

# 2 Samuel 3:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner.

## Analysis

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**For all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner.**

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

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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

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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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

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וְדָעָה	כָּל	הָעָם	וְכָל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בַּיּוֹם	הַהוּא	כִּי
<b>understood</b>	H3605	<b>For all the people</b>	H3605	<b>and all Israel</b>	<b>that day</b>	H1931	H3588
H3045		H5971		H3478	H3117		
לֹא	הָיְתָה	מִמֶּנֶּה	לְהַמִּית	אֶת	אַבְנֵר	בֶּן	
H3808	H1961	<b>that it was not of the king</b>	<b>to slay</b>	H853	<b>Abner</b>	<b>the son</b>	
		H4428	H4191		H74	H1121	
נֶר:							
<b>of Ner</b>							
H5369							