

2 Samuel 3:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said unto his servants, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?

Analysis

And the king said unto his servants, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

סִaid	וְאֵת שָׁלֹשׁ	לְרַבְּךָ	הַמִּלְחָמָה	אֶל	עָבֹדִים	וְאֶל	פָּלָזָה	כִּי	תִּדְעָה	וְאֵת	אֶת	אֶת
H559	H4428	H413	H5650	H3808	H3045	H3588						
ye not that there is a prince	and a great man	fallen	this day				בִּשְׂרָאֵל:	בָּהּ הַ	בְּיַמִּים	נִפְלָאָה	in Israel	
H8269	H1419	H5307	H3117	H2088								H3478

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