

# 2 Samuel 3:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Joab and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had slain their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.

## Analysis

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**So Joab and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had slain their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.**

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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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## 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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וַיִּזְאֵב	וְאַבִּישַׁי י	אָחִיָּהּ מ	הָרָג ו	לְאַבְנֵר ר	עַל	אֶשֶׁר
<b>So Joab</b>	<b>and Abishai</b>	<b>his brother</b>	<b>slew</b>	<b>Abner</b>	H5921	H834
H3097	H52	H251	H2026	H74		
בְּמִלְחָמָה:	בְּגִבְעֹן וְ	אָחִיָּהּ מ	עָשָׂה ל	אֶת	הֵמָּה יֵת	
<b>in the battle</b>	<b>at Gibeon</b>	<b>his brother</b>	<b>Asahel</b>	<b>because he had slain</b>		
H4421	H1391	H251	H6214	H4191		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 28:4** (Parallel theme): And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.

**Proverbs 28:17** (Parallel theme): A man that doeth violence to the blood of any person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him.

