

2 Samuel 3:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dieth?

Analysis

And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dieth?

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וְיִלְגַּן לְרַבְּנָה אֶל כִּי לְרַבְּנָה וְיִאֵם רְאַבְנָה כִּי וְתִּלְמַד לְאַבְנָה יָמַת וְתִּלְמַד לְאַבְנָה יָמַת
lamented And the king H413 Abner and said dieth as a fool Died
H6969 H4428 H74 H559 H4194 H5036 H4191

אַבְנָה:

Abner

H74

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 35:25 (Parallel theme): And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they are written in the lamentations.

2 Samuel 1:17 (Parallel theme): And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

