

2 Samuel 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So do God to Abner, and more also, except, as the LORD hath sworn to David, even so I do to him;

Analysis

So do God to Abner, and more also, except, as the LORD hath sworn to David, even so I do to him;

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

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and 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

כִּי לֹא יִסְרַאֵל	וְאַתָּה כִּי	אֱלֹהִים רַבְנָה לְאַבְנָה	וְאַתָּה אֱלֹהִים	בָּה
H3541 So do	God	to Abner	H3541 and more also	H0 H3588
H6213	H430	H74	H3254	

רְאֵשׁ	אָשָׁה	כִּי	לְדוֹד	יְהִי	נִשְׁבַּע	בְּאֵשׁ	ר
H834	hath sworn		except as the LORD		to David	H3588	H3651
	H7650		H3068		H1732		H6213

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 15:28 (References Lord): And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

1 Kings 19:2 (References God): Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.

1 Chronicles 12:23 (References Lord): And these are the numbers of the bands that were ready armed to the war, and came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD.

1 Samuel 28:17 (References Lord): And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David:

Ruth 1:17 (References Lord): Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

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