

2 Samuel 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And her husband went with her along weeping behind her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, Go, return. And he returned.

Analysis

And her husband went with her along weeping behind her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, Go, return. And he returned.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

לְהָ	אֶתָּהּ	אִישָׁהּ	לְהָ	וּבְכָהּ
with her along weeping	H854	And her husband	with her along weeping	H1058
H1980		H376	H1980	
אַחֲרָיָהּ	עַד	בְּחֹרֵי יָם	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֶבְנֵי רֶ
behind	H5704	her to Bahurim	Then said	H413
H310		H980	H559	H74
לְהָ	וַיָּשָׁב:	וַיָּשָׁב:		
with her along weeping	And he returned	And he returned		
H1980	H7725	H7725		

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 19:16 (Parallel theme): And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, which was of Bahurim, hasted and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David.

2 Samuel 16:5 (Parallel theme): And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.

1 Kings 2:8 (Parallel theme): And, behold, thou hast with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I sware to him by the LORD, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword.

2 Samuel 17:18 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom: but they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man's house in Bahurim, which had a well in his court; whither they went down.

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