

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 SAMUEL 3

REVIEW: DAVID HAS BECOME KING, BUT NOT OVER ALL OF ISRAEL. OVER A SMALLER PORTION OF THE NATION, MAINLY CENTERED IN THE REGION OF JUDAH. HE IS RULING FROM HEBRON. HIS ARMY MEETS WITH THE ARMY STILL LOYAL TO SAUL'S FAMILY AND REPRESENTING THE OTHER TRIBES. DAVID'S ARMY IS LED BY JOAB, SAUL'S ARMY IS LED BY ABNER. ABNER FOOLISHLY CHALLENGES JOAB'S MEN TO A 12-PERSON MAN-ON-MAN FIGHT WHICH LEADS TO THE DEATH OF ALL 24 MEN AND SPILLS OVER INTO A LARGER BATTLE. AS A RESULT OF THE PRIDE-FUELED FIGHTING, JOAB'S BROTHER ASAHIEL IS KILLED BY ABNER. FINALLY, ABNER APPEALS TO JOAB FOR THE FOOLISH FIGHTING TO END. THIS INCIDENT IS APPARENTLY REPRESENTATIVE OF HOW THINGS WERE GOING BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES - THOSE LOYAL TO DAVID, AND THOSE LOYAL TO SAUL, WHICH BRINGS US TO CHAPTER 3

2 SAMUEL 3:1-6 - DAVID'S SONS (SO FAR)

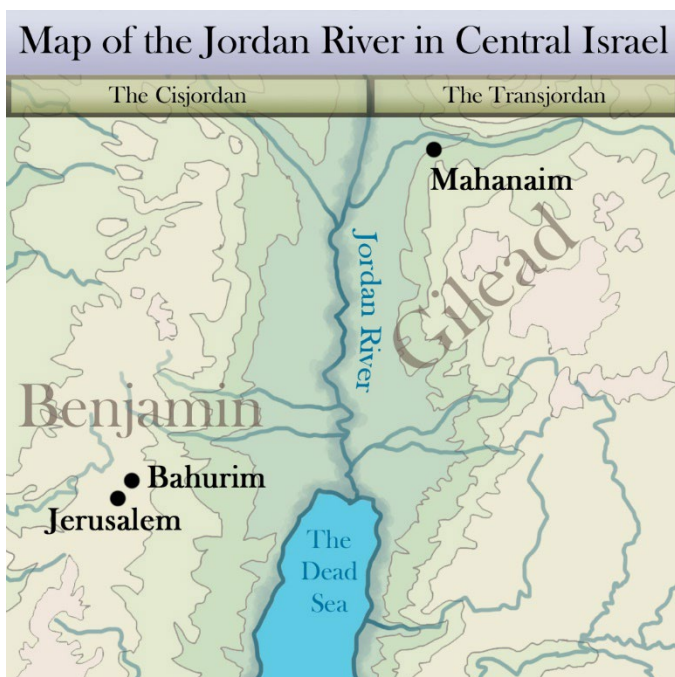
V. 1 - DAVID IS INCREASING, SAUL IS DECREASING. THE HOUSE OF SAUL IS BEING PROPPED UP BY ABNER (V. 6).

V. 2-5 - DAVID'S SONS (AND THEIR MOTHERS) - AMMON (AHINOAM), CHILEAB (ABIGAIL), ABSALOM (MAACAH), ADONIJAH (HAGGITH), SHEPHATIAH (ABITAL), ITHREAM (EGLAH). DAVID WILL HAVE MORE SONS.

2 SAMUEL 3:6-11 - PROBLEMS IN SAUL-LAND

ABNER HAD BEEN LOYAL TO HIS KING, SAUL, DURING AND AFTER HIS LIFETIME. HE APPOINTED ISHBOSHETH AS SAUL'S SUCCESSOR (2 SAMUEL 2:8-10) AND LEAD SAUL'S ARMIES. AFTER ALL OF THIS, ISHBOSHETH ACCUSE ABNER OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR TOWARDS ONE OF SAUL'S CONCUBINES. ABNER IS NOT HAPPY TO HAVE SUCH AN ACCUSATION MADE OF HIM BY THE PUPPET KING HE HAS SERVED. HE ESSENTIALLY SAYS "AFTER ALL I HAVE DONE FOR YOU AND YOUR FATHER, THIS IS HOW YOU TREAT ME?" ABNER GOES BEYOND HIS LOCALIZED FRUSTRATION WITH ISHBOSHETH AND BEGINS TO MAKE PLANS IN HIS HEART TO ALIGN HIMSELF, AND THE KINGDOM OF SAUL WITH DAVID (V. 8-10).

IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM THE TEXT WHETHER OR NOT THE CHARGE WAS FALSE, BUT IT WAS A FOOLISH POLITICAL MOVE FOR ISHBOSHETH TO TAKE ISSUE WITH ABNER BECAUSE OF HIS POWER AND SUPPORT. THIS INCIDENT SHOWS WHO HELD THE REAL POWER OF THE KINGDOM.



V. 9-10 - ABNER MUST HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE LORD'S PROMISE TO GIVE THE THRONE TO DAVID.

2 SAMUEL 3:12-16 - ABNER REACHES OUT TO DAVID. DAVID'S TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT.

V. 12 - ABNER IMMEDIATELY CONTACTS DAVID TO MAKE A COVENANT WITH HIM. ABNER OFFERS TO BRING THE REMAINING TRIBES, CURRENTLY LOYAL TO SAUL TO UNITE UNDER KING DAVID.

V. 13-16 - DAVID DEMANDS THAT HIS WIFE, MICHAL BE RETURNED TO HIM BEFORE THE AGREEMENT IS MADE. MICHAL WAS DAVID'S FIRST WIFE, A PRIZE FROM SAUL AFTER DAVID DEFEATED GOLIATH, WHICH DAVID THEN "PAID FOR" WITH AN ADDITIONAL (AND TREMENDOUS) DEFEAT OF 200 PHILISTINES (1 SAMUEL 18:25-27). BUT DURING SAUL'S PURSUIT OF DAVID, SAUL GAVE HIS DAUGHTER TO BE MARRIED TO SOMEONE ELSE (1 SAMUEL 25:44). (INTERESTING DAVID'S MESSAGE IS SENT TO ISHBOSHETH, WHO IN TURN AGREES TO THIS (V. 14-15).)

2 SAMUEL 3:17-21 - DAVID & ABNER'S AGREEMENT

V. 17-19 - THE ELDERS AND TRIBES OF ISRAEL AND BENJAMIN (SAUL'S TRIBE) AGREE TO UNITE UNDER DAVID. ABNER REMINDS THE PEOPLE OF DAVID'S VICTORIES AND ALSO THE LORD'S PROMISE. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE SEE ABNER DOING SOMETHING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LORD'S WORDS CONCERNING THE KINGDOM RATHER THAN BASED ON PERSONAL LOYALTY.

V. 20-21 - DAVID & ABNER MEET AND AGREE TO UNITE. ABNER DEPARTS TO MAKE IT SO WITH THE LEADERS OF ISRAEL.

2 SAMUEL 3:22-25 - JOAB HEARS THE NEWS

V. 24-25 - JOAB IS NOT HAPPY WHEN HE HEARS THE NEWS OF DAVID & ABNER'S AGREEMENT. HE QUESTIONS ABNER'S HONESTY AND INDIRECTLY DAVID'S JUDGMENT.

Q - WHY DO YOU THINK JOAB RESPONDS IN THIS WAY?

2 SAMUEL 3:26-27 - JOAB KILLS ABNER

V. 26 - JOAB SENDS A MESSAGE TO ABNER ASKING HIM TO RETURN. DAVID DOES NOT KNOW OF THIS REQUEST.

2 SAMUEL 3:27 (NLT) - WHEN ABNER ARRIVED BACK AT HEBRON, JOAB TOOK HIM ASIDE AT THE GATEWAY AS IF TO SPEAK WITH HIM PRIVATELY. BUT THEN HE STABBED ABNER IN THE STOMACH AND KILLED HIM IN REVENGE FOR KILLING HIS BROTHER ASAHIEL.

2 SAMUEL 3:28-34 - DAVID HEARS OF ABNER'S DEATH

V. 29 - DAVID CURSES THE MALE DESCENDANTS OF JOAB'S HOUSE AS A RESULT OF THIS.

2 SAMUEL 3:29 (NET) - MAY HIS BLOOD WHIRL OVER THE HEAD OF JOAB AND THE ENTIRE HOUSE OF HIS FATHER! MAY THE MALES OF JOAB'S HOUSE NEVER CEASE TO HAVE SOMEONE WITH A RUNNING SORE OR A SKIN DISEASE OR ONE WHO WORKS AT THE SPINDLE OR ONE WHO FALLS BY THE SWORD OR ONE WHO LACKS FOOD!"

V. 30-32 - DAVID CALLS FOR MOURNING FOR ABNER. HE SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTS JOAB TO JOIN HIM IN THIS.

V. 31 - "BIER" - A TABLE OR PLATFORM ON WHICH A COFFIN OR DEAD BODY IS PLACED AT A FUNERAL (MW)

V. 33-34 - DAVID'S LAMENT FOR ABNER. THIS LAMENT INDICATES THAT DAVID IS NOT HAPPY ABOUT THE DEATH OF ABNER IN GENERAL, AND SPECIFICALLY THE WAY HE DIED. ABNER WAS A FAITHFUL AND SKILLED MILITARY COMMANDER AND HIS DEATH CAME THROUGH DECEIT AND MURDER.

2 SAMUEL 3:35-39 - DAVID FASTS FOR ABNER

V. 37 - DAVID'S MOURNING, LAMENT, AND FASTING WAS GENUINE FOR ABNER. IT ALSO SHOWED THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND THAT DAVID HAD NOT DESIRED ABNER'S DEATH. THIS STOPS ANY POTENTIAL RETALIATION OVER ABNER'S DEATH AND HOLDS TOGETHER THE POTENTIAL COVENANT BETWEEN THE TRIBES.

V. 39 - JOAB & ABISHAI (AND ASAHIEL BEFORE THEM) WERE DAVID'S NEPHEWS. FOR DAVID THEY WERE MIGHTY WARRIORS, FAITHFUL SERVANTS AND ALSO PAINS IN THE BUM.

AS WE LEAVE CHAPTER 3, THE TRIBES ALIGNED WITH SAUL ARE IN DISARRAY. THE LORD WILL GATHER HIS SCATTERED SHEEP TO HIS SHEPHERD KING, DAVID.