

The battle was very fierce that day; and **Abner** and the men of Israel were beaten by the **servants of David**. The three sons of Zeruah were there, Joab, Abishai, and **Asahel**. Now **Asahel** was as swift of foot as a wild gazelle. **Asahel** pursued **Abner**, **turning neither to the right nor to the left** as he **went after** him. Then **Abner turned after** and said, "Is it you, **Asahel**?" He answered, "Yes, it is." **Abner** said to him, "**Turn to your right or to your left**, and seize one of the young men, and take his spoil." But **Asahel would not turn away** from **going after** him. **Abner** said again to **Asahel**, "**Turn away from following me**; why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I show my face to your brother Joab?" **But he refused to turn away**. So **Abner** struck him in the stomach with the butt of his spear, so that the spear came out **after** at his back. He fell there, and died where he lay.