

# 2 Samuel 2:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Abner said again to Asahel, Turn thee aside from following me: wherefore should I smite thee to the ground? how then should I hold up my face to Joab thy brother?

## Analysis

**And Abner said again to Asahel, Turn thee aside from following me: wherefore should I smite thee to the ground? how then should I hold up my face to Joab thy brother?**

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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## 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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לֹכֶד	ס ור	עֲשֵׂה אָל	לֹא	לִאמְרָה	אָבִגְרָע	עַד יְיָ סָבָע
<b>again</b>	H5750	<b>And Abner</b>	<b>said</b>	H413	<b>to Asahel</b>	<b>Turn thee aside</b>
H3254		H74	H559		H6214	H5493
וְאַיְלָה	אֲרַצָּה	אֲכַפֵּה	לְמַאֲפָבָה	מִאֲפָבָה	לְמִאֲפָבָה	לְמִאֲפָבָה
<b>from following</b>	H4100	<b>me wherefore should I smite</b>	<b>thee to the ground</b>			
H310		H5221			H776	H349
אֲשֶׁר אַבְנֵל	אֲלֵיכֶם	וְאַבְנֵל	אֲשֶׁר אַבְנֵל	אֲשֶׁר אַבְנֵל	אֲשֶׁר אַבְנֵל	אֲשֶׁר אַבְנֵל
<b>how then should I hold up</b>	<b>my face</b>	<b>to Joab</b>	<b>thy brother</b>	<b>thy brother</b>	<b>thy brother</b>	<b>thy brother</b>
H5375	H6440	H413	H3097		H251	

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 3:27** (Parallel theme): And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

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