

# 2 Samuel 3:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

## Analysis

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**And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.**

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

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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

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיְשַׁב	וְאַבְנֵר	חִבֵּר	וְיָצַא	יְוָאָב	וְאֶל	וְלֹא
<b>was returned</b>	<b>And when Abner</b>	<b>to Hebron</b>	<b>took him aside</b>	<b>Joab</b>	<b>in</b>	H8432
H7725	H74	H2275	H5186	H3097	H413	
בְּשַׁעַר	לִדְבָּר	אֶת	בְּשַׁלֵּי	יָפֵה	שָׁם	
<b>the gate</b>	<b>to speak</b>	H854	<b>with him quietly</b>	<b>and smote</b>	H8033	
H8179	H1696		H7987	H5221		
בְּחַמְשָׁה	מִתְ	וְיִמְתָּה	בְּרִיבָה	לְעֵשֶׂה	אֶחָיוֹ	
<b>him there under the fifth</b>	<b>rib that he died</b>	<b>for the blood</b>	<b>of Asahel</b>	<b>his brother</b>		
H2570	H4191	H1818	H6214	H251		

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 2:5** (Blood): Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet.

**1 Kings 2:32** (Blood): And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head, who fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, my father David not knowing thereof, to wit, Abner the son of Ner, captain of the host of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, captain of the host of Judah.

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