

Exegetical Notes – 1 Kings 2:28-35

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1 Kings 2:28-35

Verses 28-34

²⁸ When the news reached Joab, who had conspired with Adonijah though not with Absalom, he fled to the tent of the Lord and took hold of the horns of the altar. ²⁹ King Solomon was told that Joab had fled to the tent of the Lord and was beside the altar. Then Solomon ordered Benaiah son of Jehoiada, “Go, strike him down!”

³⁰ So Benaiah entered the tent of the Lord and said to Joab, “The king says, ‘Come out!’”

But he answered, “No, I will die here.”

Benaiah reported to the king, “This is how Joab answered me.”

³¹ Then the king commanded Benaiah, “Do as he says. Strike him down and bury him, and so clear me and my whole family of the guilt of the innocent blood that Joab shed. ³² The Lord will repay him for the blood he shed, because without my father David knowing it he attacked two men and killed them with the sword. Both of them—Abner son of Ner, commander of Israel’s army, and Amasa son of Jether, commander of Judah’s army—were better men and more upright than he. ³³ May the guilt of their blood rest on the head of Joab and his descendants forever. But on David and his descendants, his house and his throne, may there be the Lord’s peace forever.”

³⁴ So Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up and struck down Joab and killed him, and he was buried at his home out in the country.

- When Joab, the commander of Israel’s army and one who had stood in support of Adonijah’s claim to David’s throne, heard what had happened to Adonijah and Abiathar, he assumed that his days were numbered, too. He fled to the tabernacle and took hold of the horns of the altar to protect himself from Solomon’s wrath. When Solomon heard about Joab, he sent Benaiah to the tabernacle to execute Joab.
- Benaiah tried to get Joab to come out of the tabernacle so that he would not be executed on sacred ground. But Joab would not leave the

tabernacle. Benaiah reported this to Solomon and Solomon denied Joab sanctuary. He ordered Benaiah to kill Joab in the tabernacle. Sanctuary was denied because, at another time, Joab had refused to give sanctuary to Abner and Amasa as had been ordered by King David (see 2 Samuel 3:22-30 and 2 Samuel 20:9-10).

- Benaiah returned to the tabernacle and killed Joab there (see 1 Kings 2:5-6 - In his dying instructions to Solomon, David had warned him not to trust Joab).

³⁵ ***The king put Benaiah son of Jehoiada over the army in Joab's position and replaced Abiathar with Zadok the priest.***

- Benaiah was made commander of the army and Zadok took Abiathar's place as priest.

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