

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

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, ברית*) 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

אֲשֶׁר עָלָה לְאַבְנֵר בֶּן אַבְיָהוּס וַיַּזְאֶב
So Joab and Abishai his brother slew Abner H5921 H834
H3097 H52 H251 H2026 H74

בְּמִלְחָמָה גַּבְבֵּעַ וּן אַחִים מֵעָשָׂה אֶל הַמִּתְּהָרֵךְ
because he had slain Asahel his brother at Gibeon in the battle
H4191 H853 H6214 H251 H1391 H4421

Additional Cross-References

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.

