

2 Samuel 3:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when all the people came to cause David to eat meat while it was yet day, David sware, saying, So do God to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or ought else, till the sun be down.

Analysis

And when all the people came to cause David to eat meat while it was yet day, David sware, saying, So do God to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or ought else, till the sun be down.

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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

בָּוָא	כֹּל	מִן	כָּל	לְפִנְךָ	וְתִּתְּבֹּר	אַתָּה	לְפִנְךָ	וְתִּתְּבֹּר	כָּל	בָּוָא
be down	And when all	the people		to cause		H853	David		bread	
H935	H3605	H5971		H1262			H1732		H3899	
לְתִּשְׁבַּע	בָּיִם	בָּעַד	לְתִּשְׁבַּע	בָּיִם	בָּעַד		לְתִּשְׁבַּע	בָּיִם	בָּעַד	לְתִּשְׁבַּע
while it was yet	day	sware	David	saying		H3541	So do		H0	
H5750	H3117	H7650	H1732	H559			H6213			
בָּוָא	כָּל	לְאָמֵן	רְאֵיתִיךְ	כָּל	יָשַׁבְתָּעַ	בָּיִם	בָּעַד	לְתִּשְׁבַּע	בָּיִם	בָּעַד
God		to me and more also				H3588	else till	be down	the sun	
H430	H3541	H3254				H518	H6440	H935	H8121	
מִאוּמָה:	כָּל	אַתָּה	לְתִּשְׁבַּע	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	מִאוּמָה:	כָּל	בָּוָא	בָּשָׂמֶן	בָּוָא
if I taste	bread		And when all		or ought					
H2938	H3899	H176	H3605		H3972					

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 12:17 (Parallel theme): And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

2 Samuel 1:12 (Parallel theme): And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.

Jeremiah 16:7 (Parallel theme): Neither shall men tear themselves for them in mourning, to comfort them for the dead; neither shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother.

Ruth 1:17 (Parallel theme): Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

Ezekiel 24:17 (Parallel theme): Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men.

Judges 20:26 (References God): Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept, and sat there before the LORD, and fasted that day until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

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