

2 Samuel 3:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;

Analysis

And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

וְהָרְבִיעִי י	אֲדֹנִיָּה	בֶּן	חַגִּית	וְהָחֲמִישִׁי י	שִׁפְטָיָה	בֶּן
And the fourth	Adonijah	the son	of Haggith	and the fifth	Shephatiah	the son
H7243	H138	H1121	H2294	H2549	H8203	H1121

אֲבִיטָל:

of Abital

H37