

2 Samuel 3:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When Joab and all the host that was with him were come, they told Joab, saying, Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he hath sent him away, and he is gone in peace.

Analysis

When Joab and all the host that was with him were come, they told Joab, saying, Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he hath sent him away, and he is 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

לְיוֹאָב	וְכָל	הַצֶּבֶא	אֲשֶׁר	אֶת	וּ	בָּא	וְגַדּוּ	לְיוֹאָב
Joab	H3605	and all the host	H834	H854		came	they told	Joab
H3097		H6635				H935	H5046	H3097
לֵאמֹר	בָּא	אַבְנֵי ר	בֶּן	נֵר	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ		
saying	came	Abner	the son	of Ner	H413	to the king		
H559	H935	H74	H1121	H5369		H4428		
וַיִּשְׁלֶה הוּא		וַיְלֶךְ	בְּשָׁלוֹם:					
and he hath sent him away		H1980	in peace					
H7971			H7965					