

# 2 Samuel 3:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I am this day weak, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah be too hard for me: the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness.

## Analysis

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**And I am this day weak, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah be too hard for me: the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness.**

This verse contributes to the narrative of Abner's Defection and Death, 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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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## 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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וְאֶנֶכְּ י	הֵי יוֹם	כֹּחַ	וְאִשׁ וְחַ	מֶלֶךְ	וְהָאֵלֹהִים יִשְׂרָאֵל
H595	And I am this day	weak	though anointed	king	H376
	H3117	H7390	H4886	H4428	

הָאֵלֹהִים לָהּ	בְּנֵי י	צְרוּיָהּ ה	קָשׁ יִם	מִמֶּנִּי	יִשְׁלַם
H428	the sons	of Zeruiah	be too hard	H4480	shall reward
	H1121	H6870	H7186		H7999

יְהוָה ה	לַעֲשֵׂה ה	כְּרָעָתוֹ:
for me the LORD	the doer of evil	according to his wickedness
H3068	H6213	H7451

כְּרָעָתוֹ:  
according to his wickedness  
H7451

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 101:8** (Evil): I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.

**Psalms 28:4** (Evil): Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert.

**Psalms 62:12** (References Lord): Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

**Proverbs 25:5** (Kingdom): Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

**Romans 13:4** (Evil): For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

**2 Timothy 4:14** (Evil): Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: