

2 Samuel 3:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Abner said unto David, I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel unto my lord the king, that they may make a league with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that thine heart desireth. And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace.

Analysis

And Abner said unto David, I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel unto my lord the king, that they may make a league with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that thine heart desireth. And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִנֶר רַא אֲנִי אֶקְבֹּץ וְאֵל כָּה אֶקְוֶה
said **Abner** ^{H413} **And David** **I will arise** ^{H1980} **and will gather**
^{H559} ^{H74} ^{H1732} ^{H6965} ^{H6908}

אֶתְּכֶם וְיִכְרְתוּ יְשׁוּעָה לְכָל יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲדֹנָי
^{H413} **unto my lord** **the king** ^{H853} ^{H3605} **all Israel** **that they may make** ^{H854}
^{H113} ^{H4428} ^{H3478} ^{H3772}

וְיִכְרְתוּ יְשׁוּעָה לְכָל יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲדֹנָי
a league **with thee and that thou mayest reign** ^{H3605} ^{H834} **desireth**
^{H1285} ^{H4427} ^{H183}

בְּשָׁלוֹם: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִנֶר רַא אֲנִי אֶקְבֹּץ וְאֵל כָּה אֶקְוֶה
over all that thine heart **away** **And David** ^{H853} **Abner** ^{H1980} **in peace**
^{H5315} ^{H7971} ^{H1732} ^{H74} ^{H7965}

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 11:37 (Kingdom): And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel.

2 Samuel 3:12 (References David): And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose is the land? saying also, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee.

2 Samuel 3:10 (Kingdom): To translate the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beersheba.