

2 Samuel 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abner made himself strong for the house of Saul.

Analysis

And it came to pass, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abner made himself strong for the house of Saul.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

וַיְהִי י	בְּהַיּוֹת	הַמֶּלֶחֶם ה	בְּ יוֹן	בְּ יֵת		
H1961	H1961	H4421	H996	H1004		
	And it came to pass while there was war			and the house		
שָׁאוּל:	וּבְ יוֹן	בְּ יֵת	דָּוִד	וְאַבְנֵר ר	הָ ה	מִתְחַזֵּק
H7586	H996	H1004	H1732	H74	H1961	H2388
of Saul		and the house	of David	that Abner		made himself strong
	בְּ יֵת	שָׁאוּל:				
	H1004	H7586				
	and the house	of Saul				