

# 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 Defects and Dies, emphasizing political maneuvering, revenge consequences. This chapter illustrates the complexity of political transition and personal revenge. Abner's defection using covenant language (*brit*, ברית) 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

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**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

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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

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וְיָמִים שָׁאָל יְהוָה וְתָמָם  
H1961 war Now there was long H996 and the house of Saul H996  
H4421 H752 H1004 H7586

וְיָמִים וְיָמִים וְיָמִים  
and the house but David but David waxed and stronger and the house  
H1004 H1732 H1732 H1980 H2390 H1004

וְלֹא יָמִים וְלֹא יָמִים  
of Saul waxed and weaker  
H7586 H1980 H1800

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.