

## ~BEHEADING (223)

- A mode of capital punishment not prescribed by the Mosaic Law. It was one form of execution that existed in most of the nations. In Israel, when a beheading was performed, it was usually after the individual had been slain and was generally done to bring the persons death before public attention as a reproach or as a public notice of judgment or warning.
- Pharaoh lifted up the head from off his **chief baker**, evidently beheading him.
- In three days from now Pharaoh **will lift up your head from off you** and will certainly hang you upon a stake, and the fowls will certainly eat your flesh from off you. (**Genesis 40:19**)
- David, after felling Goliath with a stone from his sling, took Goliaths sword and **definitely put him to death** by **beheading** him before the armies of Israel and the Philistines. This **threw great fear into the Philistine army and resulted in a mighty rout**.
- And David continued running and got to stand over the Philistine. Then he took his sword and pulled it out of its sheath and definitely put him to **death when he cut his head off with it**. And the Philistines got to see that their mighty one had died, and they took to flight. (**1 Samuel 17:51**)
- At that the men of Israel and of Judah rose and broke into shouting and went in pursuit of the Philistines clear to the valley and as far as the gates of Ekron, and the fatally wounded of the Philistines kept falling on the way from Shaaraim, both as far as Gath and as far as Ekron. (**1 Samuel 17:52**)
- The Philistines cut **Saul's head from his body after his death**, then hung his body with that of his sons on the wall of the city of Beth-shan.
- And they proceeded to **cut off his head** and strip off his armor and send into the land of the Philistines all around to inform the houses of their idols and the people. (**1 Samuel 31:9**)
- Immediately all the valiant men rose up and went all night long and took the corpse of **Saul and the corpses of his sons off the**

**wall of Beth-shan** and came to Jabesh and burned them there. (1 Samuel 31:12)

- Rechab and Baanah, wicked men, killed Saul's son Ish-bosheth and **beheaded** him in order to take his head to David, thinking they would gain David's favor. For this David had them put to death.
- And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, proceeded to go and come to the house of Ish-bosheth about when the day had heated up, as he was taking his noonday siesta. (2 Samuel 4:5)
- And here they came into the middle of the house as men fetching wheat, and then struck him in the abdomen, and Rechab and Baanah his brother themselves escaped detection. (2 Samuel 4:6)
- When they went into the house, he was lying upon his couch in his inner bedroom, and then they struck him so that they put him to death, after which they **removed his head** and took his head and walked on the road to the Arabah all night long. (2 Samuel 4:7)
- Eventually they came bringing the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron and said to the king; Here is the head of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul your enemy who looked for your soul, but Yehowah gives to my lord the king revenge this day upon Saul and his offspring. (2 Samuel 4:8)
- However, David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them; As Yehowah who redeemed my soul out of all distress is living. (2 Samuel 4:9)
- When there was one reporting to me, saying; Here Saul is dead, and he himself in his own eyes became like a bringer of Good News, I, however, took hold of him and killed him in Ziklag when it was due for me to give him the messenger's fee. (2 Samuel 4:10)
- How much more so when wicked men themselves have killed a righteous man in his own house upon his bed? And now should I not require his blood from your hands, and must I not clear you out of the earth? (2 Samuel 4:11)

- With that David commanded the young men and they killed them and cut off their hands and their feet and hanged them by the pool in Hebron, and the head of Ish-bosheth they took and then buried in the burial place of Abner in Hebron. (2 Samuel 4:12)
- In order to save their city, the people of the city of Abel of Beth-maacah acted on the counsel of a wise woman and **cut off the head of Sheba** the son of Bichri, which they pitched over the wall to Joab. Whether Sheba was killed before **beheading** is not stated.
- And they proceeded to come and lay siege against him in Abel of Beth-maacah and cast up a siege rampart against the city, as it was standing within a rampart. And all the people that were with Joab were undermining the wall, to throw it down. (2 Samuel 20:15)
- The matter is not that way, but a man from the mountainous region of Ephraim, whose name is Sheba the son of Bichri, has lifted up his hand against King David. You people, give him over by himself, and I will withdraw from the city. Then the woman said to Joab; Look! His head will be pitched to you over the wall! (2 Samuel 20:21)
- At once the woman went in her wisdom to all the people, and they proceeded to **cut off the head of Sheba** the son of Bichri and pitch it to Joab. Upon that he blew the horn, and so they were scattered from the city, each one to his home, and Joab himself returned to Jerusalem to the king. (2 Samuel 20:22)
- The older and distinguished men of Samaria slaughtered the 70 sons of Ahab and **sent their heads in baskets to Jehu at Jezreel**, where they were displayed in two heaps at the city gate as evidence of the fulfillment of Yehowah's judgment spoken by Elijah.
- At that he wrote them a second letter, saying; If you belong to me, and it is my voice that you are obeying, **take the heads of the men that are sons of your lord** and come to me tomorrow at this time at Jezreel. Now the sons of the king, seventy men, were with the distinguished men of the city that were bringing them up. (2 Kings 10:6)
- And it came about that as soon as the letter came to them, they went taking the sons of the king and slaughtering them, seventy men, after which they put their **heads in baskets** and sent them

to him at Jezreel. (2 Kings 10:7)

- Then the messenger came in and told him, saying; They have brought the heads of the sons of the king. So he said; Put them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until morning. (2 Kings 10:8)
- And it came about in the morning that he proceeded to go out. Then he stood still and said to all the people; You are righteous. Here I myself conspired against my lord, and I got to kill him, but who struck down all these? (2 Kings 10:9)
- Know, then, that nothing of Yehowah's word will fall unfulfilled to the earth that Yehowah has spoken against the house of Ahab, and Yehowah himself has done what he spoke by means of his servant Elijah. (2 Kings 10:10)
- And Ahab proceeded to say to Elijah; Have you found me, O enemy of mine? To which he said; I have found you. For the reason that you have sold yourself to do what is bad in the eyes of Yehowah. (1 Kings 21:20)
- Here I am bringing calamity upon you. And I shall certainly make a clean sweep after you and cut off from Ahab anyone urinating against a wall and the helpless and worthless one in Israel. (1 Kings 21:21)
- And I shall certainly constitute your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the offense with which you have offended and then caused Israel to sin. (1 Kings 21:22)
- The Bible records that Herod Antipas had John the Baptizer **beheaded** in prison at the request of the daughter of Herodias.
- Then she, under her mother's coaching, said; Give me here **upon a platter the head of John the Baptist**. (Matthew 14:8)
- Grieved though he was, the king out of regard for his oaths and for those reclining with him commanded it to be given. (Matthew 14:9)
- And he sent and had John **beheaded** in the prison. (Matthew 14:10)

- And his head was **brought on a platter** and given to the maiden, and she brought it to her mother. (**Matthew 14:11**)
- And she went out and said to her mother; What should I ask for? She said; **The head of John the baptizer**. (**Mark 6:24**)
- Immediately she went in with haste to the king and made her request, saying; I want you to give me right away on a platter the **head of John the Baptist**. (**Mark 6:25**)
- Although he became deeply grieved, yet the king did not want to disregard her, in view of the oaths and those reclining at the table. (**Mark 6:26**)
- So the king immediately dispatched a body guardsman and commanded him to bring his head. And he went off and **beheaded** him in the prison (**Mark 6:27**)
- And brought his head on a platter, and he gave it to the maiden, and the maiden gave it to her mother. (**Mark 6:28**)
- Herod said, **John I beheaded**. Who, then, is this about whom I am hearing such things? So he was seeking to see him. (**Luke 9:9**)
- John, in a vision, saw the souls of those **executed with the ax** for the witness they bore to Jesus and for speaking about God.
- And I saw thrones, and there were those who sat down on them, and power of judging was given them. Yes, I saw the souls of those **executed with the ax** for the witness they bore to Jesus and for speaking about God, and those who had worshiped neither the wild beast nor its image and who had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand. And they came to life and ruled as kings with the Christ for a thousand years. (**Revelation 20:4**)

**See Also CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**