

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

בָּא	כָּל	הָעָם	לְהָבִיר וְתֵ	אֶת	דָּוִד	לֶחֶם
be down	And when all	the people	to cause	H853	David	bread
H935	H3605	H5971	H1262		H1732	H3899
וְעַד	הַיּוֹם	וַיִּשָּׁבַע	דָּוִד	לֵאמֹר	כֹּה	יַעֲשֶׂה
while it was yet	day	sware	David	saying	H3541	So do
H5750	H3117	H7650	H1732	H559		H6213
אֱלֹהִים	וְכֹה	יִסְיָ	כִּי	אִם	לְפָנַי	בָּא
God	H3541	to me and more also	H3588	H518	else till	be down
H430		H3254			H6440	H935
אֶטְעֵם	לֶחֶם	אִם	כָּל	מֵאוּמָה:		
if I taste	bread	H176	And when all	or ought		
H2938	H3899		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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