

# 2 Samuel 3:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

## Analysis

**And David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines.**

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

---

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## 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

---

שָׁאֵל בָּנָיו	בְּשַׁת אִישׁ	אֶל מֶלֶךְ יִם	צִדְּקָה יְמִינָה	וְשַׁלְּחָה
Saul's son	to Ishbosheth	messengers	David	sent
H7586	H378	H4397	H1732	H7971

אָב שַׁתִּי אֲשֶׁר מִיכָּל לְאִם רַ	אֲשֶׁתִּי אֶת תְּנַנְּהָה לִאמְרָה	אֶת אֲשֶׁתִּי אֶת מִיכָּל אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר מִיכָּל אֶת אֶת אֲשֶׁתִּי אֲבָבָה
which I espoused	my wife me	Michal	which I espoused
H781	H802 H853	H4324	H834

פְּלִשְׁתִּים: עַرְלָוֹת בְּמֵאַה לְ	עַרְלָוֹת בְּמֵאַה לְ	foreskins to me for an hundred
of the Philistines		
H6430	H6190	H3967

## Additional Cross-References

---

**1 Samuel 18:27** (References David): Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.

**1 Samuel 18:25** (References David): And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

**2 Samuel 2:10** (References David): Ish-bosheth Saul's son was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)