

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 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

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

לְיָוָבֵב אֲשֶׁר הַצָּבָא אֶת־זֶה בָּאָתִי וְיָדָיו
Joab H3605 and all the host H834 H854 came H935 they told H5046
H3097 H6635 H935 H5046 H3097

לְאַמְרֵר בָּאָבִי רְבִנָּה נֶר אֶל לְרַבְבָּשׁוּ לְאַמְרֵר
saying H559 came H935 Abner H74 the son H1121 of Ner H5369 to the king H4428
H559 H935 H74 H1121 H5369 H4428

בְּשָׁלֹום: הִנֵּה לְרַבְבָּשׁוּ וְיִשְׁלַחַ הָוּ
and he hath sent him away H1980 in peace H7965
H7971 H7965