

2 Samuel 3:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose is the land? saying also, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee.

Analysis

And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose is the land? saying also, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee.

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

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וַיִּשְׁלַח אַבְנֵי רַמְלָאֲכַיִם אֶל דָּוִד תַּחַת וְלִאמֹר
sent **And Abner** **messengers** ^{H413} **to David** ^{H8478} **on his behalf saying**
^{H7971} ^{H74} ^{H4397} ^{H1732} ^{H559}

לְמִי אֵת הָאֲדָמָה לִאמֹר בְּרִיתְךָ כְּרִיתְהָ
^{H4310} **Whose is the land** **on his behalf saying** **also Make** **thy league** ^{H854}
^{H776} ^{H559} ^{H3772} ^{H1285}

וְהִנֵּה יָדִי עִמָּךְ לָקֵט בְּ
^{H2009} **with me and behold my hand** ^{H5973} **shall be with thee to bring about**
^{H3027} ^{H5437}

יִשְׂרָאֵל: כָּל אֶת אֶל יִבְ
^{H413} ^{H853} ^{H3605} **all Israel**
^{H3478}