

“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy

Study # 19 – 2 Samuel 3:1-39 – Transferring The Kingdom

I. THE ASCENSION OF DAVID OVER SAUL 3:1-5

- The increase of David’s strength is illustrated by the steady growth of his family, indicating divine blessing and approval.
- David’s polygamy, which began with Ahinoam and Abigail, continues unabated and increases in Hebron. cf. 1 Chr. 3:1-9
- Although David had other children, only the firstborn are noted.

II. THE DEFECTION OF ABNER TO DAVID 3:6-21

A. ABNER’S OFFENCE TOWARD ISHBOSHETH v6-11

1. THE ACCUSATION OF ISHBOSHETH v6-7

- As Abner became increasingly aware that Ishbosheth could not stand before David, he sought to secure for himself a place in the House of Saul. cf. 1 Sam. 30:6
- Since it was the exclusive right of the successor to the throne to cohabit with the concubines of the deceased king, Abner must have had his sights set on ruling.
- Adonijah, David’s fourth son, tried a similar move against Solomon. cf. 1 Ki. 2:13-25

2. THE REACTION OF ABNER v8-11

- When Abner is confronted with the truth, he deliberately misunderstands the charges and uses the occasion as an excuse to further his own ambitions by abandoning Ishbosheth and allying himself with David.

B. ABNER’S OVERTURE TOWARD DAVID v12-21

1. THE ADVENT OF ABNER v12

- As the authority and adequacy of Ishbosheth’s rule weakened, Abner, seeking to benefit himself, aspired to secure an influential post in David’s arising government.

2. THE ARRANGMENT FOR MICHAL v13-16

- David’s demand of Michal would place him in a very strong position as Saul’s successor.
- Because Michal had been unjustly taken from David he could demand her back again with perfect justice.
 - cf. 1 Sam 18:20-27; 25:44; Deut. 24:1-4
- Note that it is Abner who forces the separation.

3. THE AGREEMENT OF THE ELDERS v17-19a

- While Ishbosheth’s rule was primarily over Benjamin, the elders of the other tribes agree that the time is right to make David king. *“Now then, do it!”* v18

4. THE COVENANT WITH DAVID v19b-21

- David's covenant with Abner should not be viewed as compromise in that he only seeks to secure what is rightfully his; his wife and the kingdom.
- While Abner's motives were selfish and political, the LORD takes the plans of man and uses them for His own higher purposes. cf. Prov. 16:9
- Unfortunately, because of Abner's untimely death, the negotiations didn't immediately materialize. cf. 5:1-3

III. THE ASSASSINATION OF ABNER BY JOAB 3:22-39

A. MURDERED BY JOAB v22-27, 30

1. JOAB'S REBUKE OF DAVID v22-25

- Joab hoped to prejudice David against Abner, in order to carry out his act of revenge with impunity.
- Hebron was a "City of Refuge." cf. Num. 35:9-34; Josh. 20
- Joab's accusation that David allowed Abner to deceive him is ironic in light of his own subsequent treachery.

2. JOAB'S RETALIATION AGAINST ABNER v26-27, 30

- Joab lured Abner back to Hebron (in David's name?), took him aside privately and slew him.
- The murder of Abner cannot be defended as a justifiable act by "an avenger of blood," but was a contemptible deed of jealousy and revenge. cf. Num. 35:12; 1 Kings 2:5

B. MOURNED BY DAVID v28-39

1. DAVID'S WORDS AGAINST JOAB v28-30

- David shows his extreme displeasure by denouncing Joab and declaring the deadly triad of "*sword, famine and plague*" upon his house. cf. Jer. 14:12; 21:7,9; 24:10
- While David initially chooses to leave any retribution to God, he later charges Solomon to punish Joab. cf. 1 Kings 2:5-6

2. DAVID'S WALK BEFORE ISRAEL v31-39

- David, who was known as a man of blood, took strong measures to absolve himself and his kingdom from all guilt in this matter and demonstrate that he was not an accessory to the killing. cf. 2 Sam. 16:7-8
- "*King David*" v31 - For the first time the personal name and the royal office are officially linked and will from this point become forever inseparable.