

2 Samuel 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim;

Analysis

But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim;

This verse contributes to the narrative of David Becomes King of Judah, emphasizing divine timing, patience in promises. The Hebrew *vayyimloch* (וַיֵּמְלֹךְ, '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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

אֶת	לָקַח	ח	שָׂא	וּל	אֲשֶׁר	ר	צָבָא	א	שָׂר	י	ר	בֶּן	אֲבִנֵּי	ר
			of Saul		host		captain		of Ner		the son		But Abner	
H853	H3947	H7586		H6635	H8269	H5369	H1121	H74						
מַחֲנֵיִם:	וַעֲבַר	הוּא	שָׂא	וּל	בֶּן	בִּשְׁת	אֶת	יֵשׁ						
to Mahanaim	and brought him over		of Saul		the son	Ishbosheth								
H4266	H5674	H7586	H1121	H378										

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 14:50 (Parallel theme): And the name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz: and the name of the captain of his host was Abner, the son of Ner, Saul's uncle.

Genesis 32:2 (Parallel theme): And when Jacob saw them, he said, This is God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

