

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 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, ברית*) 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

לְאָמֵן רִאשְׁנָא לְזִבְחָנָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְדָבָר
H1697 **And Abner** H5973 **had communication** H2205 **with the elders** H3478 **of Israel** H559 **saying**
H74 H1961 H205 H3478 H559

אֶת מִבְּקָשׁ יְמִינָה שְׁלֹשׁ מְגֻמָּנִים תִּמְוֹלֵג
H1571 **in times** H1571 **past** H1961 **had communication** H1245 **Ye sought** H853
H8543 H8032 H1961 H1245 H853

לְמִן לְגַדְעָה עַלְיכֶם: תְּבָא קָדְשָׁךְ דָּוִיד
H1732 **for David** H4428 **to be king** H5921
H1732 H4428 H5921