

1 Samuel 14:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Kish was the father of Saul; and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel.

Analysis

And Kish was the father of Saul; and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel.

The genealogical connection - 'Kish was the father of Saul; and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel' - clarifies family relationships that will prove important. Saul and Abner were cousins, explaining both their close alliance and Abner's later capacity to act independently in supporting Ishbosheth. The household connections established here continue to influence Israelite politics long after Saul's death. Family structure in ancient Israel carried political implications.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern genealogies served political as well as historical purposes. Establishing Abner's relationship to Saul clarified his authority to act on behalf of the royal house. These kinship ties bound obligations that transcended individual choices.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do family relationships continue to shape events beyond individuals' intentions?
2. What does the genealogical information suggest about the tribal nature of Israelite politics?

Interlinear Text

וְיֵשׁ	אָבִי	שָׁא וְל	וְנֵר	אָבִי	אֲבִנֵּר	בֶּן
And Kish	the father	of Saul	and Ner	the father	of Abner	was the son
H7027	H1	H7586	H5369	H1	H74	H1121

אֲבִיָּאל:

of Abiel

H22

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 9:1 (Parallel theme): Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.

1 Samuel 9:21 (Parallel theme): And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?