

# 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

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**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

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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

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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וְעַתָּה	עַשֵׂה	כִּי	יְהוָה	לְאִמְרֵי	אֵל	דָּוִד
H6258	Now then do	H3588	it for the LORD	hath spoken	H413	David
	H6213		H3068	H559		H1732
לְאִמְרֵי	וּבְיַד	דָּוִד	עַבְדִּי	הוֹשִׁיעַ	אֶת	עַמִּי
hath spoken	By the hand	David	of my servant	I will save	H853	my people
H559	H3027	H1732	H5650	H3467		H5971
יִשְׂרָאֵל	וּבְיַד	פְּלִשְׁתֵּי	וּבְיַד	כָּל	אֹיְבֵיהֶם:	
Israel	By the hand	of the Philistines	By the hand	H3605	of all their enemies	
H3478	H3027	H6430	H3027		H341	

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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