

# 2 Samuel 2:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Abner called to Joab, and said, Shall the sword devour for ever? knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end? how long shall it be then, ere thou bid the people return from following their brethren?

## Analysis

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**Then Abner called to Joab, and said, Shall the sword devour for ever? knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end? how long shall it be then, ere thou bid the people return from following their brethren?**

This verse contributes to the narrative of David Becomes King of Judah, emphasizing divine timing, patience in promises. The Hebrew vayyimloch (וַיַּמְלֹךְ, '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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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## 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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תִּאכְלֶל בְּלָגֶן צָחָק אֶבְנֶר רְאֵבָן בְּאֶל תְּאִמְרֵר יְוָא בְּאֶל יְאִקְבָּא  
called Then Abner H413 to Joab and said for ever devour  
H7121 H74 H3097 H559 H5331 H398

מִכְּה בְּלָגֶן צָחָק אֶבְנֶר רְאֵבָן בְּאֶל שְׁעַתָּה יְדִי כְּבָב  
Shall the sword knowest thou not that it will be bitterness  
H2719 H3808 H3045 H3588 H4751

לְשׁוּ וּבְלָגֶן תְּאִמְרֵר בְּאֶמְרָגָן הְתִּהְיָה הַמִּזְרָחָן  
H1961 in the latter end H5704 H4970 H3808 and said the people return  
H314 H559 H5971 H7725

מִאַחֲרֵיכֶם אַחֲרֵיכֶם  
from following their brethren  
H310 H251

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 46:14** (Word): Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in Migdol, and publish in Noph and in Tahpanhes: say ye, Stand fast, and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee.

**Acts 7:26** (Parallel theme): And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?

**Jeremiah 46:10** (Word): For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.