

# 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

**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 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

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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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וְאַתֶּשׁ יְמִינְךָ מִלְּבָד כִּי יְמִינְךָ אַנְכָּךְ  
H595      And I am this day      weak      though anointed      king      H376  
H3117      H7390      H4886      H4428

בְּנֵי זֶרְעוּיָה יְמִינְךָ מִלְּבָד כִּי קָשַׁרְתָּ  
H428      the sons      of Zeruiah      be too hard      H4480      shall reward  
H1121      H6870      H7186      H7999

לְעֵשֶׂת הַיְהוּדָה כְּרֻעָתָה  
for me the LORD      the doer of evil      according to his wickedness  
H3068      H6213      H7451

כְּרֻעָתָה  
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: