



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS INC.

www.bibleradio.org.au

BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1502 ~ Ishbosheth, Heir to the Throne.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Throughout the centuries, kings and queens have often had big celebrations at the start of their reign as the new ruler on the throne. These celebrations could take months of preparation and be very expensive too.

Things, however, do not always go according to plan, even in national celebrations. With all the pomp and ceremony of a coronation, King James II was crowned King of England in 1685. The following day, people gathered on the banks of the Thames River in London to watch a fireworks display. No sooner were the first pieces lit, did the whole display catch on fire. The entire event went up in flames with a terrible hissing and banging of firecrackers within less than a minute. In utter fear, some people jumped into the river. Any horse that could bolt away in fright did so. For hours later, upset men searched the streets of London looking for their lost animals.

The Scriptures in the Second Book of Samuel, Chapter 2, used only one sentence to record the coronation of King David of Judah. David had been commanded by God to move with his men and their families to the cities of Hebron. And it was here that they settled. The leaders of Judah anointed David and crowned him their king. The people of Judah promised to be loyal to David even though the news of a rival king in Israel had reached them.

General Abner had been King Saul's right hand man throughout his reign as king. Abner willingly obeyed Saul's commands whether they were right or not by Israelite laws. Abner knew that the prophet Samuel had anointed David to be the next king of Israel more than fifteen years before. Yet Abner wilfully used his power and political influence to put Saul's son on the throne of Israel instead. Abner was a relative of the new king and therefore, not from the same tribe as David.

Sometimes when we sin against God, it is through passive resistance. God's commands are simply overlooked or ignored. But in Abner's case, he took active resistance against God's will when he had Ishbosheth crowned as king. Ishbosheth was not trained to be the next king and only held this royal position because Abner was the power behind the throne. There is no record in the Bible that Abner ever sought God's guidance in any of these matters.

We can all live in a fleshly way. It is easy to please ourselves in all that we do. But this is not God's way. The people who commit themselves to God can no longer live to please their own desires. In everything, whether it is our thoughts, what we say or what we do, the aim of a Christian's life is to please God in Heaven.

Abner approached Joab for a contest in Gibeon in Benjamin territory. This contest started a civil war between the armies of Israel and Judah. As King Ishbosheth ruled over more territory than David did, Ishbosheth could have easily taken over David's reign in Judah as well. It is very sad when a power struggle within a country becomes so serious that each side commands an army and countrymen fight and kill one another.

Civil wars are often fought between one tribe or ethnic group and another. Instead of trying to live together in peace, one side wants to be dominant and force the other side to do what they want. An American civil war in the 1860's was a fight over the right to have slaves. The southern states had big plantations and wanted slaves to do all the difficult physical work. The northern states, however, had come to see the injustice being done to the slaves and the unkind treatment they were often receiving. So the southern and northern states warred against each other over these issues. This civil war lasted four years and more than two hundred thousand soldiers lost their lives needlessly in the battles. No one even tried to count the number of civilian casualties that this war had caused. As a result, it takes a long time for any nation to recover from a civil war.

After a civil war is over, many people in that country carry feelings of bitterness. They are bitter over the lack of control they have in their lives and the needless loss of property and people that they knew. How can we overcome such crushing experiences that life can bring along?

A wise pastor once gave this advice: "What has happened has happened, and I will not hinder God's work by pouting, rebelling or wasting my energy on coming up with reasons why it should not have been so. I will do more than just resign myself to the situation. I will open myself up to learning whatever I need to learn from such an experience or situation. Then move onto new things."

In the first battle between the armies of Joab and Abner, Joab won the victory. His men pursued Abner and his soldiers. Joab had a younger brother who was a very fast runner. He chased after Abner and caught up with him. Abner told the young man to chase after someone else yet he wouldn't listen. Since Joab's brother was not wearing the correct battle gear, it was easy for Abner to kill him.

Sometimes in life, our best talent can become our downfall. While we are concentrating on improving our best talent, some other needful training maybe overlooked. Joab's brother was not wise in confronting a seasoned soldier like Abner in the way he did.

When Joab heard of his brother's death, he planned revenge against Abner. Pay-back killings like this are a pitiable way to live and certainly not the way David wanted to run the country. But people often keep their intentions to themselves until an opportunity to fulfil them comes up. Then they show their true colours. Joab unexpectedly killed Abner when he set up the right opportunity.

Do you have a really good talent you would like to develop so you can become famous and rich? Such things are not important as far as the whole of life is concerned. Beauty fades and sporting abilities decline with age. It is far better to be in favour with God your Maker than to live your life making your talent an idol that you and others worship. If you are willing to give your whole self away to God, He will guide you through His purpose for your life. God's way is always the best way, even if we can't see it at the time.

Often we may think the talent we have is so special but it actually has some weakness that we don't see for a long time. A young lady spent years of her life practicing her piano, only to realise she was not good enough to be the concert pianist she had always hoped to be. Much disappointment in life can be saved if we would trust God for guiding our steps for the future. Come to God through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will save you from false ways in life if you trust Him for everything.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

< END OF SCRIPT >
