

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

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, ברית*) 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

כִּי הָיָה וְאַבְיוֹן יְמִינָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל
understood H3605 For all the people H3605 and all Israel H3478 that day H1931 H3588
H3045 H5971 H3117

בֶּן אַבְנֵר אֶת לְבַתְּמִינָה מִמֶּמֶט לְרַב
the son H1121 Abner H74 to slay H853 that it was not of the king H4428

בֶּן:
of Ner
H5369