

2 Samuel 2:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the servants of David had smitten of Benjamin, and of Abner's men, so that three hundred and threescore men died.

Analysis

But the servants of David had smitten of Benjamin, and of Abner's men, so that three hundred and threescore men died.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וְעַבְדֵי י'	דָּוִד	הִכּוּ	מִבְנֵימָן	וּבְאֲנָשִׁי	אַבְנֵר
But the servants	of David	had smitten	of Benjamin	men	and of Abner's
H5650	H1732	H5221	H1144	H582	H74
שָׁלֹשׁ	מֵאָה	וּשְׁשֵׁים	אֶחָד	מָתוּ:	
so that three	hundred	and threescore	men	died	
H7969	H3967	H8346	H376	H4191	