

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

Psalm 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

וְאַבְנֵר בֶּן נֵר אָבִי שָׁאָל אָבִי זֶרֶר אָבִי אַבְנֵר אָבִי אַבְנֵר
And Kish the father of Saul and Ner the father of Abner was the son
H7027 H1 H7586 H5369 H1 H74 H1121

אַבְנֵר:
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?