

2 Samuel 3:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made Abner and the men that were with him a feast.

Analysis

So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made Abner and the men that were with him a feast.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

אָנָשִׁים עִשְׂרֵה יָמִים וְאַתְּ וְחֶבְרֹן וְלֵבָן רַבְּיָבָן
came Abner H413 to David H1732 to Hebron H2275 and twenty H376
H935 H74 H1732 H2275 H6242 H376

אַתְּ וְאַשְׁר וְלֹאָנָשִׁים לֵבָן רַבְּיָבָן וְעִשְׂרֵה
made to David Abner H376 H834 H854
H6213 H1732 H74

מִשְׁתָּחָה:

that were with him a feast

H4960