

Abner's Absurdity

2 Samuel 3:1-39

- Who wrote 2 Samuel (2S)? Possibly Nathan and Gad, 1 Chronicles 29:29, possibly around 950BC during the reign of Solomon.
- 1S and 2S were originally one long book; divided to make study easier, divided c250BC in LXX.
- Events in 1S and 2S occurred c1050-961BC.
- Key term: David – over 200x.

1. David's Descendants – v. 1-5

- 1: fulfills prophecy in 1S 15:28; Abner desperately wants to be king as seen later
- 2-5: 3 sons nothing special; Annon: raped ½ sis. (Tamar; full sis. of Absalom), murdered by Absalom > rebelled against his father, sought to dethrone him; Chileab [*also Daniel*]: nothing; Adonijah: proclaimed himself King during D's illness [thought Chileab dead]; nothing of Spephatiah & Ithream known
- Polygamy must be listed among D's sins
- Eglah: might be Michal or there were 2 Eglahs – nothing known

2. Abner's Downfall – v. 6-30

- 6: Abner making himself to be king
- 7: father's concubine: successor to the throne had exclusive rights; Rizpah: more in Ch. 21
- 12-16: Michal & Paltiel loved each other, hardly a more pitiful scene in all the Bible; M's feelings not consulted here.
- When God's law of marriage has been violated, there is no way to repair damage.
- DeHoff: "Some of the problems no human being could solve." [*Comm., Vol. II, p. 179*]
- Deut. 24:1-4: D had no right to take her back
- 14: 1S 18:24-27, D's price not mentioned
- 17-19: Israel sorely in need of a deliverer
- 20-21: wrong: D knew of Asahel's death, yet he did not brief Joab on dealings with Abner
- 22-24: Abner should've taken action as kin of Asahel; should've sacrificed his life instead
- 26: Sirah: Josephus: 20 furlongs [1 = 1/8 mi] from Hebron = 20 mi
- 26-30: D depended on leader of his army; curse culminated in Solomon's slaughter of Joab between the horns of the altar, 1K 2:29-34

- 29: Willis: 1] gonorrhea 2] leprosy 3] effeminacy 4] untimely death 5] hunger

3. David's Disassociation – v. 31-39

- D mightily tried to disassociate from Abner's crime; Israelites convinced of D's sincerity.
- 39: D was not as harsh as he was in Ch. 1; he was bound by prejudices, vices, & ambitions of his subordinates.
- "Only the providence of God could have brought out of this situation the glorious Israel that later developed." Coffman

Lessons:

1. God's plan for marriage is the oldest institution – older than the church by 4000 years. When man tries to muddle with the plans, lives get broken, and people must pay the consequences.
2. David was consumed with reconciliation; Abner & Joab lived by retaliation. We must always leave the paybacks to God and instead focus on living faithfully and loving others. [Romans 12:19]
3. God hates sin but loves the sinner. We should also do all we can to "avoid every appearance of evil." 1 Thessalonians 5:22

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