

2 Samuel 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there was a very sore battle that day; and Abner was beaten, and the men of Israel, before the servants of David.

Analysis

And there was a very sore battle that day; and Abner was beaten, and the men of Israel, before the servants of David.

This verse contributes to the narrative of David Becomes King of Judah, emphasizing divine timing, patience in promises. The Hebrew *vayyimloch* (וַיִּמְלֹךְ, '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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

הָהָּ וַיֵּא	בַּיּוֹם	מָאֵד	עַד	קָשׁ הַ	הַמִּלְחָמָה הַ	וַיְהִי י
H1931	H3117	H3966	H5704	H7186	H4421	H1961
	that day	And there was a very		sore	battle	
דָּוִד:	עֲבָדָיו	לִפְנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְאִנֹּשׁ י	אַבְנֵר	וַיִּכּוּ
H1732	H5650	H6440	H3478	H376	H74	H5062
of David	the servants	before	of Israel		and Abner	was beaten

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 3:1 (References David): Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

