

2 Samuel 3:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

Analysis

Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Abner's Defection and Death, emphasizing political maneuvering, revenge consequences. This chapter illustrates the complexity of political transition and personal revenge. Abner's defection using covenant language (brit, בְּרִית) contrasts with Joab's treacherous murder, demonstrating how personal vengeance undermines national purposes. The text develops themes of legitimate vs illegitimate authority, the corrupting power of revenge, and maintaining integrity when others act unethically.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 3 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 political maneuvering, revenge consequences 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of political maneuvering, revenge consequences?
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

וַיְהִי יָמֵי H1961	הַמְלָחָמָה war H4421	אָרְכָּהּ Now there was long H752	בִּי H996	וּבֵית and the house H1004	לְשָׁאֵל of Saul H7586	וַיְהִי H996
וּבֵית and the house H1004	וְדָוִד but David H1732	וְדָוִד but David H1732	הִלָּךְ יָמָיו waxed H1980	וַיְהִי קָוָה and stronger H2390	וּבֵית and the house H1004	
לְשָׁאֵל of Saul H7586	וַיְהִי יָמָיו waxed H1980	וַיְהִי יָמָיו and weaker H1800				

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 14:30 (Parallel theme): And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days.

Job 8:7 (Parallel theme): Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

2 Samuel 2:17 (References David): And there was a very sore battle that day; and Abner was beaten, and the men of Israel, before the servants of David.

Psalms 84:7 (Parallel theme): They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

Job 17:9 (Parallel theme): The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

Galatians 5:17 (Parallel theme): For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

1 Kings 15:32 (Parallel theme): And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

1 Kings 15:16 (Parallel theme): And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.