

# 2 Samuel 2:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Abner looked behind him, and said, Art thou Asahel?  
And he answered, I am.

## Analysis

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**Then Abner looked behind him, and said, Art thou Asahel? And he answered, I am.**

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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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|                        |                   |               |                        |         |       |                        |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------|-------|------------------------|
| וַיִּפֹּן              | אֲבִנֶר           | אַחֲרָיו      | וַיֹּאמֶר              | הַאֲתָה | הָאָה | עֲשֵׂהָ לִּי           |
| <b>looked</b>          | <b>Then Abner</b> | <b>behind</b> | <b>And he answered</b> | H859    | H2088 | <b>Art thou Asahel</b> |
| H6437                  | H74               | H310          | H559                   |         |       | H6214                  |
| <br>                   |                   |               |                        |         |       |                        |
| וַיֹּאמֶר              | אֲנִי:            |               |                        |         |       |                        |
| <b>And he answered</b> | H595              |               |                        |         |       |                        |
| H559                   |                   |               |                        |         |       |                        |

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