

# 2 Samuel 3:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Abner also spake in the ears of Benjamin: and Abner went also to speak in the ears of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel, and that seemed good to the whole house of Benjamin.

## Analysis

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**And Abner also spake in the ears of Benjamin: and Abner went also to speak in the ears of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel, and that seemed good to the whole house of Benjamin.**

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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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## 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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אָבִגְרָם יְלִבְבָשׂ רְגָם בְּאַזְגָּן בְּגִתְּמָן: אָבִגְרָם יְלִבְבָשׂ רְגָם  
also spake H1571 And Abner H74 in the ears H241 of Benjamin H1144 H1980 H1571 And Abner H74

טוֹב אֲשֶׁר כָּל אֵת בְּחִבָּר וּנְזִיד בְּאַזְגָּן לְבִבְבָשׂ  
also spake H1696 in the ears H241 of David H1732 in Hebron H2275 H853 H3605 H834 good H2896

בְּיַת כָּל וּבְעֵינֵי יְשַׁבָּא לְוּבְעֵינֵי בְּגִתְּמָן:  
all that seemed H5869 to Israel H3478 all that seemed H5869 H3605 to the whole house H1004 of Benjamin H1144

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Chronicles 12:29** (Parallel theme): And of the children of Benjamin, the kindred of Saul, three thousand: for hitherto the greatest part of them had kept the ward of the house of Saul.

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