

2 Samuel 2:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

Analysis

And Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

This verse contributes to the narrative of David Becomes King of Judah, emphasizing divine timing, patience in promises. The Hebrew *vayyimloch* (וַיֵּמְלֹךְ, 'and he reigned') marks David's official royal status over Judah at Hebron. The seven-year period before ruling all Israel demonstrates patient trust in God's timing. Theological themes include divine election, the gradual unfolding of God's promises through historical process, and the reality that human resistance to God's plans produces genuine suffering.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 2 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding divine timing, patience in promises provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid

anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of divine timing, patience in promises?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּצֵא	אֶבְנֵי ר	בֶּן	נֵר	וְעַבְדֵי י	אִישׁ	בִּשְׁת
went out	And Abner	the son	of Ner	and the servants	H0	of Ishbosheth
H3318	H74	H1121	H5369	H5650		H378
בֶּן	שָׁא וּל	מִמַּחֲנֵי ים	גִּבְעוֹנָה:			
the son	of Saul	from Mahanaim	to Gibeon			
H1121	H7586	H4266	H1391			

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 10:4 (Parallel theme): Come up unto me, and help me, that we may smite Gibeon: for it hath made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel.

Joshua 18:25 (Parallel theme): Gibeon, and Ramah, and Beeroth,

Joshua 9:3 (Parallel theme): And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai,

Joshua 10:2 (Parallel theme): That they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, as one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all the men thereof were mighty.

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