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The Book of 2 Samuel / 2 Samuel 3

Introduction

Good evening Awakening Church, today we have the privilege of opening God's Word and speaking openly about it. Today we will see in this narrative God moving through history. We will see God securing this kingdom through David. We will see a shadow of Christ in David as God begins to reconcile the nations back to each other. Although will have deal with problems of sin and its effects, we have a God that is not stopped by sin or the will of man.

God's Covenant Kingdom Will Prevail Over the Kingdoms of Men

1. **Defiance of God's Good Order Always End in Destruction.**

- 1.1 Saul's house decreases and David's increases (v 1-5).
- 1.2 Infighting is a sign of separation (v 6-11).

2. **Every Knee Will Bow Before the God.**

- 2.1 Abner seeks a covenant with David (v 12-16).
- 2.2 Abner rallies Israel to Join David (v 17-19).
- 2.3 David hosts a feast for Abner (v 20-21).
- 2.4 Joab rejects Abner and sin fills his heart (v 22-25).

3. God Will Secure His Covenantal Kingdom with His Covenantal Throne.

- 3.1 Joab murders Abner (v 26-27).
- 3.2 David curses Joab (v 28-30).
- 3.3 David mourns Abner (v 31-24).
- 3.4 The people attempt to comfort David (v 35-36).
- 3.5 David is vindicated (v 37-39).

4. Application and Call to Christ

Primary Text

2 Samuel 3 ESV

¹ 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?" 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, “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.”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 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.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!"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!"

Call: "The grass withers and the flowers fades,"

Response: "But the word of the Lord endures forever."

~~~ [Pray] ~~~

## **Defiance of God's Good Order Always End in Destruction.**

### **1.1 Saul's house decreases and David's increases (v 1-5).**

When we read these lines, it's easy to see that Saul sinned and his kingdom declined, and David was faithful and so his house increased. Lets not be confused about what is happening here. Both Saul and David sinned. The true source of David's success is in the hands of God. God is moving his hand during this time through David in order to establish his covenant Kingdom causing David's house to increase and Saul's to decrease.

## 1.2 Infighting is a sign of separation (v 6-11).

Abner held the influence and respect in Israel, despite Saul's death. Ish-bosheth was just a place holder. In verses 6-11, Ish-bosheth accuses Abner of consummating with Saul's concubine. There is no evidence of whether or not Abner was actually guilty of this crime but he neither confirmed nor denied these actions.

Despite Abner's loyalty to Saul's house, Ish-bosheth's accusation was the final straw. His loyalty was severely questioned and his respect for Ish-bosheth was finally diminished to nothing.

After this, Abner declared his allegiance to David before all and before God and to transfer the kingdom, to unite the divided lands of Israel and Judah. Either Abner realized he was fighting a losing battle. Ish-bosheth was left speechless because Abner held the power of Israel not him.

Let us consider the state of Abner:

Abner went to the very ends against God's will with a hardened heart. Despite the foolishness, and failure after failure of Saul's house, Abner remained loyal to Saul. He even, in desperation, sat Saul's remaining son, whom was not anointed.

We do this as well. We allow sin **to prosper** in our lives. We **lavish in it**. We **hide it** in our secret places. **We rebel** foolishly against the great God that sees all! Sometimes we **go to great lengths**! Sometimes we fall great distances with much pain and groaning. Awakening Church examine your lives. Nothing is hidden; you might fool man, it might be hidden for a while, but it will be exposed and the kingdom built upon it will crumble.

# **Every Knee will bow before the God.**

## **2.1 Abner Seeks a covenant with David (v 12-16).**

In verses 12-16, we find Abner bending the knee and sending for David who was in Hebron. Abner asks "To whom does the land belong?" **Abner is acknowledging the Kingship of David** and his rightful place in the kingdom. **Abner seeks a covenant** and to help secure a proper transition of power with the people of Israel to David. David agrees knowing that the people trust in Abner and respect him. Abner holds major political power and it would be a great benefit to David.

David makes a requirement of Abner that Michal is first brought back to David.

David appears to still have affections for his first wife, his rightful wife. She was forced to leave by Saul and was given to another. Having Michal at David's side would strengthen his political power uniting the two nations and free her from adultery.

This could also be a test by David to check Abner's sincerity by giving him back a princess of the house of Saul. Ish-bosheth now outnumbered consents and perhaps by helping David he would saving himself since David's rule appears inevitable.

## **2.2 Abner rallies Israel to Join David (v 17-19).**

In verses 17-19, Abner begins to posture Israel to accept David as King of which the elders once desired. The elders appear to have once desired to have David as king. This might be easier to comprehend when we consider that David was once highly honored. He was victorious and his name sung by the people as a hero.

Abner instructs the elders to go and make it so. David is seen here as a savior of the people. A foreshadow of the coming Christ to be the true savior of all

men, returning God's chosen back to himself with grace and mercy.

## 2.3 David hosts a Feast for Abner (v 20-21).

Verses 20-21, tells us Abner returned to David, but David was not empty handed for he prepared a feast for Abner. I want to point out three actions David takes showing his Godward behavior.

- a. Hospitality.** David gives Abner, who was not very long ago a former enemy, a feast.
- b. Grace and Forgiveness.** David shows much grace and forgiveness to Abner. David honored Abner.
- c. Reconciliation.** David show exemplary reconciliation, to unite the peoples.

We are reconciled with God through Christ alone, with much grace and forgiveness. We feast now at the Lord's Supper which is a foretaste of the Marriage Feast that will come at Christ's return.

Abner leaves to go collect the nations and bring them before David, so that **they may also make a covenant** with him. Notice the extreme **patience** of David. Through this entire ordeal, from his anointing to now, David waited on the Lord. He did not let his flesh get in the way of Gods covenantal order, but was **patient** and **self-controlled**. Patience and self-control should be obvious in our lives. These are fruits of the Spirit.

## 2.4 Joab rejects Abner and sin fills his heart (v 22-25).

In verses 22-25, Joab enters the scene after fighting , would quickly hear the spreading of the news of Abner's presence and covenant.

After hearing that Abner had left in peace, Joab was furious. Joab held in his

heart hatred and wrath Joab's reaction is wildly different than David's reaction which was hospitality, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Joab is obsessed with revenge which leads to his downfall.

Awakening Church, sin always gives way to more sin. Hear this warning well. Filled with sin, Joab wanted David to have doubt in his heart by way of lies. If David reconciled with Abner, he would not be able to get his revenge. Do you see how the seed of sin attempt to spread, and only grows into more thorny weeds of more sin.

Do not consider for a second that sin will be undealt with, that the wicked have appeared to have won, or go unpunished. God is patient and just. Saul had a long, hard fall and a life ending full of suffering. The impact was felt far and wide to those around him.

In the end, every knee (even those who rebel) will bow before God.

## **God Will Secure His Covenantal Kingdom with His Covenantal Throne.**

### **3.1 Joab murders Abner (v 26-27).**

Verse 26-27 begins Joab's decent into darkness. Notice the first action of Joab is to leave the presence of the King. Sin is often done in the darkness, in the secret of night, away from the light. Consider when you sin the most. When are you most tempted? Do you sin in the presence of the King, in the light? Where can you posture yourself to ensure that you keep away from sin?

Joab separated himself from the king ands called Abner to himself. Two things fueled Joab: **Anger and Fear**. Joab was filled with **anger** that turned into hatred over the death of his brother. Joab likely **feared** losing his position. In Josephus's Antiquities, he suggests that Joab feared Abner taking his place as commander of the armies. After all, Abner helped David unite the kingdom

and would keep Abner nearby to show faithfulness to the remaining tribes of Israel. Abner might be given his rank, and Joab would become lesser perhaps even under the command of Abner.

We might see how powers and positions if not given to the Glory of God, would stray a man into wickedness.

Joab's anger and wrath turns to murder. Abner's murder was done in secrecy. Joab's sin fogged his thoughts and judgement. His blood lust consumed him. Joab's sin blindness would lead him to murder Abner, stabbing Abner the same location where Joab's brother had been.

### **3.2 David curses Joab (v 28-30).**

What a political catastrophe. The nations were coming together and Joab killed the ambassador of this union. What would the other nations think of this? That Davids commander would assassinate their leader? However, God would not be stopped by the sins of men, but instead he strengthened the throne of His Kingdom. David gives a public declaration that he had no part or gave any command for Joab to kill Abner. So much so that before the people he swears before the Lord that he and the Kingdom are guiltlessness.

David had to act fast and rightly. As we will read, David lead by the Spirit and foretaste of the coming Christ shows us what we must do in the face of such tragedy.

**David shows a great disdain and disapproval of Joab's actions** by declaring a public curse on, not just Joab, but his entire family line. Joab's sin against God, against his nation, and against his King. Remember that David held the taking of a life in a seriously. We cannot every approve or be content with sin. We cannot take sin lightly and is not a joke to be laughed at. Sin is a serious offense to the God. How dare we take it lightly!

Joab and his brother, guilty of murder, deserved death, but David did not give them what they deserved.

**David shows great mercy on Joab.** Keeping death from Joab, he instead offers a public curse.

These were not prophecies but public cries of judgement on Joab to show how serious David felt towards Joab's sin and the damage it caused. Joab risked damage to David's name and the tribe of Judah. He risked a breaking of covenant with Abner and the unity of Israel and Judah.

David's public recoil to Joab's sin was intended to show Israel David's sincerity to his Kingdom's guiltlessness concerning Abner's murder. So serious that he would call these curses on his own once trusted commander for his blood lust.

You might think that you have a valid reason to sin. You may have been insulted or hurt by someone. This does not give you the right to be angry in your heart. You may not have been given a wife, or your wife keeping herself from you. This does not excuse you from adultery or fornication.

### **3.3 David mourns Abner (v 31-34).**

**In Verses 31-34, David shows a great morning for Abner, for the sin that had been committed.** David, the kingly representative, is broken over this grave sin and shows his commitment to his covenant. He calls Joab and all who were with him to humble themselves and mourned with David for Abner's death. David's actions were a stark contrast. David acted mercifully and gently with Joab. Instead of having them executed he called them to humility and mourning.

It was a common thing for great lamentations and mournings to follow deaths, but it was uncommon for kings to follow the bier and attend funerals. However, David showed covenant faithfulness to Abner, protecting not just himself but the throne, representing the throne of the Kingdom

And so Abner was buried and David would life up a cry and lament for Abner to which the people would join him. Heard by all the people was a real brokenness for sin and death. This was from a genuine heart. David's heart was

so closed to God that he felt the weight of Sin, even those sins that were committed by others.

David lamented, "should Abner die as a fool dies." Abner did not die as a result of any wicked act he was conducting. He was not condemned nor sentenced with a crime like the fool does. He was murdered. In the Old Testament the use of the term "fool" it is referring to a wicked person or someone conducting a wicked act. The Proverbs are layered with this language.

Abner's hands were unbound and his feet was unfettered, for he was not shackled like a prisoner facing death. Instead he fell as one who falls before the wicked. He died like a prey animal surrounded by ravenous wolves.

### **3.4 The people attempt to comfort David (v 35-36).**

David in his mourning refused to eat anything during this time. Though the people tried to comfort their king, David was committed to the mourning and had made an oath to not to taste bread or anything else. For the Kingdom, he showed great sorrow for Abner's death which was brought on by Sin. For the Kingdom, he expressed great dissatisfaction and righteous anger against Joab for his sin. The King's genuine words and faithful actions pleased the people greatly showing his covenantal faithfulness.

### **3.5 The Kingdom is Vindicated (v 37-39).**

In verse 37-39, we see that David's godwarness and truthfulness had been proof to the people that David and his Kingdom were not responsible for the death of Abner. They believed that David would be true to his covenant with Judah and Israel. They believed in David's suffering.

David's sufferings could not save anyone but pointed to faith, faith in God. Christ's sufferings did save all that the Father had given him. Christ suffered for our sin. He felt the pain of sorrow. He was broken in mourning and broken

physically for our sin. David would not taste bread or anything else until the sun goes down, Christ promised not to taste the fruit of the vine until he returns.

David finishes this chapter with a Kingly declaration, that he was gentle and showed that he was holding back his hand even though he had the authority to execute Joab.

Also in verse 39 we see a comparison between David and Joab and his brother, stating they were more severe than him. Joab was led by his passions and flesh. Recall the warning in 2 Timothy to flee from youthful passions. David was merciful even though Abner had fought against him.

We find God playing 4D chess, We might look at all this and think good of David, but God is making all the moves. In his providence, he is orchestrating the establishment of His Covenant Kingdom.

## 4. Application and Call to Christ

Awakening Church our call today is to turn away from sin and turn to Christ. We saw the destructive results of Sin in Saul, we saw how far sin will linger in the life of Abner, and we saw the result of sin in the the actions of Joab. My warning today is that sin does not just sit and fester in its puncture wound, but instead it spreads throughout the body destroying everything in its path. It's like a disease. We will eventually see the effects of David's sin in his life.

My call is to guard your hearts from sin. Father's guard the hearts in your household from sin, take sin seriously, less it spread. Awakening Church, guard this church from sin, less it spread and cause destruction and division. It is our job to gently but firmly call out sin and stop its destructive nature before it spreads.

But when sin does occur, look to the King. Be rightly concerned and appalled, but be gentle, and merciful, and mourn for your fellow brother or sister who has fallen prey to its snare.

Maybe you realized that you have rebelled. Turn your face to Christ.

Maybe you realized that you have given into your passions and sinned, Turn your face to Christ.

Maybe you have been sinned against and great harm came your way. Turn your face to Christ.

David turned his face to God, to the coming Christ.

If you have never trusted in Christ, My call to you is to repent and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Anyone who has ever sinned no matter how small it may seem, which is everyone, has committed death to themselves. Romans 6:23. This death goes beyond our physical lives, but an eternal separation from God.

The Good news is that we have a better savior than David, We have Jesus Christ. Born of the virgin Mary, bypassing Adam's sin nature that no one else can escape, He lived on this earth as God wrapped in flesh. Keeping the law perfectly in his life and never sinning, he offering himself up as a sacrifice. We owe God death, God owes us nothing but his wrath. But Christ took both wrath and death for our sin on the Cross. Both Christ and David died physical deaths, but David remained dead.

Christ being God, conquered sin and death by being raised from the dead physically. Christ the God-Man now ascended, sits again at the right hand of the Father. One day he is going to return and claim his bride, us. That is the good news, our pardon from our sin, Adoption as Sons and Daughters, united under Christ.

~~~[Pray]~~~