

2 Samuel 3 keywords

There was a long war between the **house** of Saul and the **house** of David; David **grew** stronger and stronger, while the **house** of Saul **became** weaker and weaker. Sons were born to David at Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam of Jezreel; his second, Chileab, of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel; the third, Absalom son of Maacah, daughter of **King** Talmai of Geshur; the fourth, Adonijah son of Haggith; the fifth, Shephatiah son of Abital; and the sixth, Ithream, of David's woman Eglah. These were born to David in Hebron. While there was war between the **house** of Saul and the **house** of David, Abner was making himself strong in the **house** of Saul.

Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah daughter of Aiah. And Ishbaal said to Abner, "Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?" The words of Ishbaal **made** Abner very angry; he said, "Am I a dog's head for Judah? Today I keep making loyalty to the **house** of your father Saul, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not given you into the hand of David; and yet you charge me now with a crime concerning this woman. So may God **make** for Abner and so may he add to it! For just what YHWH has sworn to David, that will I **make** for him, to transfer the kingdom from the **house** of Saul, and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan to Beer-sheba." And Ishbaal could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him.

Abner **sent** messengers to David at Hebron, saying, "To whom does the land belong? **Make** your covenant with me, and behold, my hand is with you to bring all Israel over to you." He said, "Good; I will **make** a covenant with you. But one word I ask of you: you shall never appear to me face-to-face unless you bring Saul's daughter Michal when you come to face me."

Then David **sent** messengers to Saul's son Ishbaal, saying, "Give me my woman Michal, to whom I became engaged at the price of one hundred foreskins of the Philistines." Ishbaal **sent** and took her from her man Paltiel the son of Laish. But her man **went** with her, weeping as **he went** behind her all the way to Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, "**Go** back home!" So he went back.

Abner **sent** word to the elders of Israel, saying, "For some time past you have been seeking David as **king** over you. Now **make** it happen; for YHWH has promised David: 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." Abner also spoke directly to the Benjaminites; then Abner **went** to tell David at Hebron all that Israel and the whole **house** of Benjamin were ready to do. When Abner came with twenty men to David at Hebron, David **made** a feast for Abner and the men who were with him. Abner said to David, "**Let me go** and rally all Israel to my lord the **king**, in order that they may **make** a covenant with you, and that you may reign over all that your heart desires." So David **sent** Abner, and **he sent** him away in peace.

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 David **had dismissed** him, and **he was sent** away in peace. When Joab and all the army that was with him came, it was told Joab, "Abner son of Ner came to the **king**, and **he has dismissed** him, and **he has gone away** in peace." Then Joab **went** to the **king** and said, "What have you **made**? Abner came to you; why did **you dismiss** him, so that **he got away**? You know that Abner son of Ner came to deceive you, and to know your comings and to know your goings and to know all that **you are making**."

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. When Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gateway to speak with him privately, and there he stabbed him in the stomach. So he died for shedding the blood of Asahel, Joab's brother.

Afterward, when David heard of it, he said, "I and my kingdom are forever guiltless before YHWH for the blood of Abner son of Ner. May the guilt fall on the head of Joab, and on 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, or who falls by the sword, or who lacks food!" So Joab and his brother Abishai murdered Abner because he had killed their brother Asahel in the battle at Gibeon.

Then David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes, and put on sackcloth, and mourn over Abner." And **King** David **went after** the bier. They buried Abner at Hebron. The **king** lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept. The **king** lamented for Abner, saying, "Should Abner die as a fool dies? Your hands were not bound, your feet were not fettered; as one falls before the wicked you have fallen." And all the people wept over him again. Then all the people came to persuade David to eat something while it was still day; but David swore, saying, "So may God **make** for me, and more, if I taste bread or anything else before the sun goes down!" All the people took notice of it, and it pleased them; just as everything the **king made** pleased all the people. So all the people and all Israel knew that day that the **king** had no part in the killing of Abner son of Ner. And the **king** said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel? Today I am weak, even though anointed **king**; these men, the sons of Zeruiah, are too hard for me. YHWH pay back the one who **makes** wickedness in accordance with his wickedness!"