

2 Samuel 3:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now then do it: for the LORD hath spoken of David, saying, By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, and out of the hand of all their enemies.

Analysis

Now then do it: for the LORD hath spoken of David, saying, By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, and out of the hand of all their enemies.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

אֵלֶּה דְּבָרִים אֲלֵיכֶם רְאֵת וְעַתָּה כִּי הִנֵּה כִּי שָׁאַלְתָּהּ

H6258 Now then do H3588 it for the LORD H413 David

H6213 H3068 H559 H1732

לְאָמֵן רְאֵת וְמַיְדָה עֲבָדִים עֲמָדִים אֶת הַשְׁעָרִים

הַשְׁפָּטָה כִּי דְּבָרִים אֲתָּה עֲמָדִים

H559 H3027 H1732 H5650 H3467 H853 H5971

אַבִּיכֶם כָּל וְמַיְדָה יְשָׁרָאֵל

of all their enemies Israel By the hand of the Philistines By the hand

H3478 H3027 H6430 H3027 H3605 H341

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 15:28 (References Lord): And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

2 Samuel 3:9 (References Lord): So do God to Abner, and more also, except, as the LORD hath sworn to David, even so I do to him;

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