

# 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

וְבָל הַאֲנָשָׁה אֲתָּה לֹא תַּעֲשֶׂה

**with her along weeping** H854 **And her husband** **with her along weeping**

H1980

H854

### And her husband

er alone

H1058

אָבִין רָאֵל יְהוָה אָמַר בְּחֵר יִם עַד אַחֲר יְהוָה

behind

H5704

Digitized by

**Then said**

H413

Abner

ל

וְשָׁבָת

נְשָׁבָּה

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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