

# 2 Samuel 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he could not answer Abner a word again, because he feared him.

## Analysis

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### **And he could not answer Abner a word again, because he feared him.**

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*, 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

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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

## **Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth**

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## 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

רְאֵבָר אַבְּגָר אַת לְהַשְׁיב עַוְד יְכָל וְלֹא

H3808 **And he could** H5750 **not answer** H853 **Abi**

H3201 H7725 H74 H1697

## מیرאתו ואותו:

**aqain because he feared** H853

H3372

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