

2 Samuel 3:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy hands were not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters: as a man falleth before wicked men, so fellest thou. And all the people wept again over him.

Analysis

Thy hands were not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters: as a man falleth before wicked men, so fellest thou. And all the people wept again over him.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

הָגָּ שׁוּ	לַנְּחֻשֶׁת יָם	לֹא	וּבְגָל יָדְךָ	אָסֵר וְתֵּ	לֹא	יָדְךָ
put	into fetters	H3808	nor thy feet	were not bound	H3808	Thy hands
H5066	H5178		H7272	H631		H3027
כָּל	וַיִּסָּ פֹ	נָפַלְתָּ	עוֹלָה	בְּנֵי	לִפְנֵי י	נָפַלְתָּ
H3605	again	as a man falleth	wicked	men	before	as a man falleth
	H3254	H5307	H5766	H1121	H6440	H5307
עָלִיו:	לָבַכְתָּ	וְ				
H5921	wept					thou And all the people
	H1058					H5971