

2 Samuel 3

King James Version (KJV)

3 Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker. (God had anointed David to be king. Saul and his family had been rejected by God)

²And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess;

³And his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; (Geshur – a small kingdom on the north side of Bashan. She was not of Israel)

⁴And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;

⁵And the sixth, Ithream, by Eglah David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron. Deuteronomy-17:17 (God had commanded Israel not to multiply wives to themselves. No one is listening. Solomon will be far worse)

⁶And 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. (He was trying to take over as king)

⁷And Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah: and Ishbosheth said to Abner, Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine? (Figuratively, Abner is claiming Saul's throne by taking his concubine)

⁸Then was Abner very wroth for the words of Ishbosheth, and said, Am I a dog's head, which against Judah do shew kindness this day unto the house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of David, that thou chargest me to day with a fault concerning this woman?

⁹So do God to Abner, and more also, except, as the LORD hath sworn to David, even so I do to him; (Abner is saying – as I supported you in the past, now I will support David to ensure the entire kingdom goes to him)

¹⁰To translate the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beersheba. (Abner has no real loyalty. He's looking after his own best interest) (from Dan even to Beersheba = from the north to the south – all of Israel)

¹¹And he could not answer Abner a word again, because he feared him. (He was a puppet king being controlled by Abner. Abner has become the corrupt power in Israel, since Saul's death)

¹²And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose is the land? saying also, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee. (Abner is looking for a high ranking position in David's kingdom by betraying Ishbosheth)

¹³And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee: but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face. (Michal was David's wife, given to him by Saul)

¹⁴And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

¹⁵And Ishbosheth sent, and took her from her husband, even from Phaltiel the son of Laish.

¹⁶And her husband went with her along weeping behind her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, Go, return. And he returned. (Abner intimidated him and sent him packing)

¹⁷And Abner had communication with the elders of Israel, saying, Ye sought for David in times past to be king over you: (They all knew that Samuel had anointed David to be the next king over Israel)

¹⁸Now then do it: for the LORD hath spoken of David, saying, By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, and out of the hand of all their enemies. (Abner is pretending to do the right thing according to God's command. If he had meant it, he never would have set up Ishbosheth as king of Israel. He's really only looking out for himself. He wants a high rank in David's kingdom)

¹⁹ And Abner also spake in the ears of Benjamin: and Abner went also to speak in the ears of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel, and that seemed good to the whole house of Benjamin. (Benjamin was Saul's tribe. That gave them special treatment in Saul's kingdom. Abner needed to make sure that they bought in to David becoming king)

²⁰ So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made Abner and the men that were with him a feast. (David let Abner's past offences go. He was looking at the big picture – to reunite Israel under one king)

²¹ And Abner said unto David, I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel unto my lord the king, that they may make a league with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that thine heart desireth. And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace. (Abner figures he is in with David now. He may have already bargained with David for a good position in David's kingdom)

²² And, behold, the servants of David and Joab came from pursuing a troop, and brought in a great spoil with them: but Abner was not with David in Hebron; for he had sent him away, and he was gone in peace.

²³ When Joab and all the host that was with him were come, they told Joab, saying, Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he hath sent him away, and he is gone in peace. (Joab is looking for revenge on Abner because he killed his brother and also because he thinks Abner will take over as head of the army)

²⁴ Then Joab came to the king, and said, What hast thou done? behold, Abner came unto thee; why is it that thou hast sent him away, and he is quite gone? (Why did you make an agreement with Abner?)

²⁵ Thou knowest Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive thee, and to know thy going out and thy coming in, and to know all that thou doest. (Calling Abner a spy to do David harm. He says that Abner was here to get insight into your day, so he could betray you later. Abner had been trying to kill David for years, when Saul was king)

²⁶ And when Joab was come out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, which brought him again from the well of Sirah: but David knew it not. (Joab is setting up Abner)

²⁷ And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother. (This is murder by Joab. Abner had killed Azahel in self defense) (Under the fifth rib = a blow to the heart)

²⁸ And afterward when David heard it, he said, I and my kingdom are guiltless before the LORD for ever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner: (David didn't know anything about this. This could cause the 10 tribes to not join David to unite Israel. It could have started a civil war)

(Abner had been playing everyone else for years. He finally got played by a bigger liar than himself)

²⁹ Let it rest on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one that hath an issue, or that is a leper, or that leaneth on a staff, or that falleth on the sword, or that lacketh bread. (Let Joab's house pay for this murderous act. Let there always be suffering and strife in Abner's house)

(This was a mistake. As king it should have fallen to David to judge the murder of Abner by Joab)

³⁰ So Joab, and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had slain their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle. (Apparently they had conspired together to kill Abner)

³¹ And David said to Joab, and to all the people that were with him, Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And king David himself followed the bier. (Abner had been a hero in Israel. He didn't murder Joab's brother. He killed him in self defense)

(This was David's way of making peace with the 10 northern tribes)

³² And they buried Abner in Hebron: and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept.

³³ And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dieth? (This was not a noble death for a hero and a warrior for Israel)

³⁴ Thy hands were not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters: as a man falleth before wicked men, so fellest thou. And all the people wept

again over him. (Abner had committed no crime and was innocent)
(David was calling his nephews wicked men)

³⁵ And when all the people came to cause David to eat meat while it was yet day, David swore, saying, So do God to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or ought else, till the sun be down. (He is fasting to show mourning for Abner)

³⁶ And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them: as whatsoever the king did pleased all the people.

³⁷ For all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner. (David is uniting the 12 tribes into one country. They realize that David had nothing to do with Abner's death)

³⁸ And the king said unto his servants, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?

³⁹ 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. (David was saying that in this time of reuniting Israel, he was too emotional to judge Abner's murder. He was leaving it in God's hands to avenge Abner)