

2 Samuel 3:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, the servants of David and Joab came from pursuing a troop, and brought in a great spoil with them: but Abner was not with David in Hebron; for he had sent him away, and he was gone in peace.

Analysis

And, behold, the servants of David and Joab came from pursuing a troop, and brought in a great spoil with them: but Abner was not with David in Hebron; for he had sent him away, and he was gone 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

וְהִנֵּה	עָבָד	עָבָד	לְדִיד	הַבְּיָא	וַיֹּאֶבֶב	הַבְּיָא	וַיִּבְרָא
H2009	And behold the servants	of David	and Joab	and brought in			
	H5650		H1732	H3097			H935
from pursuing a troop	spoil	a great		הַבְּיָא	עָמָם	בְּבָבָל	מִבְּגָד אֶת
H1416	H7998	H7227		H5973			and brought in
							H935
with them but Abner			of David	in Hebron	כְּ	בְּחַבְרָה	וְאֶת
	H369	H5973	H1732	H2275		בְּ	אָבִנָר
for he had sent him away		H1980			שָׁלֹחַ	בְּשָׁלוּם:	וְלֹא
H7971							H7965

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