

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'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

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

H2009

עֲבָדֵי י'

And behold the servants

H5650

דָּוִד

of David

H1732

וַיֹּאבֵב

and Joab

H3097

הֵב יָאוֹ

and brought in

H935

מִמְהַגֵּד וְ

from pursuing a troop

H1416

וְשָׁלַל לְ

spoil

H7998

כֶּבֶד

a great

H7227

עִמָּם

H5973

הֵב יָאוֹ

and brought in

H935

וְאַבְנֵר

with them but Abner

H74

אִינָם

H369

עִמָּם

H5973

דָּוִד

of David

H1732

בְּחֶבְרוֹן

in Hebron

H2275

כִּי

H3588

וְשָׁלַח

for he had sent him away

H7971

בְּשָׁלוֹם:

H1980

in peace

H7965

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