
  
 23‘What are you doing? Go back to your brother JoAb!’  
  
However, AshaEl wasn’t willing to stop! So AbNer threw his spear and hit him in the stomach, running him completely through, and he fell and died there under [AbNer].  
  
Well, everyone went to the place where he fell and just stood there looking [at the body].  
  
24Then JoAb and AbiShai chased AbNer until the sun set, getting as far as the hill of AmManin in front of Gai on the road between GibeOn and the desert.  
  
  
25Meanwhile, the sons of BenJamin had assembled and were coming to help AbNer (they’d reached to the top of one of the hills).  
  
26So AbNer called to JoAb and said:  
  
 ‘Do you really think that you can beat me with your broadsword… Don’t you know that this will lead to your own bitter end?  
  
 ‘Tell your people to stop chasing their brother!’  
  
27Then JoAb said:  
  
 ‘As Jehovah lives, it’s good that you said this; for our people would’ve been chasing each other all night long!’  
  
28So JoAb blew his trumpet, and all his people withdrew and stopped chasing after IsraEl, and the battle ended.  
  
  
29Well, AbNer and his men left at sunset and traveled throughout the night, crossing the JorDan and returning all the way to their camp, 30since JoAb had stopped chasing AbNer.  
  
Thereafter, [JoAb] gathered all his men to find out how many of David’s servants had been lost, and he found that they’d only lost 19, plus AshaEl.  
  
31However, David’s men had killed 360 of the sons of BenJamin under AbNer. 32Then he picked up AshaEl’s [body] and put it in the tomb in BethLehem where his father was buried.  
  
And JoAb and his men also traveled all night long, reaching HebRon at dawn.