

2 SAMUEL 3 vs 1

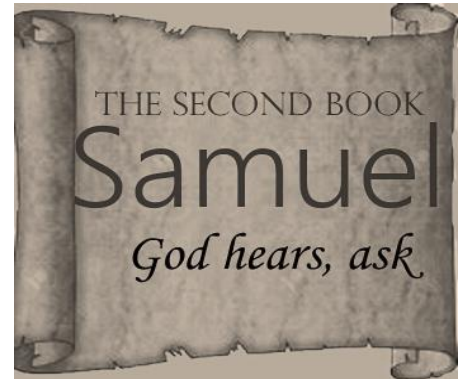
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In the 350 years of the judges before this book; years characterize by the phrase: and the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. Obviously, the Lord said enough and sent Samuel, who was the last good judge, who moved in the power of the Spirit.

This second book of Samuel focuses on the history of the reign of King David, making Jerusalem both the political and religious center of the nation. At this time, Zadok is the high priest,

The civil war between the people Saul and the people David continued,



¹ Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.

² And to David sons were born in Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelites;

³ and his second, Chileab, of Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite; 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 the wife of David. These were born to David in Hebron.

⁶ And it happened, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abner was making himself strong in the house of Saul.

⁷ And Saul had a concubine / a girlfriend, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah: and Ish-bosheth asked Abner, Why have you gone in to the concubine of my father?

⁸ Then Abner very angry for the words of Ish-bosheth, and said, Am I a dog's head that belongs to Judah? Today I show kindness to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not delivered you to the hands of David, and yet today you charge me with a fault concerning this woman?

⁹ May God do so to Abner, and more also, if as the LORD has sworn to David, I do not accomplish this for him;

¹⁰ to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to establish the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beersheba.

¹¹ And he could no longer answer Abner a word, because he feared him.

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¹² And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose is the land? saying also, Make your covenant with me, and, behold, my hand will be with you, to bring about all Israel to you.

¹³ And he said, Well; I will make a covenant with you: but one thing I require of you, that is, You will not see my face, except you first bring Michal the daughter of Saul, when you come to see my face.

¹⁴ And David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, who I espoused to me for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

¹⁵ And Ish-bosheth sent, and took her from her husband, even from Paltiel the son of Laish.

¹⁶ But her husband went with her along weeping behind her as far as Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, Go, return. So he returned.

¹⁷ And Abner communicated with the elders of Israel, saying, You sought for David in times past to be king over you:

¹⁸ now then do it: for the LORD has spoken of 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 And Abner also spake in the hearing of Benjamin: and Abner went also to speak in the hearing of David in Hebron all that seemed good to **Israel**, and that seemed good to the whole house of **Benjamin**.

²⁰ So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made a feast for Abner and the men who were with him.

²¹ And Abner said to David, Let me arise and go, and 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. And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace.

²² And, behold, the servants of David and Joab came from pursuing a troop, and brought much 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 army that was with him came, they told Joab, saying, Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he has sent him away, and he is gone in peace.

²⁴ Then Joab came to the king, and said, What you have done? behold, Abner came to you; why is it that you have sent him away, and he is already gone?

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25 You know Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive you, and to know of your going and coming, and to know all that you do.

26 And when Joab came from David, he sent messengers after Abner, who brought him again from the well of Sirah: but David did not know it.

27 And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him privately, and struck him under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

28 And afterward, David heard of it, and he said, I and my kingdom are guiltless before the LORD forever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner:

29 May it fall on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one that gives birth, or who is a leper, or leans on a staff, or who falls on the sword, or lacks food.

30 So Joab, and Abishai his brother killed Abner, because he had killed their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.

31 And David said to Joab, and to all the people who were with him, Rend your clothes, and gird yourself with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner.

And king David himself followed the funeral cart.

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 chanted over Abner, and said, Should Abner die as a fool dies?

34 Your hands were not bound, nor your feet put to fetters: like a man who falls before evil men, so 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 vowed, saying, May God do so to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or anything else, till the sun goes down.

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

37 So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not the will of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner.

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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 am today weak, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah are too difficult for me: the LORD will reward the wrongdoer according to his evil.

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