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GREEK TEXT · TRANSLATION · INTERLINEAR · DISCOURSE STRUCTURE

The Second Book of Kingdoms, Chapter 4

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΩΝ Β' Δ'

Each verse opens with the running Greek, an English translation, and a **discourse note** (its connective, relation, and role in the argument). Below follows the word-by-word breakdown in six tiers: gloss, case (color), parsing, *syntax*, **semantic force**, and a **|** lexical note.

CASE ■ Nominative ■ Genitive ■ Dative ■ Accusative ■ Vocative ■ Verb (no case) ■ Indeclinable

Discourse notes head each verse: **relation** · connective · clause-flow. Indentation marks prominence — flush-left = main line of argument; indented = supporting / subordinate material.

Theme

The house of Saul collapses as Ish-bosheth is murdered and David judges the killers.

Translation & textual notes

The Greek text of 2 Kingdoms 4 (= 2 Samuel 4) follows the standard critical text of the Septuagint as established in the Rahlfs–Hanhart edition (Septuaginta, rev. ed. 2006), an ancient and public-domain text; the critical apparatus is not reproduced. The chapter narrates the collapse of the house of Saul after Abner's death: Saul's son loses heart (v. 1), the two raiding captains Rechab and Baanah, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, are introduced (vv. 2–3), a parenthetical notes Jonathan's lame son (v. 4), and the captains murder Saul's son in his bed at noon, carrying his head to David at Hebron (vv. 5–8); David, recalling his execution of the Amalekite at Ziklag, condemns the murderers, has them killed, mutilated, and hung

by the pool, and gives the severed head honorable burial in Abner's tomb (vv. 9–12). A notable feature of the Greek (Antiochene/kaige) tradition is that the transliterated name Μεμφιβοσθε is used both for Ish-bosheth, Saul's son and rival king (vv. 1, 5, 7, 8, 12), and for Mephibosheth, Jonathan's crippled son (v. 4) — a convergence absent from the Hebrew (where they are **יִשְׁבָּשֶׁת** and **מֶפִּיבֹשֶׁת**). The verse opens with a perfect of report (τέθνηκεν Αβεννηρ, 'Abner has died') and the vivid Hebraism ἐξελύθησαν αἱ χεῖρες αὐτοῦ ('his hands went slack', rendering **יָדָיו רָפוּ**), an idiom for loss of resolve. David's oath **זֶה יְיָ כִּי לֹא יִשְׁכַּח אֶת הַדָּם** (v. 9) echoes the redemption-language of the Psalter, and his self-citation of the Ziklag episode (v. 10; cf. 2 Kgdms 1:1–16) frames the present verdict as legal precedent: those who think they bring εὐαγγέλια ('good news') by regicide will instead receive blood-vengeance.

Discourse structure of the chapter

A · 4:1–3

Abner dead, Saul's house unnerved: the captains introduced

News of Abner's death at Hebron reaches Saul's son, whose hands go slack (ἐξελύθησαν αἱ χεῖρες αὐτοῦ) while all Israel is unnerved (v. 1). The narrator introduces the two band-captains in Saul's service, Baanah and Rechab, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite of the tribe of Benjamin (v. 2), and explains the Beerothite background — their flight to Gittaim, where they remain as resident aliens to this day (v. 3).

B · 4:4

Parenthetical: Jonathan's lame son

A narratorial aside introduces the surviving heir of the house of Saul: Jonathan's son, struck in the feet, five years old when the report of Saul and Jonathan's death came from Jezreel; his nurse fled in haste, dropped him, and he was lamed. His name, the LXX states, is also Memphibosthe — the same Greek form used for Saul's son elsewhere in the chapter.

C · 4:5–8

The noonday murder and the head carried to Hebron

Rechab and Baanah enter Saul's son's house in the heat of the day while he sleeps the midday rest; slipping past the drowsing doorkeeper, they strike and kill him, behead him, and travel by the western road all night (vv. 5–7). They bring the head to David at Hebron, presenting it as YHWH's vengeance upon Saul the king's enemy and his seed (v. 8).

David's oath and verdict: the Ziklag precedent and burial

David answers with the oath $\zeta\eta$ κύριος ('as the LORD lives, who redeemed my life from every distress', v. 9), then cites his execution of the man who reported Saul's death at Ziklag as binding precedent (v. 10). How much more, then, wicked men who have killed a righteous man in his own house upon his bed: he will require his blood from their hand and destroy them (v. 11). David commands his servants, who kill, mutilate (hands and feet), and hang the bodies by the pool at Hebron, while the head of Saul's son is buried honorably in Abner's tomb (v. 12).

1 καὶ ἤκουσεν Μεμφιβοσθε υἱὸς Σαουλ ὅτι τέθνηκεν Αβεννηρ ἐν Χεβρων καὶ ἐξελύθησαν αἱ χεῖρες αὐτοῦ καὶ πάντες οἱ ἄνδρες Ἰσραὴλ παρείθησαν

And Memphibosthe the son of Saul heard that Abner had died in Hebron, and his hands went slack, and all the men of Israel were unnerved.

Narrative onset (consequence of Abner's death, ch. 3)

καὶ ἤκουσεν

The chapter opens with the Hebraizing καί-parataxis and a verb of hearing that links it to the death of Abner narrated in ch. 3. The perfect τέθνηκεν reports a settled fact in the mouth of the report, while the twin passives ἐξελύθησαν ... παρείθησαν register the political demoralization of Saul's house and of all Israel — the loss of the strongman Abner removes the last support of the rival kingship.

καὶ

and

narrative conjunction (Hebraizing καί-parataxis)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἤκουσεν

heard

Aor Act Indic 3 Sg · ἀκούω

main verb (perception introducing report)

→ constative aorist (single act of hearing)

ἀκούω: 'hear / listen'; renders שָׁמַע ; the aorist marks the moment the news reached Ish-bosheth and triggers the demoralization described in the rest of the verse.

Μεμφιβοσθε

Memphibosthe

subject (indeclinable proper noun)

→ participant identification

Μεμφιβοσθε: here the Greek name for Ish-bosheth (Hebrew יִשְׁבָּשֶׁת , 'man of shame'), Saul's surviving son and rival king to David; the LXX form coincides with the name it later gives Jonathan's lame son in v. 4 (Hebrew יִשְׁבָּשֶׁת), a convergence peculiar to the Greek tradition; indeclinable transliteration.

υἱὸς

son

Nominative

appositive to Μεμφιβοσθε (nominative)

→ participant prominence

υἱός: 'son'; renders בֶּן ; identifies Ish-bosheth by his Saulide descent, the basis of his claim to kingship and the reason his death matters dynastically.

Σαουλ

Saul

genitive of relationship (indeclinable: 'son of Saul')

→ participant identification

Σαουλ: transliteration of Hebrew שָׁאֻל; indeclinable in the LXX; the deposed first king of Israel, whose house is here in terminal decline.

ὅτι

that

conjunction introducing object clause of ἤκουσεν

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ὅτι: 'that'; introduces the content of what was heard; renders כִּי.

τέθνηκεν

has died

Perf Act Indic 3 Sg · θνήσκω

verb of object clause (reported state)

→ resultative perfect (Abner is dead and remains so)

θνήσκω (perf. τέθνηκα): 'be dead / have died'; the perfect presents Abner's death as an accomplished and abiding fact within the report — not the event of dying but the resultant state of being dead; renders תָּמָּ.

Αβεννηρ

Abner

subject of τέθνηκεν (indeclinable proper noun)

→ participant identification

Αβεννηρ: transliteration of Hebrew אֲבִנֵנִי, Saul's cousin and army-commander, the political architect of Ish-bosheth's kingship (2 Kgdms 2:8–9); his murder by Joab (ch. 3) is the precipitating event of ch. 4.

ἐν

in

preposition + dative (locative)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐν: meaning 'in'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + dative (locative).

Χεβρων

Hebron

object of ἐν (indeclinable place-name)

→ participant identification

Χεβρων: transliteration of Hebrew חֶבְרֹן; David's royal seat over Judah (2 Kgdms 2:1–4) and the place of Abner's death; indeclinable here, the same city to which the murderers will bring the head (v. 8).

καί

and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καί: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἐξελύθησαν

went slack

Aor Pass Indic 3 Pl · ἐκλύω

main verb (idiom of loss of resolve)

→ ingressive aorist passive (came to be unstrung)

ἐκλύω: 'loosen / unstring / make faint'; the passive ἐξελύθησαν αἱ χεῖρες ('the hands were loosened') renders the Hebrew idiom יָרַח יָדָיו ('his hands went slack'), a stock figure for collapse of courage and resolve (cf. 2 Kgdms 17:2; Jer 6:24).

αἱ

the

Nominative

article (with χεῖρες)

→ noun-phrase marking

αἱ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

χεῖρες

hands

Nominative

subject of ἐξελύθησαν

→ participant prominence

χείρ (pl. χεῖρες): 'hand'; renders יָד; in the idiom 'the hands went slack' the hands stand metonymically for strength, action, and political will — Ish-bosheth is paralyzed by Abner's death.

αὐτοῦ

his

Genitive

genitive of possession (Ish-bosheth's hands)

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession (Ish-bosheth's hands).

καί

and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καί: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

πάντες

all

Nominative

attributive adjective (with ἄνδρες)

→ participant prominence

παῖς: 'all / every'; here generalizing the demoralization from the king to the whole nation — the loss of nerve is total.

οἱ

the

Nominative

article (with ἄνδρες)

→ noun-phrase marking

οἱ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἄνδρες

men

Nominative

subject of παρείθησαν

→ participant prominence

άνήρ (pl. ἄνδρες): 'man'; renders / שׂיֵּן יִשְׂרָאֵל; 'all the men of Israel' = the fighting strength and political body of the northern tribes loyal to Saul's house.

Ισραηλ

Israel

genitive of relationship (indeclinable: 'men of Israel')

→ participant identification

Ισραηλ: transliteration of Hebrew לְאִשְׂרָאֵל; indeclinable; here the northern kingdom still nominally under the house of Saul, as distinct from Judah under David.

παρείθησαν

were unnerved

Aor Pass Indic 3 Pl · παρίημι

main verb (parallel to ἐξελύθησαν)

→ ingressive aorist passive (sank into helplessness)

παρίημι: 'let drop / relax / weaken'; the passive παρείθησαν ('were let go slack / enfeebled') renders נָפַח / נִבְהָל; it doubles the previous idiom, extending the king's loss of nerve to all Israel and signalling that the Saulide cause is now leaderless.

2 καὶ δύο ἄνδρες ἡγούμενοι συστρεμμάτων τῷ Μεμφιβοσθε υἱῷ Σαουλ ὄνομα τῷ ἐνὶ Βαανα καὶ ὄνομα τῷ δευτέρῳ Ρηχαβ υἱοὶ Ρεμμων τοῦ Βηρωθαίου ἐκ τῶν υἱῶν Βενιαμιν ὅτι Βηρωθ ἐλογίζετο τοῖς υἱοῖς Βενιαμιν

And there were two men, captains of raiding-bands belonging to Memphibosthe the son of Saul — the name of the one was Baanah and the name of the second Rechab — sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the sons of Benjamin; for Beeroth was reckoned to the sons of Benjamin.

Introduction of new participants (the two captains)

καὶ δύο ἄνδρες

A circumstantial nominal clause introduces the chapter's antagonists. The naming formula ὄνομα τῷ ἐνὶ ... ὄνομα τῷ δευτέρῳ is a Hebraism (יְשֻׁבָּהּ ... דְּרַחָבִי). The closing ὅτι-clause is an explanatory gloss by the narrator establishing the Benjaminite affiliation of Beeroth, locating the murderers within Saul's own tribe — a pointed irony, since they will kill Saul's son.

καὶ

and

narrative conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

δύο

two

Nominative

numeral (subject of implied verb 'there were')

→ measure or count

δύο: 'two'; indeclinable cardinal numeral; renders יְשֻׁבָּהּ; introduces the pair of captains who will act together throughout the chapter.

ἄνδρες

men

Nominative

subject (predicate-nominal clause)

→ participant prominence

ἄνθρω (pl. ἄνδρες): 'man'; renders יְשֻׁבָּהּ; here professional warriors, the leaders of armed bands.

ἡγούμενοι

leading / captains

Pres Mid Part Nom Pl Masc · ἡγέομαι

substantival/attributive participle ('captains')

→ customary present participle (those who lead)

ἡγέομαι: 'lead / command / go before'; the present participle ἡγούμενοι functions as a title, 'commanders / captains'; renders יְשֻׁבָּהּ ('chiefs of'); the participial form makes their leadership of the bands a defining role.

συστρεμμάτων

of raiding-bands

Genitive

genitive object of ἡγούμενοι ('captains of bands')

→ relational specification

σύστρεμμα (pl. συστρεμμάτων): 'band / troop / gathered company'; from συστρέφω ('gather together'); renders מִיָּדְיָדָא ('marauding bands / raiding troops'); the term marks the two men as leaders of irregular military companies under Ish-bosheth.

τῷ

to / of

Dative

article (dative of relationship with Μεμφιβοσθε)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

Μεμφιβοσθε

Memphibosthe

dative of relationship/possession (indeclinable: 'belonging to Ish-bosheth')

→ participant identification

Μεμφιβοσθε: again Ish-bosheth, Saul's son; the dative (with article τῷ) marks the bands as belonging to / serving him; indeclinable.

υἱῷ

son

Dative

appositive to Μεμφιβοσθε (dative)

→ sphere or reference

υἱός: 'son'; in apposition, again specifying his Saulide descent.

Σαουλ

Saul

genitive of relationship (indeclinable: 'son of Saul')

→ participant identification

Σαουλ: indeclinable; see v. 1.

ὄνομα

name

Nominative

subject of naming-clause (predicate-nominal)

→ participant prominence

ὄνομα: 'name'; the construction ὄνομα τῷ ἐνί ('the name to/for the one [was] ...') is a Hebraism rendering מִן הַשֵּׁם מִיָּדְיָדָא; the nominative ὄνομα with dative beneficiary is the standard LXX naming-formula.

τῷ

to the

Dative

article (dative with ἐνί)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἐνί

one

Dative

substantival numeral (dative: 'to the one')

→ sphere or reference

εἷς, μία, ἓν: 'one'; the dative ἐνί ('to the one') in the naming-formula; renders מִן הַשֵּׁם; pairs with τῷ δευτέρῳ to enumerate the two captains.

Βαανα

Baanah

predicate nominative of naming-clause (indeclinable name)

→ participant identification

Βαανα: transliteration of Hebrew בַּעֲנָנִי; one of the two murderers, brother of Rechab; indeclinable in the LXX.

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction (parallel naming-clause)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ὄνομα

name

Nominative

subject of second naming-clause

→ participant prominence

ὄνομα: meaning 'name'; it serves as subject of second naming-clause.

τῷ

to the

Dative

article (dative with δευτέρῳ)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

δευτέρω

second

Dative

substantival ordinal (dative: 'to the second')

→ sphere or reference

δεύτερος: 'second'; ordinal renders **יְשֵׁנִי**; completes the enumeration of the two captains.

Ρηχαβ

Rechab

predicate nominative of naming-clause (indeclinable name)

→ participant identification

Ρηχαβ: transliteration of Hebrew **רַחַב**; the second murderer; spelled Ρεκχα at vv. 5–6, 9 in this same chapter; indeclinable.

υιοὶ

sons

Nominative

appositive to the two named men (nominative)

→ participant prominence

υἱός (pl. υἱοί): 'sons'; in apposition to Baanah and Rechab, giving their patronymic and tribal lineage.

Ρεμμων

Rimmon

genitive of relationship (indeclinable: 'sons of Rimmon')

→ participant identification

Ρεμμων: transliteration of Hebrew **רִמְמוֹן**; the father of the two captains, a Beerothite; indeclinable.

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article (with Βηρωθαίου)

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῦ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

Βηρωθαίου

Beerothite

Genitive

genitive gentile (modifying Ρεμμων: 'Rimmon the Beerothite')

→ relational specification

Βηρωθαῖος: 'Beerothite', an inhabitant of Beeroth (Βηρωθ); declinable gentile adjective; renders **יְבִירָתִי**; locates Rimmon's family in the town of Beeroth.

ἐκ

from / of

preposition + genitive (origin/affiliation)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐκ: meaning 'from'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + genitive (origin/affiliation).

τῶν

the

Genitive

article (with υἱῶν)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῶν: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

υἱῶν

sons

Genitive

genitive object of ἐκ ('of the sons of Benjamin')

→ relational specification

υἱός (pl. gen. υἱῶν): 'sons'; 'sons of Benjamin' = the tribe of Benjamin, Saul's own tribe — the murderers are fellow tribesmen of the king they kill.

Βενιαμιν

Benjamin

genitive of relationship (indeclinable: 'sons of Benjamin')

→ participant identification

Βενιαμιν: transliteration of Hebrew **בִּנְיָמִין**; indeclinable; the tribe of Saul and his house.

ὅτι

for / because

conjunction introducing narrator's explanatory clause

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ὅτι: 'for / because'; here introduces a parenthetical gloss explaining the Benjaminite reckoning of Beeroth; renders **כִּי**.

Βηρωθ

Beeroth

subject of ἐλογίζετο (indeclinable place-name)

→ participant identification

Βηρωθ: transliteration of Hebrew **בְּאֵרוֹת** ('wells'); a Gibeonite/Hivite town (Josh 9:17) later counted to Benjamin; indeclinable; the home town of the murderers' family.

ἐλογίζετο

was reckoned

Impf Mid/Pass Indic 3 Sg · λογίζομαι

verb of explanatory clause

→ customary/durative imperfect (was habitually counted)

λογίζομαι: 'reckon / count / consider'; the imperfect ἐλογίζετο presents the administrative fact as an ongoing standing arrangement — Beeroth 'was reckoned' part of Benjamin's territory; renders בשרה.

τοῖς

to the

Dative

article (with υἱοῖς)

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῖς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

υἱοῖς

sons

Dative

dative of relationship ('to the sons of Benjamin')

→ sphere or reference

υἱός (pl. dat. υἱοῖς): 'sons'; 'reckoned to the sons of Benjamin' = administratively assigned to the Benjaminite tribal allotment.

Βενιαμιν

Benjamin

genitive of relationship (indeclinable)

→ participant identification

Βενιαμιν: indeclinable; see above.

3 καὶ ἀπέδρασαν οἱ Βηρωθαῖοι εἰς Γεθθαιμ καὶ ἦσαν ἐκεῖ παροικοῦντες ἕως τῆς ἡμέρας ταύτης

And the Beerothites had fled to Gittaim, and they were there as resident aliens until this day.

Continued narratorial background (the Beerothite displacement) καὶ ἀπέδρασαν

The verse extends the etiological aside of v. 2: the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and remain there as sojourners 'to this day' — an editorial formula (ἕως τῆς ἡμέρας ταύτης) marking the durability of a remembered situation at the time of writing. The note explains how a Beerothite (= reckoned-Benjaminite) family came to be in Ish-bosheth's service.

καὶ

and

narrative conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἀπέδρασαν

fled

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · ἀποδιδράσκω

main verb (background event)

→ constative aorist (the flight, viewed as a completed past)

ἀποδιδράσκω: 'run away / flee / escape'; renders פָּרָץ; the aorist relates a prior displacement of the Beerothites, here recalled to explain their present residence in Gittaim.

οἱ

the

Nominative

article (with Βηρωθαῖοι)

→ noun-phrase marking

οἱ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

Βηρωθαῖοι

Beerothites

Nominative

subject of ἀπέδρασαν

→ participant prominence

Βηρωθαῖος (pl. Βηρωθαῖοι): 'Beerothites', the people of Beeroth; declinable gentilic; renders בְּרֹחַתִּים.

εἰς

to

preposition + accusative (direction)

→ spatial or relational framing

εἰς: meaning 'to'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + accusative (direction).

Γεθθαιμ

Gittaim

object of εἰς (indeclinable place-name)

→ participant identification

Γεθθαιμ: transliteration of Hebrew גִּתְיָיִם; a town (cf. Neh 11:33) to which the Beerothites fled; indeclinable.

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἦσαν

were

Impf Act Indic 3 Pl · εἰμί

copula in periphrastic construction (with παροικοῦντες)

→ durative imperfect (ongoing residence)

εἰμί (impf. ἦσαν): 'be'; with the participle παροικοῦντες forms a periphrastic imperfect ('were sojourning'), stressing the continuing state of resident-alien status.

ἐκεῖ

there

adverb of place

→ adverbial qualification

ἐκεῖ: 'there'; renders ἐκεῖ; locates the ongoing sojourn in Gittaim.

παροικοῦντες

sojourning

Pres Act Part Nom Pl Masc · παροικέω

participle in periphrasis with ἦσαν ('were sojourning')

→ durative present participle (continuing resident-alien status)

παροικέω: 'dwell as a resident alien / sojourn'; renders παρ; the participle marks the Beerothites as long-term displaced residents in Gittaim rather than native citizens — a status of dependency.

ἕως

until

preposition + genitive (temporal limit)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἕως: 'until / up to'; with the genitive forms the editorial formula 'until this day'.

τῆς

the

Genitive

article (with ἡμέρας)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῆς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἡμέρας

day

Genitive

genitive object of ἕως (temporal: 'until the day')

→ relational specification

ἡμέρα: 'day'; in the formula ἕως τῆς ἡμέρας ταύτης ('to this day', rendering יוֹם הַיּוֹם), a standard etiological marker pointing to the situation persisting at the narrator's time of composition.

ταύτης

this

Genitive

demonstrative adjective (with ἡμέρας)

→ relational specification

οὗτος: 'this'; the demonstrative ταύτης completes the 'to this day' formula, anchoring the etiology to the present of the writer.

4 καὶ τῷ Ιωναθαν υἱῷ Σαουλ υἱὸς πεπληγὼς τοὺς πόδας υἱὸς ἑτῶν πέντε οὗτος ἐν τῷ ἐλθεῖν τὴν ἀγγελίαν Σαουλ καὶ Ιωναθαν τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ ἐξ Ιεζραελ καὶ ἤρην αὐτὸν ἡ τιθηνὸς αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔφυγεν καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ σπεύδειν αὐτὴν καὶ ἀναχωρεῖν καὶ ἔπεσεν καὶ ἐχωλάνθη καὶ ὄνομα αὐτῷ Μεμφιβοσθε

Now to Jonathan the son of Saul there was a son struck in the feet, a son five years old; this one — when the report of Saul and Jonathan his son came from Jezreel, his nurse took him up and fled, and it happened, as she hurried and withdrew, that he fell and was lamed; and his name was Memphibosthe.

Narratorial parenthetical (the surviving lame heir) καὶ τῷ Ιωναθαν

A fronted dative of possession (τῷ Ιωναθαν ... υἱός, 'to Jonathan there was a son') opens an aside introducing Mephibosheth, the only viable Saulide heir besides Ish-bosheth. The articular infinitives ἐν τῷ ἐλθεῖν and ἐν τῷ σπεύδειν supply the temporal frame of the disabling accident. The verse explains why Saul's house has no able heir to rally after Ish-bosheth's death, and the closing naming-clause (ὄνομα αὐτῷ Μεμφιβοσθε) uses the same Greek name as for Ish-bosheth.

καὶ

and / now

narrative conjunction (introducing parenthetical)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

τῷ

to the

Dative

article (dative of possession with Ιωναθαν)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

Ιωναθαν

Jonathan

dative of possession (indeclinable: 'to Jonathan [there was]')

→ participant identification

Ιωναθαν: transliteration of Hebrew יְהוֹנָתָן /; Saul's eldest son and David's covenant friend, killed at Gilboa (1 Kgdms 31:2); indeclinable; his lame son is the subject of this aside.

υἱῷ

son

Dative

appositive to Ιωναθαν (dative)

→ sphere or reference

υἱός: 'son'; appositional, identifying Jonathan as Saul's son and thus the child as Saul's grandson.

Σαουλ

Saul

genitive of relationship (indeclinable)

→ participant identification

Σαουλ: indeclinable; see v. 1.

υἱὸς

son

Nominative

subject of possessive clause ('there was a son')

→ participant prominence

υἱός: 'son'; the nominative subject of the dative-of-possession clause ('to Jonathan there was a son'), i.e. Jonathan had a son.

πεπληγὼς

stricken / crippled

Perf Act Part Nom Sg Masc · πλήσσω

attributive participle (modifying υἱός)

→ resultative perfect participle (in a state of having been struck/disabled)

πλήσσω (perf. part. πεπληγὼς): 'strike / smite'; the perfect participle here describes a permanent disabled condition, 'stricken/crippled in the feet'; renders חַבֵּל בְּרַגְלָיו ('lame in the feet'); the perfect stresses the abiding result of the accident described below.

τοὺς

the

Accusative

article (with πόδας)

→ noun-phrase marking

τοὺς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

πόδας

feet

Accusative

accusative of respect (with πεπληγὼς: 'struck as to the feet')

→ object specification

πούς (pl. πόδας): 'foot'; the accusative of respect specifies the locus of the disability; renders רַגְלָיו.

υἱὸς

son

Nominative

subject (resumed for age-statement)

→ participant prominence

υἱός: 'son'; repeated to attach the age specification ('a son of five years').

ἐτῶν

of years

Genitive

genitive of measure (age: 'of years')

→ relational specification

ἔτος (pl. gen. ἐτῶν): 'year'; the genitive of measure with πέντε gives the child's age; renders בְּשָׁנֵי חָמֵשׁ ('a son of five years').

πέντε

five

numeral (with ἐτῶν: 'five years')

→ measure or count

πέντε: 'five'; indeclinable cardinal numeral; renders חָמֵשׁ; the child's tender age at the time of the accident underscores his helplessness.

οὗτος

this one

Nominative

demonstrative pronoun (resumptive subject)

→ participant reference

οὗτος: 'this (one)'; resumptive demonstrative re-introducing the boy as the topic before the temporal clause that follows; a Hebraizing resumptive (cf. נִיחַ).

ἐν

in / when

preposition + articular infinitive (temporal)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐν: with the articular infinitive (ἐν τῷ ἐλθεῖν) forms a temporal clause, 'when ... came'; a common LXX rendering of אֲשֶׁר + infinitive construct.

τῷ

the

Dative

article (with infinitive ἐλθεῖν)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἐλθεῖν

came / coming

Aor Act Inf · ἔρχομαι

articular infinitive (temporal clause: 'when the report came')

→ aorist infinitive (the punctual arrival of the news)

ἔρχομαι (aor. inf. ἐλθεῖν): 'come / go'; in the temporal construction ἐν τῷ ἐλθεῖν τὴν ἀγγελίαν ('when the report came'); the accusative subject of the infinitive is τὴν ἀγγελίαν.

τὴν

the

Accusative

article (with ἀγγελίαν)

→ noun-phrase marking

τὴν: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἀγγελίαν

report / message

Accusative

accusative subject of the infinitive ἐλθεῖν

→ object specification

ἀγγελία: 'message / news / report'; renders ἡ γῆ; the news of the deaths of Saul and Jonathan at Gilboa, which reached the household from Jezreel.

Σαουλ

of Saul

genitive of content (indeclinable: 'report of Saul')

→ participant identification

Σαουλ: indeclinable; the report concerned Saul's death.

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

Ιωναθαν

Jonathan

genitive of content (indeclinable: 'and of Jonathan')

→ participant identification

Ιωναθαν: indeclinable; the report concerned Jonathan's death also, the boy's own father.

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article (with υἱοῦ)

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῦ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

υἱοῦ

son

Genitive

appositive to Ιωναθαν (genitive: 'Jonathan his son')

→ relational specification

υἱός: 'son'; appositional, 'Jonathan his [Saul's] son', re-stating the relationship for clarity.

αὐτοῦ

his

Genitive

genitive of possession (Saul's son)

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession (Saul's son).

ἐξ

from

preposition + genitive (source of the report)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐξ: meaning 'from'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + genitive (source of the report).

Ιεζραελ

Jezreel

object of ἐξ (indeclinable place-name)

→ participant identification

Ιεζραελ: transliteration of Hebrew יֶזְרְעֵל; the valley/region near Gilboa from which the news of the rout came; indeclinable.

καὶ

and

narrative conjunction (apodosis of temporal clause)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἔρεν

took up

Aor Act Indic 3 Sg · ἄρῳ

main verb (nurse's action)

→ constative aorist (the act of lifting the child)

ἄρῳ: 'lift up / take up / carry'; renders ἔρεν; the nurse snatches up the child to flee the advancing news of military disaster.

αὐτόν

him

Accusative

direct object of ἦρεν

→ participant reference

αὐτόν: meaning 'him'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as direct object of ἦρεν.

ἡ

the

Nominative

article (with τιθηνός)

→ noun-phrase marking

ἡ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

τιθηνός

nurse

Nominative

subject of ἦρεν

→ participant prominence

τιθηνός: 'nurse / nursemaid'; renders תִּתְּנָה ('foster-nurse'); the household servant charged with the child's care, whose flight causes the disabling fall.

αὐτοῦ

his

Genitive

genitive of possession (his nurse)

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession (his nurse).

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καί: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἔφυγεν

fled

Aor Act Indic 3 Sg · φεύγω

main verb (nurse's flight)

→ constative aorist (the flight)

φεύγω: 'flee'; renders פָּנָה; the nurse flees in fear of the Philistine victory, carrying the royal child to safety.

καὶ

and

narrative conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καί: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἐγένετο

it happened

Aor Mid Indic 3 Sg · γίνομαι

main verb (Hebraizing 'and it came to pass')

→ constative aorist (narrative event-marker)

γίνομαι (aor. ἐγένετο): 'become / happen'; the formula καὶ ἐγένετο ('and it came to pass') renders וַיְהִי, a stock LXX narrative connector introducing the disabling incident.

ἐν

in / as

preposition + articular infinitive (temporal)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐν: with the articular infinitive ἐν τῷ σπεύδειν, 'as she hurried' — a temporal clause.

τῷ

the

Dative

article (with infinitive σπεύδειν)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

σπεύδειν

hurrying

Pres Act Inf · σπεύδω

articular infinitive (temporal clause: 'as she hurried')

→ durative present infinitive (action in progress)

σπεύδω: 'hurry / hasten'; renders רָחַץ; the present infinitive depicts the haste in progress during which the child was dropped; subject is αὐτήν (the nurse).

αὐτήν

she / her

Accusative

accusative subject of the infinitive σπεύδειν

→ participant reference

αὐτή: the accusative subject of the articular infinitive ('as she hurried'); refers to the nurse.

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction (joining infinitives)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἀναχωρεῖν

to withdraw

Pres Act Inf · ἀναχωρέω

infinitive coordinate with σπεύδειν (temporal)

→ durative present infinitive (action in progress)

ἀναχωρέω: 'withdraw / retreat / go away'; coordinate with σπεύδειν under the same ἐν τῷ frame ('as she hurried and withdrew'), describing the fleeing retreat during which the fall occurred.

καὶ

and

narrative conjunction (apodosis: the fall)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἔπεσεν

fell

Aor Act Indic 3 Sg · πίπτω

main verb (the child's fall)

→ constative aorist (the moment of falling)

πίπτω: 'fall'; renders לָפַץ; the subject is the child, who is dropped during the nurse's flight — the cause of his lifelong disability.

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἐχολάνθη

was lamed

Aor Pass Indic 3 Sg · χολαίνω

main verb (resultant disability)

→ constative aorist passive (became lame)

χολαίνω: 'be / become lame'; the passive ἐχολάνθη ('was made lame') renders חָלַהּ; states the permanent result of the fall, explaining the πεπληγὼς τοὺς πόδας description above.

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction (naming-clause)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ὄνομα

name

Nominative

subject of naming-clause ('his name [was]')

→ participant prominence

ὄνομα: 'name'; the naming-formula ὄνομα αὐτῷ ('the name to him [was]'); renders מִשְׁמֵהוּ.

αὐτῷ

to him

Dative

dative of possession (in naming-formula)

→ participant reference or interest

αὐτῷ: meaning 'to him'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as dative of possession (in naming-formula).

Μεμφιβοσθε

Memphibosthe

predicate nominative of naming-clause (indeclinable name)

→ participant identification

Μεμφιβοσθε: here the lame son of Jonathan (Hebrew מִפְּיִבֹשֶׁת, Mephibosheth); the Greek tradition gives him the same transliterated form it uses for Ish-bosheth elsewhere in the chapter, producing an ambiguity not present in the Hebrew; indeclinable.

5 καὶ ἐπορεύθησαν υἱοὶ Ρεμμων τοῦ Βηρωθαίου Ρεκχα καὶ Βαανα καὶ εἰσῆλθον ἐν τῷ καύματι τῆς ἡμέρας εἰς οἶκον Μεμφιβοσθε καὶ αὐτὸς ἐκάθευδεν ἐν τῇ κοίτῃ τῆς μεσημβρίας

And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went and came in the heat of the day into the house of Memphibosthe, while he was sleeping on the bed at midday.

Resumption of main narrative (the murder begins)

καὶ ἐπορεύθησαν

After the parenthesis of v. 4, the narrative resumes with the captains' movement toward their crime. The temporal note ἐν τῷ καύματι τῆς ἡμέρας ('in the heat of the day') sets the scene at the vulnerable hour of the noonday rest, picked up at the verse's end by ἐν τῇ κοίτῃ τῆς μεσημβρίας. The circumstantial αὐτὸς ἐκάθευδεν underscores the king's defenselessness.

καὶ

and

narrative conjunction (resuming main line)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἐπορεύθησαν

went

Aor Pass(Dep) Indic 3 Pl · πορεύομαι

main verb (the captains set out)

→ constative aorist (the journey to the house)

πορεύομαι: 'go / travel / proceed'; renders ἔλθῃ; the deponent aorist marks the captains' setting out toward Ish-bosheth's house to carry out the murder.

υἱοὶ

sons

Nominative

subject of ἐπορεύθησαν

→ participant prominence

υἱός (pl. υἱοί): 'sons'; 'sons of Rimmon' = the two captains, named in apposition immediately after.

Ρεμμων

Rimmon

genitive of relationship (indeclinable: 'sons of Rimmon')

→ participant identification

Ρεμμων: indeclinable; see v. 2; the father of Rechab and Baanah.

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article (with Βηρωθαίου)

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῦ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

Βηρωθαίου

Beerothite

Genitive

genitive gentile (modifying Ρεμμων)

→ relational specification

Βηρωθαῖος: 'Beerothite'; declinable gentile; see v. 2.

Ρεκχα

Rechab

appositive to υἱοί (indeclinable name)

→ participant identification

Ρεκχα: variant Greek spelling of Rechab (Hebrew רַחַב; cf. Ρηχαβ at v. 2); indeclinable; the two spellings refer to the same captain within this chapter.

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction (joining the two names)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

Βαανα

Baanah

appositive to υἱοί (indeclinable name)

→ participant identification

Βαανα: indeclinable; see v. 2; the second of the two brother-captains.

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

εἰσῆλθον

came in

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · εἰσέρχομαι

main verb (entry into the house)

→ constative aorist (the act of entering)

εἰσέρχομαι: 'come in / enter'; renders נִיב; the entry into the king's house at midday begins the murder sequence.

ἐν

in

preposition + dative (temporal)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐν: meaning 'in'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + dative (temporal).

τῷ

the

Dative

article (with καύματι)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

καύματι

heat

Dative

dative of time (with τῆς ἡμέρας: 'in the heat of the day')

→ sphere or reference

καῦμα: 'heat / burning heat'; renders קָיָה; 'the heat of the day' is the hottest part of midday, the customary hour of rest — when the household and the king are at their most defenseless.

τῆς

the

Genitive

article (with ἡμέρας)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῆς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἡμέρας

day

Genitive

genitive (with καύματι: 'heat of the day')

→ relational specification

ἡμέρα: 'day'; 'heat of the day' = noontime; sets the time of the assault.

εἰς

into

preposition + accusative (direction of entry)

→ spatial or relational framing

εἰς: meaning 'into'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + accusative (direction of entry).

οἶκον

house

Accusative

accusative object of εἰς (goal of entry)

→ object specification

οἶκος: 'house / household'; renders תַּיָּבָה; the royal residence of Ish-bosheth, the scene of the murder.

Μεμφιβοσθε

Memphibosthe

genitive of possession (indeclinable: 'house of Ish-bosheth')

→ participant identification

Μεμφιβοσθε: Ish-bosheth, Saul's son; indeclinable; see v. 1.

καὶ

and / while

coordinate conjunction (introducing circumstantial clause)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

αὐτός he Nominative <i>subject (emphatic: 'he himself')</i> → participant prominence αὐτός: intensive pronoun 'he (himself)'; here marks the contrast between the intruders' activity and the king's helpless sleep.	ἐκάθευδεν was sleeping Impf Act Indic 3 Sg · καθεύδω <i>verb of circumstantial clause (background state)</i> → durative imperfect (ongoing sleep at the moment of entry) καθεύδω: 'sleep / lie down'; renders כָּשַׁן; the imperfect ἐκάθευδεν presents the king's midday sleep as the ongoing circumstance into which the murderers intrude — the picture of total vulnerability.	ἐν on <i>preposition + dative (locative)</i> → spatial or relational framing ἐν: meaning 'on'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + dative (locative).	τῇ the Dative <i>article (with κοίτη)</i> → noun-phrase marking τῇ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.
κοίτη bed Dative <i>dative of place (locative: 'on the bed')</i> → sphere or reference κοίτη: 'bed / couch / resting-place'; renders כִּשְׁבִּי; the noonday bed; the same word recurs at v. 11 (ἐπὶ τῆς κοίτης αὐτοῦ) in David's denunciation of the crime.	τῆς the Genitive <i>article (with μεσημβρίας)</i> → noun-phrase marking τῆς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.	μεσημβρίας midday Genitive <i>genitive of time (with κοίτη: 'midday rest')</i> → relational specification μεσημβρία: 'midday / noon'; renders מִצְהַרְצָה; 'the bed of midday' = the noonday siesta; reinforces the timing already given by ἐν τῷ καύματι τῆς ἡμέρας.	

6 καὶ ἰδοὺ ἡ θυρωρὸς τοῦ οἴκου ἐκάθαιρεν πυροὺς καὶ ἐνύσταξεν καὶ ἐκάθευδεν καὶ Ρεκχα καὶ Βαανα οἱ ἀδελφοὶ διέλαθον

And behold, the doorkeeper of the house was cleaning wheat, and she grew drowsy and slept; and Rechab and Baanah the brothers slipped through unnoticed.

Scene-painting detail (how the murderers got in) **καὶ ἰδοὺ**

The presentative ἰδοὺ introduces a vivid scene at the threshold: the woman doorkeeper, cleaning wheat, dozes off, allowing the brothers to slip past her undetected (διέλαθον). The detail explains the mechanics of the undefended entry and heightens the pathos — the only guard at the king's door is a drowsing woman sifting grain.

καὶ
and

narrative conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἰδοὺ
behold

presentative particle (attention-marker)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ἰδοὺ: 'behold / look!'; renders הִנֵּה; a vividizing marker drawing the reader's eye to the doorkeeper scene that follows.

ἡ
the

Nominative

article (feminine, with θυρωρός)

→ noun-phrase marking

ἡ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

θυρωρός
doorkeeper

Nominative

subject of ἐκάθαιρεν

→ participant prominence

θυρωρός: 'doorkeeper / gatekeeper'; from θύρα ('door'); here feminine (ἡ θυρωρός), a female porter; renders רָעֵל/the portress; her sleep is the lapse that lets the killers in.

τοῦ
the

Genitive

article (with οἴκου)

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῦ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

οἴκου
house

Genitive

genitive of relationship ('doorkeeper of the house')

→ relational specification

οἶκος: 'house'; here the king's residence; see v. 5.

ἐκάθαιρεν
was cleaning

Impf Act Indic 3 Sg · καθαίρω

main verb (background activity of the doorkeeper)

→ durative imperfect (ongoing cleaning)

καθαίρω: 'cleanse / cleanse by sifting / winnow'; the imperfect ἐκάθαιρεν πυρούς describes the woman sifting/cleaning wheat — a monotonous task conducing to drowsiness; renders the Hebrew of cleaning/sifting grain.

πυρούς
wheat

Accusative

direct object of ἐκάθαιρεν

→ object specification

πυρός (pl. πυρούς): 'wheat / grains of wheat'; renders דִּישָׁה; the grain the doorkeeper was cleaning when she fell asleep.

καὶ
and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἐνύσταξεν
grew drowsy

Aor Act Indic 3 Sg · νυστάζω

main verb (onset of sleep)

→ ingressive aorist (began to nod off)

νυστάζω: 'nod / become drowsy / doze'; renders נָנַח; the ingressive aorist marks the moment she nodded off, the lapse that permits the intrusion.

καὶ
and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἐκάθευδεν
slept

Impf Act Indic 3 Sg · καθεύδω

main verb (resultant sleep)

→ durative imperfect (was asleep)

καθεύδω: 'sleep'; the same verb used of the king (v. 5); the doorkeeper's deep sleep parallels the king's, leaving the household entirely unguarded.

καὶ
and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

Ρεκχα
Rechab

subject of διέλαθον (indeclinable name)

→ participant identification

Ρεκχα: Rechab; indeclinable; see v. 5.

καὶ
and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

Βαανα
Baanah

subject of διέλαθον (indeclinable name)

→ participant identification

Βαανα: Baanah; indeclinable; see v. 2.

οἱ
the

Nominative

article (with ἀδελφοί)

→ noun-phrase marking

οἱ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἀδελφοὶ
brothers

Nominative

appositive to the two names ('the brothers')

→ participant prominence

ἀδελφός (pl. ἀδελφοί): 'brother'; renders
דָּוִד; identifies Rechab and Baanah as
brothers acting jointly in the crime.

διέλαθον
slipped through unnoticed

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · διαλανθάνω

main verb (the undetected entry)

→ constative aorist (escaped notice in
entering)

διαλανθάνω: 'escape notice / slip through
undetected'; the compound intensifies
λανθάνω; the brothers passed the sleeping
doorkeeper unseen, gaining access to the
king's chamber — the climactic detail of the
break-in.

7 καὶ εἰσῆλθον εἰς τὸν οἶκον καὶ Μεμφιβοσθε ἐκάθευδεν ἐπὶ τῆς κλίνης αὐτοῦ ἐν τῷ κοιτῶνι αὐτοῦ καὶ τύπτουσιν αὐτὸν καὶ θανατοῦσιν καὶ ἀφαιροῦσιν τὴν κεφαλὴν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔλαβον τὴν κεφαλὴν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀπῆλθον ὁδὸν τὴν κατὰ δυσμὰς ὅλην τὴν νύκτα

And they came into the house, while Memphibosthe was sleeping on his couch in his bedchamber, and they struck him and put him to death, and they took off his head; and they took his head and went off by the road toward the west all night long.

Climax of the murder narrative καὶ εἰσῆλθον

The murder proper is told in a rapid chain, with a striking shift to the historic present (τύπτουσιν ... θανατοῦσιν ... ἀφαιροῦσιν) that makes the killing vivid and immediate before reverting to aorists (ἔλαβον ... ἀπῆλθον) for the escape. The fronted circumstantial Μεμφιβοσθε ἐκάθευδεν restates the king's helpless sleep, and the all-night westward flight (ὅλην τὴν νύκτα) traces their route to David at Hebron.

καὶ
and

narrative conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

εἰσῆλθον
came in

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · εἰσέρχομαι

main verb (entry into the house)

→ constative aorist (the act of entering)

εἰσέρχομαι: 'come in / enter'; see v. 5; here the entry that brings them to the sleeping king.

εἰς
into

preposition + accusative (direction)

→ spatial or relational framing

εἰς: meaning 'into'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + accusative (direction).

τὸν
the

Accusative

article (with οἶκον)

→ noun-phrase marking

τὸν: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

οἶκον

house

Accusative

accusative object of εἰς

→ object specification

οἶκος: 'house'; the king's residence; see v. 5.

καὶ

and / while

coordinate conjunction (introducing circumstantial clause)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

Μεμφιβοσθε

Memphibosthe

subject of ἐκάθευδεν (indeclinable name)

→ participant identification

Μεμφιβοσθε: Ish-bosheth; indeclinable; see v. 1.

ἐκάθευδεν

was sleeping

Impf Act Indic 3 Sg · καθεύδω

verb of circumstantial clause (background state)

→ durative imperfect (ongoing sleep)

καθεύδω: 'sleep'; the imperfect again frames the king's defenseless sleep as the circumstance of the murder; see v. 5.

ἐπὶ

on

preposition + genitive (locative)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐπὶ: meaning 'on'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + genitive (locative).

τῆς

the

Genitive

article (with κλίνης)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῆς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

κλίνης

couch

Genitive

genitive object of ἐπὶ ('on his couch')

→ relational specification

κλίνη: 'couch / bed'; renders כִּנִּיָּה; synonym of κοίτη (v. 5); the bed on which the king lay asleep.

αὐτοῦ

his

Genitive

genitive of possession

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession.

ἐν

in

preposition + dative (locative)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐν: meaning 'in'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + dative (locative).

τῷ

the

Dative

article (with κοιτῶνι)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

κοιτῶνι

bedchamber

Dative

dative of place ('in his bedchamber')

→ sphere or reference

κοιτών: 'bedroom / bedchamber'; from κοίτη; renders בְּחֶמְדָּה; the private inner room where the killing took place, emphasizing the intrusion's violation of intimate space.

αὐτοῦ

his

Genitive

genitive of possession

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession.

καὶ
and

narrative conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

τύπτουσιν
they strike

Pres Act Indic 3 Pl · τύπτω

main verb (historic present)

→ historic present (vivid narration of the blow)

τύπτω: 'strike / beat / smite'; renders תַּכּוּךְ; the historic present τύπτουσιν dramatizes the assault as if before the reader's eyes — the LXX shifts from imperfect background to vivid present for the deed itself.

αὐτόν
him

Accusative

direct object of τύπτουσιν

→ participant reference

αὐτόν: meaning 'him'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as direct object of τύπτουσιν.

καὶ
and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

θανатоῦσιν
they put to death

Pres Act Indic 3 Pl · θανατόω

main verb (historic present)

→ historic present (vivid: the killing)

θανατόω: 'put to death / kill'; renders מוֹת (Hiphil) / תִּמִּית; the causative verb; the second of the three historic presents narrating the murder.

καὶ
and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἀφαιροῦσιν
they take off

Pres Act Indic 3 Pl · ἀφαιρέω

main verb (historic present)

→ historic present (vivid: the beheading)

ἀφαιρέω: 'take away / remove / cut off'; renders רָחַץ (Hiphil); the third historic present, narrating the decapitation; the head will become the trophy carried to David.

τὴν
the

Accusative

article (with κεφαλὴν)

→ noun-phrase marking

τὴν: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

κεφαλὴν
head

Accusative

direct object of ἀφαιροῦσιν

→ object specification

κεφαλὴ: 'head'; renders שֵׁרֵץ; the severed head, repeated through vv. 7–8 and finally buried in v. 12; the grim leitmotif of the chapter's second half.

αὐτοῦ
his

Genitive

genitive of possession

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession.

καὶ
and

narrative conjunction (resuming aorist)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἔλαβον
took

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · λαμβάνω

main verb (the escape begins)

→ constative aorist (taking the head)

λαμβάνω: 'take / seize'; renders תִּקַּח; the return to aorist marks the shift from the vivid murder-scene to the matter-of-fact escape with the trophy head.

8 καὶ ἤνεγκαν τὴν κεφαλὴν Μεμφιβοσθε τῷ Δαυιδ εἰς Χεβρων καὶ εἶπαν πρὸς τὸν βασιλέα ἰδοὺ ἡ κεφαλὴ Μεμφιβοσθε υἱοῦ Σαουλ τοῦ ἐχθροῦ σου ὃς ἐζήτει τὴν ψυχὴν σου καὶ ἔδωκεν κύριος τῷ κυρίῳ βασιλεῖ ἐκδίκησιν τῶν ἐχθρῶν αὐτοῦ ὡς ἡ ἡμέρα αὕτη ἐκ Σαουλ τοῦ ἐχθροῦ σου καὶ ἐκ τοῦ σπέρματος αὐτοῦ

And they brought the head of Memphibosthe to David at Hebron, and said to the king, 'Behold, the head of Memphibosthe the son of Saul your enemy, who sought your life; and the LORD has granted to my lord the king vengeance on his enemies, as on this day, from Saul your enemy and from his seed.'

Presentation of the trophy and the murderers' speech

καὶ ἤνεγκαν

The brothers present the head with a self-justifying speech framing the regicide as divine vengeance. The verse contains the chapter's key theological crux: καὶ ἔδωκεν κύριος τῷ κυρίῳ βασιλεῖ — the first κύριος is the Tetragrammaton (YHWH), the second κυρίῳ a deferential human title ('my lord the king'). The murderers blasphemously credit YHWH with their crime, a claim David will overturn in vv. 9–11.

καὶ

and

narrative conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἤνεγκαν

brought

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · φέρω

main verb (delivery of the head)

→ constative aorist (the act of bringing)

φέρω (aor. ἤνεγκαν): 'bring / carry'; renders נָחַב (Hiphil); the brothers bring the trophy head to David, expecting reward.

τὴν

the

Accusative

article (with κεφαλὴν)

→ noun-phrase marking

τὴν: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

κεφαλὴν

head

Accusative

direct object of ἤνεγκαν

→ object specification

κεφαλὴ: 'head'; the severed head of Ish-bosheth; see v. 7.

Μεμφιβοσθε

Memphibosthe

genitive of relationship (indeclinable: 'head of Ish-bosheth')

→ participant identification

Μεμφιβοσθε: Ish-bosheth; indeclinable; see v. 1.

τῷ

to

Dative

article (dative with Δαυιδ)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

Δαυιδ

David

indirect object (indeclinable: 'to David')

→ participant identification

Δαυιδ: transliteration of Hebrew דָּוִד; indeclinable in the LXX; king over Judah at Hebron, soon to be king over all Israel — the recipient of the head.

εἰς

to / at

preposition + accusative (goal)

→ spatial or relational framing

εἰς: meaning 'to'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + accusative (goal).

Χεβρων

Hebron

object of εἰς (indeclinable place-name)

→ participant identification

Χεβρων: Hebron, David's capital; indeclinable; see v. 1.

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

εἶπαν

said

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · λέγω

main verb (speech-introduction)

→ constative aorist (the speech-act)

λέγω (aor. εἶπαν, late form): 'say'; introduces the murderers' self-congratulatory address to David.

πρὸς

to

preposition + accusative (direction of speech)

→ spatial or relational framing

πρὸς: meaning 'to'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + accusative (direction of speech).

τὸν

the

Accusative

article (with βασιλέα)

→ noun-phrase marking

τὸν: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

βασιλέα

king

Accusative

accusative object of πρὸς

→ object specification

βασιλεύς: 'king'; renders דָּוִד; here David, addressed in his royal office.

ἰδοὺ

behold

presentative particle (introducing the trophy)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ἰδοὺ: 'behold'; renders הִנֵּה; here the murderers dramatically present the head as proof of their deed.

ἡ

the

Nominative

article (with κεφαλὴ)

→ noun-phrase marking

ἡ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

κεφαλή

head

Nominative

nominative of exclamation (with ἰδού)

→ participant prominence

κεφαλή: 'head'; nominative in the presentative exclamation 'behold, the head of ...!'

Μεμφιβοσθε

Memphibosthe

genitive of relationship (indeclinable)

→ participant identification

Μεμφιβοσθε: Ish-bosheth; indeclinable; see v. 1.

υἱοῦ

son

Genitive

appositive (genitive: 'son of Saul')

→ relational specification

υἱός: 'son'; appositional, identifying the dead man's Saulide descent — the basis of the murderers' claim that they have eliminated David's dynastic rival.

Σαουλ

Saul

genitive of relationship (indeclinable)

→ participant identification

Σαουλ: indeclinable; see v. 1.

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article (with ἐχθροῦ)

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῦ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἐχθροῦ

enemy

Genitive

appositive to Σαουλ (genitive: 'your enemy')

→ relational specification

ἐχθρός: 'enemy / hostile one'; renders עֹיֵן; the murderers brand Saul as David's enemy to justify their deed — but David never regarded Saul thus, having spared him twice (1 Kgdms 24; 26).

σου

your

Genitive

genitive of relationship (2nd person: 'your enemy')

→ relational specification

σου: meaning 'your'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of relationship (2nd person: 'your enemy').

ὃς

who

Nominative

relative pronoun (subject of ἐζήτει)

→ participant reference

ὃς: relative pronoun 'who'; introduces the murderers' characterization of Saul as one who sought David's life.

ἐζήτει

was seeking

Impf Act Indic 3 Sg · ζητέω

verb of relative clause

→ durative imperfect (was persistently seeking)

ζητέω: 'seek / look for'; the idiom ζητεῖν τὴν ψυχὴν ('seek the life') renders תִּלְכֹּךְ נַפְשְׁךָ ('seek to kill'); the imperfect depicts Saul's persistent pursuit of David — the murderers' rationale for the killing.

τὴν

the

Accusative

article (with ψυχὴν)

→ noun-phrase marking

τὴν: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ψυχὴν

life / soul

Accusative

direct object of ἐζήτει

→ object specification

ψυχή: 'life / soul / self'; renders נַפְשְׁךָ; in the idiom 'seek the life' it means 'seek to kill'; the same word recurs in David's oath (v. 9) of the life YHWH redeemed.

σου

your

Genitive

genitive of possession ('your life')

→ relational specification

σου: meaning 'your'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession ('your life').

καὶ
and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἔδωκεν
has granted

Aor Act Indic 3 Sg · δίδωμι

main verb (the murderers' theological claim)

→ constative aorist (the granting of vengeance)

δίδωμι: 'give / grant'; renders יתן; the murderers attribute their crime to divine agency — 'the LORD has given vengeance' — a blasphemous self-justification David will repudiate.

κύριος
LORD

Nominative

subject of ἔδωκεν (divine name)

→ participant prominence

κύριος: here the Tetragrammaton יהוה (YHWH); the murderers invoke the divine name to sanctify their regicide, claiming YHWH himself granted David vengeance through their hands.

τῷ
to the

Dative

article (with κυρίῳ)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

κυρίῳ
lord

Dative

indirect object (deferential human title: 'to my lord')

→ sphere or reference

κύριος: here NOT the divine name but a human honorific, 'lord / master' (rendering יְיָ), the deferential court address to David; the juxtaposition κύριος (YHWH) ... τῷ κυρίῳ (David) within one clause makes the distinction unmistakable.

βασιλεῖ
king

Dative

appositive to κυρίῳ (dative: 'my lord the king')

→ sphere or reference

βασιλεύς: 'king'; in apposition to κυρίῳ, the full court address 'my lord the king' — flattering deference from the murderers seeking reward.

ἐκδίκησιν
vengeance

Accusative

direct object of ἔδωκεν

→ object specification

ἐκδίκησις: 'vengeance / vindication / requital'; renders תְּגִיִּלָּה; the murderers frame the regicide as YHWH-granted retribution against Saul's house — a theological claim David will sharply reject.

τῶν
the

Genitive

article (with ἐχθρῶν)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῶν: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἐχθρῶν
enemies

Genitive

objective genitive ('vengeance upon his enemies')

→ relational specification

ἐχθρός (pl. gen. ἐχθρῶν): 'enemies'; the objective genitive with ἐκδίκησιν — vengeance exacted against David's enemies, namely Saul's house.

αὐτοῦ
his

Genitive

genitive of possession ('his enemies' = David's)

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession ('his enemies' = David's).

ὥς
as

comparative particle (in temporal formula)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ὥς: 'as / like'; in the formula ὥς ἡ ἡμέρα αὕτη ('as at this day'), a Hebraism (כִּי יוֹם הַיּוֹם) meaning 'as is now the case / as proven today'.

ἡ
the

Nominative

article (with ἡμέρα)

→ noun-phrase marking

ἡ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἡμέρα

day

Nominative

subject in temporal formula ('as this day')

→ participant prominence

ἡμέρα: 'day'; in the formula 'as this day', asserting that the vengeance is realized in the present moment of the head's delivery.

αὕτη

this

Nominative

demonstrative (with ἡμέρα)

→ participant reference

οὗτος: 'this'; the demonstrative completes 'this day', pointing to the present occasion.

ἐκ

from / on

preposition + genitive (source of vengeance)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐκ: 'from / out of'; here marks the object/source of the vengeance — exacted 'from Saul ... and from his seed'.

Σαουλ

Saul

object of ἐκ (indeclinable)

→ participant identification

Σαουλ: indeclinable; the vengeance is said to fall upon Saul (and his line).

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article (with ἐχθροῦ)

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῦ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἐχθροῦ

enemy

Genitive

appositive to Σαουλ ('your enemy')

→ relational specification

ἐχθρός: 'enemy'; repeated from earlier in the verse, hammering the murderers' framing of Saul as David's foe.

σου

your

Genitive

genitive of relationship ('your enemy')

→ relational specification

σου: meaning 'your'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of relationship ('your enemy').

καί

and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καί: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἐκ

from

preposition + genitive (parallel source)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐκ: meaning 'from'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + genitive (parallel source).

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article (with σπέρματος)

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῦ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

σπέρματος

seed / offspring

Genitive

object of ἐκ ('from his seed')

→ relational specification

σπέρμα: 'seed / offspring / descendants'; renders שָׂרֵי; 'from his seed' = from Saul's descendants; the murderers present Ish-bosheth's death as the extinction of the rival Saulide line.

αὐτοῦ

his

Genitive

genitive of possession ('his seed' = Saul's)

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession ('his seed' = Saul's).

9 καὶ ἀπεκρίθη Δαυὶδ τῷ Ρεκχα καὶ τῷ Βαανα ἀδελφῶ αὐτοῦ υἱοῖς Ρεμμων τοῦ Βηρωθαίου καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ζῆ κύριος ὃς ἐλυτρώσατο τὴν ψυχὴν μου ἐκ πάσης θλίψεως

And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, 'As the LORD lives, who redeemed my life out of all distress,

David's response: oath-formula opening the verdict καὶ ἀπεκρίθη Δαυὶδ

David's reply opens with the solemn oath-formula ζῆ κύριος ('as the LORD lives'), the standard LXX rendering of יְיָ יֵחִי . The relative clause ὃς ἐλυτρώσατο τὴν ψυχὴν μου ἐκ πάσης θλίψεως grounds the oath in David's own experience of divine deliverance — pointedly contrasting YHWH's true redemption of his life with the murderers' false claim (v. 8) that YHWH authorized their killing. The oath sets up the verdict of vv. 10–12.

καὶ
and

narrative conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἀπεκρίθη
answered

Aor Pass(Dep) Indic 3 Sg · ἀποκρίνομαι

main verb (David's response)

→ constative aorist (the act of answering)

ἀποκρίνομαι: 'answer / reply'; renders אָנְטוּר ; the deponent aorist introduces David's verdict in response to the murderers' presentation.

Δαυὶδ
David

subject (indeclinable name)

→ participant identification

Δαυὶδ: indeclinable; see v. 8; here the agent of judgment.

τῷ
to

Dative

article (dative with Ρεκχα)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

Ρεκχα
Rechab

indirect object (indeclinable name)

→ participant identification

Ρεκχα: Rechab; indeclinable; see v. 5.

καὶ
and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

τῷ
to

Dative

article (dative with Βαανα)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

Βαανα
Baanah

indirect object (indeclinable name)

→ participant identification

Βαανα: Baanah; indeclinable; see v. 2.

ἀδελφῷ

brother

Dative

appositive to Βαανᾶ (dative: 'his brother')

→ sphere or reference

ἀδελφός: 'brother'; appositional, identifying Baanah as Rechab's brother; see v. 6.

αὐτοῦ

his

Genitive

genitive of relationship

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of relationship.

υἱοῖς

sons

Dative

appositive to the two names (dative: 'the sons of Rimmon')

→ sphere or reference

υἱός (pl. dat. υἱοῖς): 'sons'; appositional, giving the patronymic of the two addressees.

Ρεμμων

Rimmon

genitive of relationship (indeclinable)

→ participant identification

Ρεμμων: Rimmon; indeclinable; see v. 2.

τοῦ

the

Genitive

article (with Βηρωθαίου)

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῦ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

Βηρωθαίου

Beerothite

Genitive

genitive gentile (modifying Ρεμμων)

→ relational specification

Βηρωθαῖος: 'Beerothite'; declinable gentile; see v. 2.

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

εἶπεν

said

Aor Act Indic 3 Sg · λέγω

main verb (speech-introduction)

→ constative aorist (the speech-act)

λέγω: 'say'; introduces the content of David's oath and verdict.

αὐτοῖς

to them

Dative

indirect object of εἶπεν

→ participant reference or interest

αὐτοῖς: meaning 'to them'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as indirect object of εἶπεν.

ζῇ

lives

Pres Act Indic 3 Sg · ζάω

verb of oath-formula ('as the LORD lives')

→ gnomic/durative present (the ever-living God as oath-guarantor)

ζάω: 'live / be alive'; the oath-formula ζῇ κύριος ('as the LORD lives') renders יְיָ הַיָּהּ, the strongest OT asseveration, invoking the living God as witness and guarantor of the speaker's resolve.

κύριος

LORD

Nominative

subject of ζῇ (divine name in oath)

→ participant prominence

κύριος: here the Tetragrammaton יהוה (YHWH); the living LORD by whom David swears — set in deliberate contrast to the murderers' misuse of the same name in v. 8.

ὃς

who

Nominative

relative pronoun (subject of ἐλυτρώσατο)

→ participant reference

ὃς: 'who'; introduces the relative clause grounding the oath in YHWH's redemptive history with David.

ἐλυτρώσατο

redeemed

Aor Mid Indic 3 Sg · λυτρώω

verb of relative clause

→ constative aorist (the accomplished deliverance)

λυτρώω (mid. λυτρόομαι): 'ransom / redeem / deliver'; renders לָאַ / הִצִּי; the middle ἐλυτρώσατο ('redeemed for himself') recalls YHWH's repeated rescues of David (cf. 1 Kgdms 23; 24; 26); the redemption-language is at home in the Psalter (e.g. Ps 25:22; 31:5).

τὴν

the

Accusative

article (with ψυχὴν)

→ noun-phrase marking

τὴν: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ψυχὴν

life / soul

Accusative

direct object of ἐλυτρώσατο

→ object specification

ψυχή: 'life / soul / self'; renders נַפְשׁ; David's own life, redeemed by YHWH — pointedly the same word used of the life Saul 'sought' (v. 8); David's deliverance came from God, not from murderers.

μου

my

Genitive

genitive of possession ('my life')

→ relational specification

μου: meaning 'my'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession ('my life').

ἐκ

out of / from

preposition + genitive (source: deliverance from)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐκ: meaning 'out of'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + genitive (source: deliverance from).

πάσης

all / every

Genitive

attributive adjective (with θλίψεως: 'all distress')

→ relational specification

πάς: 'all / every'; the genitive πάσης θλίψεως stresses the totality of the deliverances YHWH has worked for David.

θλίψεως

distress / affliction

Genitive

genitive object of ἐκ ('from all distress')

→ relational specification

θλίψις: 'affliction / distress / tribulation'; renders הָרָצָה; the comprehensive term for the dangers from which YHWH delivered David; the redemption 'from all distress' underwrites the oath that follows.

10 ὅτι ὁ ἀπαγγεῖλας μοι ὅτι τέθνηκεν Σαουλ καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν ὡς εὐαγγελιζόμενος ἐνώπιόν μου καὶ κατέσχον αὐτὸν καὶ ἀπέκτεινα ἐν Σεκελακ ᾧ ἔδει με δοῦναι εὐαγγέλια

since the one who reported to me, saying, 'Saul is dead' — and he was like one bringing good news in my sight — I seized him and killed him in Ziklag, to whom I ought to have given a reward for good news:

Legal precedent (grounds for the coming verdict) ὅτι

David cites the Ziklag precedent (cf. 2 Kgdms 1:1–16) as binding case-law: when a man reported Saul's death thinking himself a bearer of good news (εὐαγγελιζόμενος), David executed him instead of rewarding him. The ironic ᾧ ἔδει με δοῦναι εὐαγγέλια ('to whom I ought to have given a reward for good news') exposes the murderers' miscalculation — they expect εὐαγγέλια and will receive death. The clause is an a fortiori setup completed in v. 11.

ὅτι

since / for

conjunction (causal/evidential, introducing precedent)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ὅτι: 'since / because'; here introduces the legal precedent that grounds David's verdict; renders יָדָא.

ὁ

the one

Nominative

article (substantivizing the participle ἀπαγγεῖλας)

→ noun-phrase marking

ὁ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἀπαγγεῖλας

who reported

Aor Act Part Nom Sg Masc · ἀπαγγέλλω

substantival participle (subject: 'the one who reported')

→ constative aorist participle (the single act of reporting)

ἀπαγγέλλω: 'report / announce / bring word'; renders תִּגַּד (Hiphil); the substantival participle ὁ ἀπαγγεῖλας designates the Amalekite of 2 Kgdms 1 who brought David news of Saul's death expecting reward.

μοι

to me

Dative

indirect object of ἀπαγγεῖλας

→ participant reference or interest

μοι: meaning 'to me'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as indirect object of ἀπαγγεῖλας.

ὅτι

that

conjunction (introducing content of the report)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ὅτι: 'that'; here recitative, introducing the reported message 'Saul is dead'.

τέθνηκεν

has died

Perf Act Indic 3 Sg · θνήσκω

verb of reported clause

→ resultative perfect (Saul is dead)

θνήσκω (perf. τέθνηκεν): 'be dead'; the same perfect as v. 1; the content of the Ziklag report — 'Saul is dead'.

Σαουλ

Saul

subject of τέθνηκεν (indeclinable)

→ participant identification

Σαουλ: indeclinable; see v. 1.

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction (introducing parenthetical)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

αὐτός

he

Nominative

subject (emphatic: 'and he')

→ participant prominence

αὐτός: intensive pronoun 'he (himself)'; refers to the Ziklag messenger, who regarded himself as a bringer of good tidings.

ἦν

was

Impf Act Indic 3 Sg · εἰμί

copula (with ὡς εὐαγγελιζόμενος)

→ durative imperfect (his self-perception)

εἰμί (impf. ἦν): 'be'; with the comparative ὡς + participle, 'he was like one bringing good news', describing the messenger's mistaken self-understanding.

ὡς

as / like

comparative particle (with participle)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ὡς: 'as / like'; introduces the comparison — the messenger thought of himself as a herald of glad tidings.

εὐαγγελιζόμενος

bringing good news

Pres Mid Part Nom Sg Masc · εὐαγγελίζω

predicate participle (with ἦν ὡς: 'like one announcing good news')

→ durative present participle (in the role of a good-news herald)

εὐαγγελίζω (mid. εὐαγγελίζομαι): 'bring good news / announce glad tidings'; renders רַשָּׁא; the messenger imagined Saul's death was εὐαγγέλιον to David — a fatal misreading of David's loyalty; the same root recurs at the verse's end (εὐαγγέλια).

ἐνώπιόν

before / in the sight of

preposition + genitive (evaluative: 'in my sight')

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐνώπιον: 'before / in the presence of'; Hebraism rendering עֵינַי / עֵינֶיךָ; 'in my sight' = in David's estimation/presence.

μου

my / me

Genitive

genitive object of ἐνώπιον

→ relational specification

μου: meaning 'my'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive object of ἐνώπιον.

καὶ

and

narrative conjunction (apodosis: David's action)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

κατέσχον

I seized

Aor Act Indic 1 Sg · κατέχω

main verb (David's first action against the messenger)

→ constative aorist (the act of seizing)

κατέχω: 'hold fast / seize / arrest'; renders שָׁפַח / רָחַץ; David arrested the messenger before executing him — establishing the precedent of summary justice against those who profit from a king's death.

αὐτόν

him

Accusative

direct object of κατέσχον

→ participant reference

αὐτόν: meaning 'him'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as direct object of κατέσχον.

καί

and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καί: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἀπέκτεινα

I killed

Aor Act Indic 1 Sg · ἀποκτείνω

main verb (the execution)

→ constative aorist (the act of killing)

ἀποκτείνω: 'kill / put to death'; renders ληϊ; David's execution of the Ziklag messenger (2 Kgdms 1:15); the precedent that seals the murderers' fate.

ἐν

in / at

preposition + dative (locative)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐν: meaning 'in'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + dative (locative).

Σεκελακ

Ziklag

object of ἐν (indeclinable place-name)

→ participant identification

Σεκελακ: transliteration of Hebrew זִיקְלָג (Ziklag); David's base in the Negev (1 Kgdms 27:6), where the Amalekite messenger was executed (2 Kgdms 1); indeclinable.

ὃς

to whom

Dative

relative pronoun (dative: 'to whom [I ought]')

→ participant reference or interest

ὃς (dat. ᾧ): relative pronoun 'to whom'; the dative governed by δοῦναι ('give to whom'); introduces the bitterly ironic conclusion.

ἔδει

it was necessary / I ought

Impf Act Indic 3 Sg · δεῖ

impersonal verb of obligation (with infinitive δοῦναι)

→ durative imperfect (unrealized obligation: 'one ought to have')

δεῖ (impf. ἔδει): 'it is necessary / one ought'; the impersonal imperfect with infinitive expresses a notional obligation — supposedly the messenger 'ought' to have been rewarded; the irony is that David instead executed him.

με

me

Accusative

accusative subject of the infinitive δοῦναι

→ participant reference

με: meaning 'me'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as accusative subject of the infinitive δοῦναι.

δοῦναι

to give

Aor Act Inf · δίδωμι

complementary infinitive (with ἔδει)

→ aorist infinitive (the notional act of rewarding)

δίδωμι (aor. inf. δοῦναι): 'give'; the infinitive of the supposed obligation — to give the messenger a reward; sharpens the irony that he received death instead.

εὐαγγέλια

reward for good news

Accusative

direct object of δοῦναι

→ object specification

εὐαγγέλιον (pl. εὐαγγέλια): here 'reward for (bringing) good news / messenger's fee' (cf. 2 Kgdms 18:22); cognate with εὐαγγελιζόμενος above; the plural denotes the gift/payment expected by a herald — which David withheld, giving execution instead.

11 καὶ νῦν ἄνδρες πονηροὶ ἀπεκτάγκασιν ἄνδρα δίκαιον ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τῆς κοίτης αὐτοῦ καὶ νῦν ἐκζητήσω τὸ αἷμα αὐτοῦ ἐκ χειρὸς ὑμῶν καὶ ἐξολεθρεύσω ὑμᾶς ἐκ τῆς γῆς

how much more now, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house upon his bed,
shall I now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth!

A fortiori conclusion: the verdict pronounced καὶ νῦν

The double καὶ νῦν drives the a fortiori argument from v. 10 to its conclusion: if the Ziklag messenger deserved death, how much more these wicked men who murdered an innocent man asleep in his own house. The forensic idiom ἐκζητήσω τὸ αἷμα ... ἐκ χειρὸς ὑμῶν ('require his blood at your hand'; cf. Gen 9:5) frames the execution as blood-vengeance/justice, and ἐξολεθρεύσω ('I will utterly destroy') pronounces the sentence.

καὶ
and

coordinate conjunction (with νῦν: 'and now / how much more')

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

νῦν
now

temporal/logical adverb (a fortiori marker)

→ adverbial qualification

νῦν: 'now'; in καὶ νῦν ('and now / so then'), rendering הַעַתָּה, it marks the logical transition from precedent to present verdict — here with a fortiori force ('how much more now').

ἄνδρες
men

Nominative

subject of ἀπεκτάγκασιν

→ participant prominence

άνήρ (pl. ἄνδρες): 'men'; here the two murderers, characterized morally by the adjective that follows.

πονηροὶ
wicked

Nominative

attributive adjective (with ἄνδρες: 'wicked men')

→ participant prominence

πονηρός: 'evil / wicked / wretched'; renders נַפְשָׁר; David's moral verdict on the killers, set in antithesis to the δίκαιον ('righteous') victim.

ἀπεκτάγκασιν

have killed

Perf Act Indic 3 Pl · ἀποκτείνω

main verb (the crime stated)

→ resultative perfect (the killing as accomplished, abiding guilt)

ἀποκτείνω (perf. ἀπεκτάγκασιν): 'kill / put to death'; renders ληῖ; the perfect stresses the abiding fact and guilt of the murder — the deed is done and its consequences now fall on the doers.

ἄνδρα

man

Accusative

direct object of ἀπεκτάγκασιν

→ object specification

ἄνῃρ (acc. ἄνδρα): 'man'; the victim, Ish-bosheth, characterized as δίκαιος ('righteous/innocent').

δίκαιον

righteous / innocent

Accusative

attributive adjective (with ἄνδρα: 'righteous man')

→ object specification

δίκαιος: 'righteous / just / innocent'; renders קַיִץ; here 'innocent' in the forensic sense — Ish-bosheth had committed no capital offense; his murder in bed was unjust bloodshed, the antithesis of the πονηροί who killed him.

ἐν

in

preposition + dative (locative)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐν: meaning 'in'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + dative (locative).

τῷ

the

Dative

article (with οἴκῳ)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

οἴκῳ

house

Dative

dative of place ('in his own house')

→ sphere or reference

οἶκος: 'house'; the aggravating circumstance — the murder occurred in the victim's own home, a place of sanctuary and trust.

αὐτοῦ

his

Genitive

genitive of possession ('his house')

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession ('his house').

ἐπὶ

upon

preposition + genitive (locative)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐπὶ: meaning 'upon'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + genitive (locative).

τῆς

the

Genitive

article (with κοίτης)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῆς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

κοίτης

bed

Genitive

genitive object of ἐπὶ ('upon his bed')

→ relational specification

κοίτη: 'bed / couch'; the same word as v. 5; the further aggravation — the man was killed defenseless in his sleep, on his own bed.

αὐτοῦ

his

Genitive

genitive of possession ('his bed')

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession ('his bed').

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction (with vōv)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

νῦν

now

temporal adverb (introducing the sentence)

→ adverbial qualification

νῦν: 'now'; the second καὶ νῦν moves from the indictment to the pronouncement of sentence.

ἐκζητήσω

I will require

Fut Act Indic 1 Sg · ἐκζητέω

main verb (forensic demand for blood)

→ predictive/resolutive future (David's judicial resolve)

ἐκζητέω: 'seek out / require / demand'; the idiom ἐκζητεῖν τὸ αἷμα ἐκ χειρός ('require blood at the hand of', cf. Gen 9:5; Ezek 33:6) is the legal formula for exacting blood-vengeance/accountability for unlawful killing; David holds the murderers accountable.

τὸ

the

Accusative

article (with αἷμα)

→ noun-phrase marking

τὸ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

αἷμα

blood

Accusative

direct object of ἐκζητήσω

→ object specification

αἷμα: 'blood'; renders ὁτι; here 'blood' = the bloodguilt of the murder, for which the killers must answer with their own lives.

αὐτοῦ

his

Genitive

genitive of possession ('his blood', the victim's)

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession ('his blood', the victim's).

ἐκ

from / at

preposition + genitive (forensic: 'at the hand of')

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐκ: in the idiom ἐκ χειρὸς ὑμῶν ('from/at your hand'), rendering עַל יְדֵי, the standard phrase for demanding accountability.

χειρὸς

hand

Genitive

genitive object of ἐκ ('at your hand')

→ relational specification

χείρ: 'hand'; metonymy for agency/responsibility; 'require blood at your hand' = hold you personally responsible for the killing.

ὑμῶν

your

Genitive

genitive of possession (2nd person pl.: 'your hand')

→ relational specification

ὑμῶν: meaning 'your'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession (2nd person pl.: 'your hand').

καὶ
and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἐξολεθρεύσω

I will utterly destroy

Fut Act Indic 1 Sg · ἐξολεθρεύω

main verb (the death sentence)

→ predictive/resolutive future (the pronounced sentence)

ἐξολεθρεύω: 'destroy utterly / exterminate'; renders תִּמְשֶׁה / תִּהְרָג; the intensive compound is the standard LXX verb for total destruction/cutting off; here it pronounces the murderers' death sentence — they will be wiped 'from the earth'.

ὕμᾱς

you

Accusative

direct object of ἐξολεθρεύσω

→ participant reference

ὕμᾱς: meaning 'you'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as direct object of ἐξολεθρεύσω.

ἐκ

from

preposition + genitive (source: removal from)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐκ: meaning 'from'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + genitive (source: removal from).

τῆς

the

Genitive

article (with γῆς)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῆς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

γῆς

earth / land

Genitive

genitive object of ἐκ ('from the earth')

→ relational specification

γῆ: 'earth / land / ground'; renders γῆ; 'destroy you from the earth' = remove you from the land of the living; the totalizing phrase seals the sentence of death.

12 καὶ ἐνετείλατο Δαυὶδ τοῖς παιδαρίοις αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀποκτέννουσιν αὐτούς καὶ κολοβοῦσιν τὰς χεῖρας αὐτῶν καὶ τοὺς πόδας αὐτῶν καὶ ἐκρέμασαν αὐτούς ἐπὶ τῆς κρήνης ἐν Χεβρων καὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν Μεμφιβοσθε ἔθαψαν ἐν τῷ τάφῳ Αβεννηρ υἱοῦ Νηρ

And David commanded his young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and their feet, and hung them up over the pool in Hebron; but the head of Memphibosthe they buried in the tomb of Abner the son of Ner.

Execution of the verdict and honorable burial (chapter resolution)

καὶ ἐνετείλατο Δαυὶδ

The sentence is carried out: David's servants kill, mutilate (hands and feet — talionic for the hands that struck and feet that fled), and hang the bodies publicly by the pool of Hebron. The final clause reverses the murderers' expectation: the severed head they brought as a trophy is given honorable burial in Abner's tomb. The chapter closes with David's characteristic respect for the house of Saul (cf. his lament over Abner, ch. 3), vindicating his innocence in the dynastic transition.

καὶ
and

narrative conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἐνετείλατο
commanded

Aor Mid Indic 3 Sg · ἐντέλλομαι

main verb (David's order)

→ constative aorist (the act of commanding)

ἐντέλλομαι: 'command / give orders / charge'; renders Πῆϛ; David issues the order for the execution to his retainers.

Δαυὶδ
David

subject (indeclinable name)

→ participant identification

Δαυὶδ: indeclinable; see v. 8.

τοῖς
the

Dative

article (with παιδαρίοις)

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῖς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

παιδαρίοις

young men / servants

Dative

indirect object of ἐνετείλατο

→ sphere or reference

παιδάριον: 'lad / young man / servant'; diminutive of παῖς; renders גַּלְגַּל; here David's young attendants/retainers who carry out the execution.

αὐτοῦ

his

Genitive

genitive of possession ('his young men')

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession ('his young men').

καὶ

and

narrative conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἀποκτένουσιν

they kill

Pres Act Indic 3 Pl · ἀποκτένω

main verb (historic present)

→ historic present (vivid execution of the sentence)

ἀποκτένω (Koine byform of ἀποκτείνω): 'kill / put to death'; the historic present renders the carrying-out of the death sentence vivid and immediate, echoing the historic presents of the murder itself in v. 7 — poetic justice told in the same tense.

αὐτούς

them

Accusative

direct object of ἀποκτένουσιν

→ participant reference

αὐτούς: meaning 'them'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as direct object of ἀποκτένουσιν.

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

κολοβοῦσιν

they cut off / mutilate

Pres Act Indic 3 Pl · κολοβόω

main verb (historic present)

→ historic present (vivid: the mutilation)

κολοβόω: 'cut short / dock / mutilate / maim'; renders גַּלְגַּל; the cutting off of the hands and feet is a talionic mutilation — the hands that struck Ish-bosheth and the feet that fled westward with his head are severed; the bodies are then publicly displayed.

τάς

the

Accusative

article (with χεῖρας)

→ noun-phrase marking

τάς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

χεῖρας

hands

Accusative

direct object of κολοβοῦσιν

→ object specification

χείρ (pl. χεῖρας): 'hand'; the hands that committed the murder are severed — the same word that opened the chapter in the idiom of Ish-bosheth's slack hands (v. 1), now an instrument of talionic justice.

αὐτῶν

their

Genitive

genitive of possession ('their hands')

→ relational specification

αὐτῶν: meaning 'their'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession ('their hands').

καὶ

and

coordinate conjunction

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

τοὺς

the

Accusative

article (with πόδας)

→ noun-phrase marking

τοὺς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

πόδας

feet

Accusative

direct object of κολοβοῦσιν (coordinate with χεῖρας)

→ object specification

πούς (pl. πόδας): 'foot'; the feet that carried them on their all-night flight (v. 7) are severed; cf. the lame feet of Mephibosheth (v. 4) — the chapter's motif of feet returns at its close.

αὐτῶν

their

Genitive

genitive of possession ('their feet')

→ relational specification

αὐτῶν: meaning 'their'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as genitive of possession ('their feet').

καὶ

and

narrative conjunction (returning to aorist)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἐκρέμασαν

they hung up

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · κρεμάννυμι

main verb (public display of the bodies)

→ constative aorist (the act of hanging)

κρεμάννυμι: 'hang / suspend'; renders הִלָּךְ; the public hanging/exposure of the executed bodies by the pool served as a deterrent and a public declaration of justice done.

αὐτούς

them

Accusative

direct object of ἐκρέμασαν

→ participant reference

αὐτούς: meaning 'them'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as direct object of ἐκρέμασαν.

ἐπὶ

by / over

preposition + genitive (locative)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐπὶ: meaning 'by'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + genitive (locative).

τῆς

the

Genitive

article (with κρήνης)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῆς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

κρήνης

pool / spring

Genitive

genitive object of ἐπὶ ('over the pool')

→ relational specification

κρήνη: 'spring / fountain / pool'; renders כְּרִיךְ ('pool'); the public watering-place of Hebron, a place of maximum visibility for the exposed bodies.

ἐν

in

preposition + dative (locative)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐν: meaning 'in'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + dative (locative).

Χεβρων

Hebron

object of ἐν (indeclinable place-name)

→ participant identification

Χεβρων: Hebron; indeclinable; see v. 1; David's capital, where justice is publicly enacted.

καὶ

and / but

coordinate conjunction (adversative contrast)

→ discourse linkage or contrast

καὶ: meaning 'and'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

τὴν

the

Accusative

article (with κεφαλὴν; fronted for emphasis)

→ noun-phrase marking

τὴν: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

κεφαλὴν

head

Accusative

fronted direct object of ἔθαψαν

→ object specification

κεφαλὴ: 'head'; the severed head of Ish-bosheth, fronted for contrast — what the murderers brought as a trophy David now gives honorable burial; the leitmotif of vv. 7–8 reaches its resolution.

Μεμφιβοσθε

Memphibosthe

genitive of relationship (indeclinable: 'head of Ish-bosheth')

→ participant identification

Μεμφιβοσθε: Ish-bosheth; indeclinable; see v. 1; the slain Saulide king, honored in death by David.

ἔθαψαν

they buried

Aor Act Indic 3 Pl · θάπτω

main verb (the honorable burial)

→ constative aorist (the act of burial)

θάπτω: 'bury / give burial'; renders קָבַר; honorable burial of the head in Abner's tomb signals David's respect for Saul's house and his repudiation of the regicide — the climactic act of the chapter.

ἐν

in

preposition + dative (locative)

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐν: meaning 'in'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition + dative (locative).

τῷ

the

Dative

article (with τάφω)

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

τάφω

tomb

Dative

dative of place ('in the tomb')

→ sphere or reference

τάφος: 'tomb / grave'; renders קָבַר; Abner's tomb at Hebron (cf. 2 Kgdms 3:32, where David wept at Abner's burial); burying the Saulide head there unites the two slain leaders of Saul's cause in honorable memory.

Αβεννηρ

Abner

genitive of possession (indeclinable: 'tomb of Abner')

→ participant identification

Αβεννηρ: Abner; indeclinable; see v. 1; the slain commander whose tomb now receives Ish-bosheth's head — closing the chapter where it began, with the death of Abner.

υἱοῦ

son

Genitive

appositive to Αβεννηρ (genitive: 'son of Ner')

→ relational specification

υἱός: 'son'; appositional, giving Abner's patronymic.

Νηρ

Ner

genitive of relationship (indeclinable: 'son of Ner')

→ participant identification

Νηρ: transliteration of Hebrew נָר; Abner's father, Saul's uncle (1 Kgdms 14:50–51); indeclinable; the final word of the chapter, sealing the Saulide-Benjaminite frame.

On the labels. Parsing gives Tense·Voice·Mood·Person·Number (+ Case·Number·Gender for participles) and lemma. The *syntactic-function* and **semantic-force** tiers follow standard intermediate-grammar categories (e.g. Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*); both involve interpretive judgment, and the majority reading has been chosen where opinions differ. Lexical notes condense commonly cited data (etymology, sense range, synonym contrasts, NT frequency, OT/LXX echoes) and are no substitute for a lexicon.

On the discourse tier. Discourse structure operates above the word, so it is shown at the clause/verse level (the connective, the relation it signals, and the role of the clause) and summarized in the chapter outline. Relation labels, any proposed chiasm, and the paragraph divisions reflect a common reading of the argument; other discourse analyses segment and label some relations differently.