

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

הָנָךְ	שָׁוֹ	לְנַחֲשָׁת	וּמְ	לֹא	וְרָגֵל	יָבֵךְ	לֹא	אָסַר	וְתַ	לֹא	יָד	בְּ	
Thy hands	H3808	were not bound	H631	nor thy feet	H7272	into fetters	H5178	put	H5066				
H3027			H6440		H1121		H5766		H3254				
כֹּל	יְהִסְכֵּר	גַּם	לֹתֶת	עִזּוֹל	הַ	בְּנֵי	לְפָנֵי	גַּם	לֹתֶת				
as a man falleth	before	men	wicked	as a man falleth				again				H3605	
H5307		H1058		H5307				H3254					
בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ		
thou	And	all	the	people				wept					H5921
H5971								H1058					