**2 Samuel 3** (https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+3/)

Peter B. Luh, 4/28, 29, 30, 5/1, 2/2018

**Abner Joins David**

3 There was a long war between the house of Saul

 and

 the house of David.

 And

 David grew stronger

 and

 stronger,

 while the house of Saul became weaker

 and

 weaker.

2 And

 sons were born to David at Hebron:

 his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam of Jezreel;

3 and

 his second, Chileab, of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel;

 and

 the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur;

4 and

 the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith;

 and

 the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;

5 and

 the sixth, Ithream, of Eglah, David's wife.

 These were born to David in Hebron.

6 While there was war between the house of Saul

 and

 the house of David,

 Abner was making himself strong in the house of Saul.

7 Now

 Saul had a concubine

 whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah.

 And

 Ish-bosheth said to Abner,

 “Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?”

(NIV: Why did you sleep with my father’s concubine?

KJV: Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine?

中文和合本: 你為甚麼與我父的妃嬪同房呢？

Direct translation from Hebrew Bible: 你為甚麼親近我父的妃嬪呢？00935; come 1435, bring 487, ... in 233, enter 125, go 123, carry 17, ...down 23, pass 13, ...out 12, misc 109; 2577。進入女子的帳篷或住處, 表示與女子同房; 進入特殊的關係 (撒上 25:26) (https://bkbible.fhl.net/NUI/#/bible/2Sa/3/7))

8 Then Abner was very angry over the words of Ish-bosheth

 and

 said,

 “Am I a dog's head of Judah?

 To this day

 I keep showing steadfast love to the house of Saul your father,

 to his brothers,

 and

 to his friends,

 and

 have not given you into the hand of David.

 And yet

 you charge me today with a fault concerning a woman.

9 God do so to Abner

 and

 more also,

 if I do not accomplish for David

 what the Lord has sworn to him,

10 to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul

 and

 set up the throne of David over Israel

 and

 over Judah,

 from Dan to Beersheba.”

11 And

 Ish-bosheth could not answer Abner another word,

 because he feared him.

12 And

 Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf,

 saying,

 “To whom does the land belong?

 Make your covenant with me,

 and

 behold,

 my hand shall be with you

 to bring over all Israel to you.”

13 And

 he said (David said, PBL),

 “Good;

 I will make a covenant with you.

 But

 one thing I require of you;

 that is,

 you shall not see my face

 unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter,

 when you come to see my face.”

14 Then David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul's son,

 saying,

 “Give me my wife Michal,

 for whom I paid the bridal price of a hundred foreskins of the Philistines.”

15 And

 Ish-bosheth sent

 and

 took her from her husband Paltiel the son of Laish.

16 But

 her husband went with her,

 weeping after her all the way to Bahurim.

 Then Abner said to him,

 “Go,

 return.”

 And

 he returned.

17 And

 Abner conferred with the elders of Israel,

 saying,

 “ For some time past

 you have been seeking David as king over you.

18 Now then

 bring it about,

 for the Lord has promised David,

 saying,

 ‘ By the hand of my servant David

 I will save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines,

 and

 from the hand of all their enemies.’”

19 Abner also spoke to Benjamin.

 And then

 Abner went to tell David at Hebron

 all that Israel

 and

 the whole house of Benjamin thought good to do.

20 When Abner came with twenty men to David at Hebron,

 David made a feast for Abner

 and

 the men

 who were with him.

21 And

 Abner said to David,

 “I will arise

 and

 go

 and

 will gather all Israel to my lord the king,

 that they may make a covenant with you,

 and

 that you may reign over

 all that your heart desires.”

 So David sent Abner away,

 and

 he went in peace.

22 Just then

 the servants of David arrived with Joab from a raid,

 bringing much spoil with them.

 But

 Abner was not with David at Hebron,

 for he had sent him away,

 and

 he had gone in peace.

23 When Joab

 and

 all the army

 that was with him

 came,

 it was told Joab,

 “Abner the son of Ner came to the king,

 and

 he has let him go,

 and

 he has gone in peace.”

24 Then Joab went to the king

 and

 said,

 “What have you done?

 Behold,

 Abner came to you.

 Why is it

 that you have sent him away,

 so that he is gone?

25 You know that

 Abner the son of Ner came to deceive you

 and

 to know your going out

 and

 your coming in,

 and

 to know all

 that you are doing.”

**Joab Murders Abner**

26 When Joab came out from David's presence,

 he sent messengers after Abner,

 and

 they brought him back from the cistern of Sirah.

 But

 David did not know about it.

27 And when Abner returned to Hebron,

 Joab took him aside into the midst of the gate

 to speak with him privately,

 and there

 he struck him in the stomach,

 so that he died,

 for the blood of Asahel his brother.

28 Afterward, when David heard of it,

 he said,

 “I

 and

 my kingdom are forever guiltless before the Lord

 for the blood of Abner the son of Ner.

29 May it fall upon the head of Joab

 and

 upon all his father's house,

 and

 may the house of Joab never be without one

 who has a discharge

 or

 who is leprous

 or

 who holds a spindle

 (NIV: who leans on a crutch; KJV: that leaneth on a staff

 中文和合本: 架柺而行的; Direct translation: 架枴而行的

 (https://bkbible.fhl.net/NUI/#/bible/2Sa/3/29))

 or

 who falls by the sword

 or

 who lacks bread!”

30 So Joab

 and

 Abishai his brother killed Abner,

 because he had put their brother Asahel to death in the battle at Gibeon.

**David Mourns Abner**

31 Then David said to Joab

 and

 to all the people

 who were with him,

 “Tear your clothes

 and

 put on sackcloth

 and

 mourn before Abner.”

 And

 King David followed the bier.

32 They buried Abner at 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 for Abner,

 saying,

 “Should Abner die

 as a fool dies?

34 Your hands were not bound;

 your feet were not fettered;

 as one falls before the wicked

 you have fallen.”

 And

 all the people wept again over him.

35 Then all the people came

 to persuade David

 to eat bread

 while it was yet day.

 But

 David swore,

 saying,

 “God do so to me

 and

 more also,

 if I taste bread

 or

 anything else till the sun goes down!”

(NIV: if I taste bread or anything else before the sun sets!

KJV: if I taste bread, or ought else, till the sun be down.

中文和合本: 我若在日頭未落以前吃飯，或吃別物

Direct translation from Hebrew Bible: 若在日頭落下以前, 我吃糧食，或任何東西; 03942, 在...之前, 在...的前面 (https://bkbible.fhl.net/NUI/#/bible/2Sa/3/35))

36 And

 all the people took notice of it,

 and

 it pleased them,

 as everything

 that the king did

 pleased all the people.

37 So all the people

 and

 all Israel understood that day

 that it had not been the king's will

 to put to death Abner the son of Ner.

38 And

 the king said to his servants,

 “Do you not know that

 a prince

 and

 a great man has fallen this day in Israel?

39 And

 I was gentle today,

 though anointed king.

 These men,

 the sons of Zeruiah,

 are more severe than I.

 The Lord repay the evildoer according to his wickedness!”