

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

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'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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

לִדְבַר	גַּם	אַבְנֵי ר	בְּאָזְנֵי י	בְּנִימָן:	וַיִּלֶּךְ	גַּם	אַבְנֵי ר
also spake	H1571	And Abner	in the ears	of Benjamin	H1980	H1571	And Abner
H1696		H74	H241	H1144			H74
לִדְבַר	בְּאָזְנֵי י	דָּוִד	בְּחֶבְרוֹן	אֵת	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	טוֹב
also spake	in the ears	of David	in Hebron	H853	H3605	H834	good
H1696	H241	H1732	H2275				H2896
וּבְעֵינֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	וּבְעֵינֵי י	כָּל	בֵּית	בְּנִימָן:		
all that seemed	to Israel	all that seemed	H3605	to the whole house	of Benjamin		
H5869	H3478	H5869		H1004	H1144		

Additional Cross-References

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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