

2 Samuel 3

Lesson 3

David's Strength

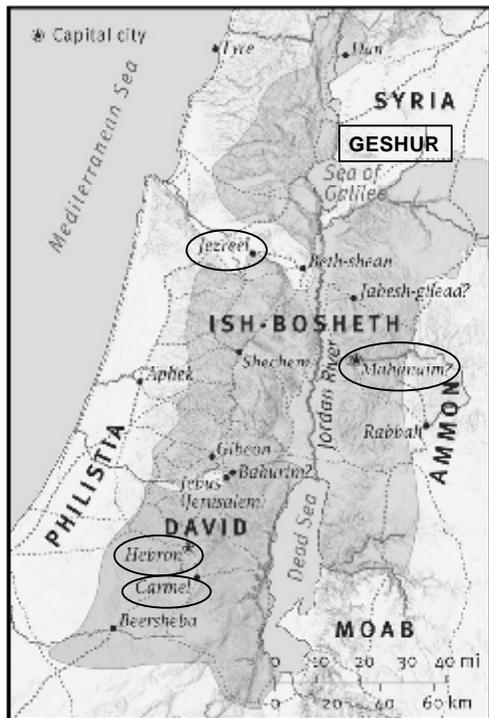
- David was winning the long war.
- David was making strategic alliances through marriage.
- David was making sure that he had heirs.

Ish-bosheth's Weakness

- Not a military leader
- Not a real ruler
- Suspicious of Abner
- Afraid of Abner

Ahinoam
of
Jezreel

Abigail
of
Carmel



Maacah,
Daughter
of
the King
of Geshur

Haggith,
Abital,
Eglah

Conflict Over Rizpah

- Significance: If Abner had had relations with her, his act would have been treasonous, the same as claiming the throne.
- Cf. Absalom (2 Sam. 16:21-22)
- Cf. Adonijah (1 Kings 2:15-23)

Conflict Over Rizpah

- Was the accusation true? We can't know.
- Abner could have been so arrogant that he thought he could do as he wished.
- Ish-bosheth could have been showing the same mental instability as his father (Saul)—falsely accusing his most trusted servant of treason.
- Abner was clearly offended & may have been innocent. David called him a great man (3:38).

Abner's Strength

- He was the power behind the throne of Ish-bosheth.
- He was a mighty warrior.
- He was able to influence the leaders of Israel toward David.
- He was a threat to Joab's ambitions.

Who Was Michal?

- David's first wife
- The daughter of Saul
- The sister of Ish-bosheth
- The relative of Abner (cousin? niece?)
- The "wife" of Palti (or Paltiel)—but she was never divorced from David

Why Ask for Michal?

- It showed David's position of strength in the negotiations with Abner.
- It revealed how serious Abner was about making a deal with David.
- It would strengthen David's claim to the throne—reminding Israel that he was Saul's son-in-law.

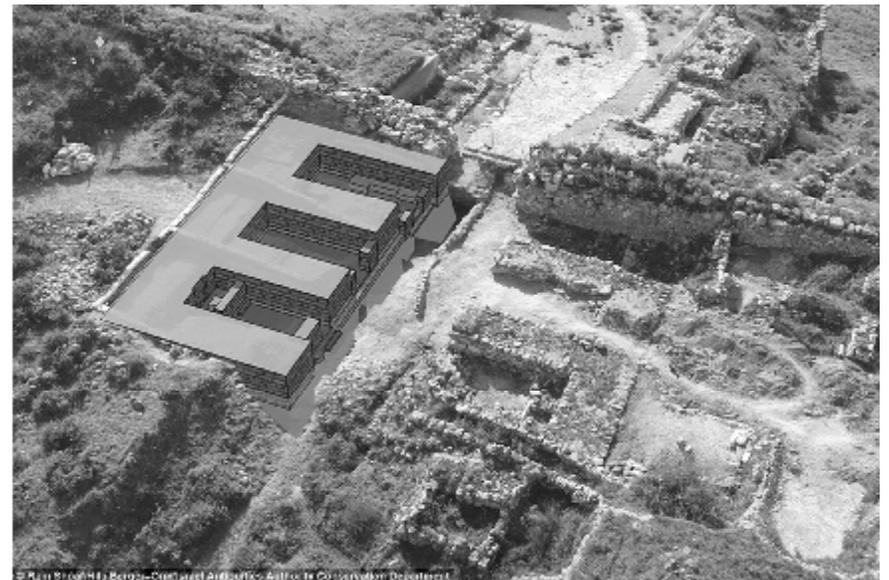
Why Did Joab Mistrust Abner?

- Abner had been leading Ish-bosheth's forces in battles against David's men.
- Abner could have been a lying spy.
- Abner had killed Joab's brother in battle.
- Abner was a rival for influence over David & for commander in chief.

Why Was Joab Wrong to Kill Abner?

- Joab acted without David's authorization.
- Joab betrayed David's agreement with Abner.
- Joab betrayed Abner's trust.
- Hebron was a city of refuge!
- Joab had no right to take revenge—Abner had killed Asahel in battle and in self-defense.

City Gate at Lachish



David's Reaction to Joab's Treachery

- Declared himself & his kingdom innocent
- Cursed Joab and his house (disease, war, famine) & asked God to repay them
- Made Joab & his followers participate in the public mourning for Abner
- Walked behind Abner's body
- Wept & lamented
- Fasted till nightfall (pleased the people)

Why Didn't David Execute Joab?

- Joab may have been too powerful and too popular.
- Some of the people may have thought his revenge was justified.
- He was David's nephew.
- He had been a loyal warrior for years.
- David's words to Solomon indicate that David believed Joab deserved death.

Lessons from 2 Samuel 3

- From Abner: (1) Don't use others. (2) Put God's will ahead of your own. (3) Keep ambition in check.
- From Joab: (1) Respect God-given authority. (2) Beware of arrogance and ambition. (3) Respect the lives of others.
- From David: (1) Be willing to wait for God's time. (2) Prefer peace & unity over needless war. (3) Speak truth about evil.