

## 16 – CIVIL WAR (2 SAMUEL 3:1-4:12)

### I. David, Abner & Joab (2 Samuel 3:1-39)

#### A. The Nature of the Conflict (3:1)

- The writer states that there was a long war between the House of Saul and the House of David.
- As the war progressed, David grew stronger and the House of Saul grew weaker.

#### B. David's Sons (3:2-5)

- The writer states that six sons from six wives were born to David while he resided at Hebron.
- These six sons included Ammon, the firstborn, Absalom and Adonijah.

#### C. Abner's Conflict with Ishbosheth (3:6-11)

- The conflict between the two houses progressed, Abner strengthened his hold on Saul's house.
- Ishbosheth confronted Abner about having an affair with his father's concubine.
- Abner protested that he would be accused of this after doing everything for Saul's house.
- Abner proclaimed that he will do everything he can to transfer the kingdom to David.
- Ishbosheth did not say anything more because he feared Abner.

#### D. Abner Meets with David (3:12-21)

- Abner sent word to David seeking to enter into a covenant to bring the kingdom to David.
- David agreed, but he required that his wife Michal, be brought with him.
- David then sent messengers to Ishbosheth that he wanted his betrothed wife.
- Ishbosheth then took Michal from her husband.
- Her husband followed her, weeping, until Abner commanded him to return.
- Abner also communicated with the elders of Israel about making David their king.
- Abner acknowledged the promise made by the Lord concerning David as king.
- Abner told David that he would gather all Israel together to make David king.

#### E. Joab Kills Abner (3:22-27)

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- As David sent Abner away, Joab returned from raiding with much loot.
- Joab protested Abner's presence and accused him of spying on David.
- Without David's knowledge, Joab then sent word for Abner to return to Hebron.
- Joab took Abner aside privately and killed him for the blood of his brother.

## F. David Mourns Abner (3:28-39)

- When David heard of Abner's murder, he proclaimed that he and his kingdom are guiltless.
- David proclaimed that the guilt rested on the house of Joab and cursed their house forever.
- David then had Joab and the people tear their clothes and put on sackcloth to mourn Abner.
- As they buried Abner in Hebron, David openly wept for Abner and sang a lament for him.
- The people were pleased by David's actions and understood that he was not involved.
- David proclaimed to his servants that he was weak and did not know how to punish Joab.

## II. The Death of Ishbosheth (2 Samuel 4:1-12)

### A. The Murder of Ishbosheth (4:1-7)

- When Ishbosheth heard that Abner died in Hebron, he lost heart and Israel was troubled.
- The writer points out that there were two certain captains from a certain clan in Benjamin.
- The writer also tells the story of Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, who was lame.
- The two captains killed Ishbosheth on his bed and beheaded him.
- They then took his head and fled.

### B. Justice for the Assassins (4:8-12)

- The two captains brought the head to David, proclaiming that the Lord has avenged.
- David tells them about his execution of the Amalekite who brought news of Saul's death.
- This happened because the Amalekite thought he would be rewarded.
- He stated that how much more will he execute judgment on those who killed an innocent man.
- David commanded that they be executed and their handless bodies be hanged in Hebron.

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- David then buried Ishbosheth's head in Abner's tomb in Hebron.