

2 Samuel 3:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they buried Abner in Hebron: and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept.

Analysis

And they buried Abner in Hebron: and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וַיִּקְבְּרוּ וְ	אֶת	אֲבִי ר	בְּחֶבְרוֹן	וַיִּשָּׂא	הֶמָּה לֶךְ	אֶת
And they buried	H853	Abner	in Hebron	lifted up	and the king	H853
H6912		H74	H2275	H5375	H4428	
קוֹל וְ	וַיִּבְכּוּ	אֶל	קֶּבֶר	אֲבִי ר	וַיִּבְכּוּ	כָּל
his voice	and wept	H413	at the grave	Abner	and wept	H3605
H6963	H1058		H6913	H74	H1058	

וְכָל הָעָם:

and all the people

H5971

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 24:17 (Parallel theme): Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:

Job 31:28 (Parallel theme): This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above.

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