

2 Samuel 3:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee: but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face.

Analysis

And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee: but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of 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

וַיֹּאמֶר	טוֹב	אֲנִי	אֶכְרֹת	אֶתְךָ	בֶּרֶךְ יְיָ	אֵלָּה	דָּבָר
And he said	Well		I will make		a league		thing
H559	H2896	H589	H3772	H854	H1285	H389	H1697
אִתְּךָ	אֶתְּךָ	שָׂא לְ	מֵאֶתְךָ	וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹא		
with thee but one		I require		And he said			
H259	H595	H7592	H854	H559	H3808		
לֹא רָא וְ	אֶתְּ	פָנָי:	כִּי יִ	אִם	פָּנָי:	בְּבֹאֲךָ	
Thou shalt not see		except thou first			except thou first	bring	
H7200	H853	H6440	H3588	H518	H6440	H935	
אֵת	מִיכָל לְ	בִתּוֹ	שָׂא וְ	בְּבֹאֲךָ	לֹא רָא וְ	אֵת	
H853	Michal	daughter	Saul's	bring	Thou shalt not see	H853	
	H4324	H1323	H7586	H935	H7200		
פָּנָי:							
except thou first							
H6440							

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 43:3 (Parallel theme): And Judah spake unto him, saying, The man did solemnly protest unto us, saying, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.