

II Samuel, 3:2-39

Lesson #4, Civil War Stumbles to a Conclusion

Lesson 2, “Civil War”, ended with the statement, “there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David;” **Civil war:** war between opposing groups of citizens of the same country. Webster’s 11th Collegiate Dictionary

[1.] About how many years did the civil war last in the United States?

“Scripture weaves the drama of history in a more breathtaking style than does the fiction writer. Israel’s king had died on Mount Gilboa as a result of a Philistine invasion. For more than seven years the nation was then divided into two power factions. David was the king in Judah at Hebron; Ish-boseth, son of Saul, was king in Mahanaim, having the allegiance of ten tribes in Israel.”¹

2 Sons were born to David at Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; 3 and his second, Chileab, by 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, by David’s wife Eglah. These were born to David at Hebron.

It came about 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 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?”

[2.] v:2-5, Describe the values that David is showing his sons.

[3.] If fathers displayed the same values to their sons, is it possible that it could cause the fathers future sorrows?

concubine: a secondary or inferior wife.

Ungers Bible Dictionary

[4.] In Gen 2:18, were women created to be just “property” or was there another reason why God created them?

II Samuel, 3:2-39

Lesson #4,

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8 Then Abner was very angry over 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 into the hands of David; and yet today you charge me with a guilt concerning the 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 was afraid of him.

12 Then Abner sent messengers to David in his place, saying, "Whose is the land? Make your covenant with me, and behold, my hand shall be with you to bring all Israel over to you." 13 He said, "Good! I will make a covenant with you, but I demand one thing of you, namely, you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see me."

[5.] v:7, Which of the following best describes Abner's reasoning:

a) Ish-bosheth is having a hard time making ends meet trying to feed and clothe all of Saul's harem?

b) Ish-boseth never did like Rizpah?

c) Since I am the real strong man in Israel, all that belonged to Saul, now belongs to me?

[6.] v:9-11, Did Abner trip up and admit that God really had given the kingdom to David?

[7.] v:9-11, Does God require human help to accomplish what He plans?

[8.] Why might God use human help to accomplish what He plans?

[9.] v:9-11, In Abner's blast back at Ish-bosheth, what did he say he was going to do?

[10.] From v:11, who had the greater power, Abner or Ish-bosheth?

OK decision time, v:12-14!

[11.] Be honest now, knowing what you know about Abner, if you were David would you trust him?

Why?

II Samuel, 3:2-39

Lesson #4, Civil War Stumbles to a Conclusion

14 So David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Give me my wife Michal, to whom I was betrothed for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines." 15 Ish-bosheth sent and took her from her husband, from Paltiel the son of Laish. 16 But her husband went with her, weeping as he went, and followed her as far as Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, "Go, return." So he returned.

17 Now Abner had consultation with the elders of Israel, saying, "In times past you were seeking for David 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 Abner also spoke in the hearing of Benjamin; and in addition Abner went to speak in the hearing of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel and to the whole house of Benjamin.

[12.] v:12, If the house of Saul had grown the more powerful, do you think Abner would have made such an offer?

[13.] v:12-14, Looking at the deal, What was Abner going to get?

[14.] Describe Abner as a person.

[15.] v:12-13, Regarding this deal with Abner, besides Michal, what's in it for David?

[16.] v:14-16, It's obvious that neither Abner or Ish-bosheth cared one way or another about Paltiel or Michal. If however David was aware of v:15-16, do you think he would have cared?

[17.] To what three groups, in v:17-19, did Abner speak?

group 1

group 2

group 3

II Samuel, 3:2-39

Lesson #4, Civil War Stumbles to a Conclusion

20 Then Abner and twenty men with him came to David at Hebron. And David made a feast for Abner and the men who were with him. 21 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 be king over all that your soul desires." So David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.

22 And behold, the servants of David and Joab came from a raid and brought much spoil with them; but Abner was not with David in Hebron, for he had sent him away, and he had gone in peace. 23 When Joab and all the army that was with him arrived, they told Joab, saying, "Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he has sent him away, and he has gone in peace." 24 Then Joab came to the king and said, "What have you done? Behold, Abner came to you; why then have you sent him away and he is already gone?" 25 "You know Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive you and to learn of your going out and coming in and to find out all that you are doing."

26 When Joab came out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the well of Sirah; but David did not know it. 27 So when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the middle of the gate to speak with him privately, and there he struck him in the belly so that he died on account of the blood of Asahel his brother.

28 Afterward when David heard it, he said, "I and my kingdom are innocent before the Lord forever of 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 may there not fail from the house of Joab one who has a discharge, or who is a leper, or who takes hold of a distaff, or who falls by the sword, or who lacks bread."

[18.] v:20-21, So just suppose David knew that Abner sold out Ish-bosheth because of a woman. What would he have thought?

[19.] We are still on v:20-21. John Doe is a leader in his congregation. What might be his greatest temptation that would lead him to make questionable alliances?

[20.] v:22-25, What conclusion did Joab have as to why Abner visited David?

[21.] v:26-27, What kind of a leader was Joab?

[22.] v:28-29, What two related entities (groups) did David curse?

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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 gird on sackcloth and lament before Abner." And King David walked behind the bier. 32 Thus 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 The king chanted a lament for Abner and said,

"Should Abner die as a fool dies?

*34 "Your hands were not bound, nor your feet put in fetters;
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 still day; but David vowed, saying, "May God do so to me, and more also, if I taste bread or anything else before the sun goes down." 36 Now all the people took note of it, and it pleased them, just as everything the king did pleased all the people. 37 So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the will of the king to put Abner the son of Ner to death. 38 Then the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel? 39 "I am weak today, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah are too difficult for me. May the Lord repay the evildoer according to his evil."

[23.] v:29, List the five things, David said may there not fail from the house of Joab.

[24.] v:31-33, Who was the other previous enemy for whom David ordered a lament?

[25.] v:31, Among the people, name the two murderers of Abner that David ordered to lament his death?

[26.] v:35-37, How did the people respond to David's sorrow?

[27.] v:39, What did David say that implies that there was going to be "trouble in River City"?