

2 Samuel 3:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Abner had communication with the elders of Israel,
saying, Ye sought for David in times past to be king over you:

Analysis

And Abner had communication with the elders of Israel, saying, Ye sought for David in times past to be king over you:

This verse contributes to the narrative of Abner's Defection and Death, 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

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

וַיְדַבֵּר	אֲבִנֵּי ר	הָיְיָתָם	עִם	זִקְנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לֵאמֹר
H1697	And Abner	had communication	H5973	with the elders	of Israel	saying
	H74	H1961		H2205	H3478	H559
גַּם	תְּמוּל	גַּם	שֶׁלֹּשׁ	הָיְיָתָם	מִבְּקֹשׁ ים	אֶת
H1571	in times	H1571	past	had communication	Ye sought	H853
	H8543		H8032	H1961	H1245	
דָּוִד	לִמְלֶכֶת	עֲלֵיכֶם:				
for David	to be king	H5921				
H1732	H4428					