

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. (long war = skirmishes on the border)

(God had anointed David to be king. Saul and his family had been rejected by God. Fight against God's plan and you are guaranteed to lose. That's what was happening to Abner and his men)

NOTE: (David could have defeated the army of Ishbosheth, but he didn't want civil war)

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. Maacah was not of Israel, so neither was Absalom)

(This will work against David in the future. God told the Israelites to only wed other Israelites. Absalom will try to seize the throne from David when he is grown)

⁴And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; (Adonijah would also try to seize the throne from both David, and then from Solomon)

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 than David in that regard)

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. Ishbosheth was only a puppet 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 was 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)

(The two scumbags are turning on each other. Neither one had the right to rule over anyone. They were both working against God's plan, and they will both fail for it)

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. (Ishbosheth was a puppet king being controlled by Abner)

(He wasn't ever meant to be a king. He had no leadership skills. Abner had become the corrupt power in Israel, since Saul's death. He used Ishbosheth as a stepping stone, to get himself appointed king)

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)

(Never trust a traitor. He will betray over and over when it suits him)

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. Afterwards, Saul gave her to another man)

¹⁴ And 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. (David is giving Ishbosheth fair warning. He wants his wife back. Ishbosheth couldn't stand up to Abner; he certainly won't challenge David)

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

¹⁶ And 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)

¹⁷ And 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)

¹⁸ Now 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 ranking position 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)

(Now, Abner needed to make sure that they bought in to David becoming king. David was from Judah)

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 <siding with Ishbosheth >. He had also helped Saul when he was trying to kill David. David was now 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)

(Abner killed Asahel in self defense. This wasn't murder)

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. (Joab is 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. (Under the fifth rib = a blow to the heart)

(This is murder by Joab. Abner had killed Asahel in self defense. He warned Asahel twice to not attack him, but Asahel wouldn't listen)

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)

NOTE: (Abner had been playing everyone else for years. He finally got played by Joab, 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 his murderous act; let there always be suffering and strife in his house)

NOTE: (This was a mistake. As king it should have fallen to David to judge Joab for the murder of Abner. Instead, he washed his hands of the whole thing)

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. Abner didn't murder Joab's brother. He killed him in self defense)

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. (Mourning Abner was David's way of making peace with the 10 northern tribes. Abner was a national hero)

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 publicly calling his two nephews wicked men)

³⁵ And when all the people came to cause David to eat meat while it was yet day, David sware, 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)

NOTE: (When David was on his deathbed, many years later, he instructed Solomon to execute Joab for the murders of Abner and Amasa) see 1Kings-2:5