

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

וְאֶקְבָּצָה	וְאֶל כִּה	אָקְ וּמְהָ	לְיִ אָתָר			
and will gather						
said	Abner	H413	And David	I will arise	H1980	
H559	H74		H1732	H6965		
אֶל	אָתָר	לְיִ	אָדָן	וְאֶל	וְאֶקְבָּצָה	
H413	unto my lord	H113	the king	H4428	H853	and will gather
					H3605	H6908
כָּל	בְּמִ	לְרֹ	אָתָה	בְּ	וְיִכְרַת	אָתָבָן
					1	
all Israel	that they may make	H3478			H3772	H854
בְּכָרְתָּ	וְתַ	לְכָתָ		בְּכָל	תִּתְאַנְּ	תִּתְאַנְּ
a league	with thee and that thou mayest reign	H4427		H3605	H834	desireth
H1285						H183
נְפָשָׁ	בְּ	תִּשְׁלַח	אָתָת	אָשָׁר	בְּכָל	בְּשָׁלוּם:
over all that thine heart	away	H7971	And David	H853	Abner	H1980
H5315			H1732		H74	H7965
וְיִלְגַּ	אָבָנָר	לְ	אָתָת	אָשָׁר	בְּ	in peace

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 Beer-sheba.