

2 Samuel 2

The Coup

David, his 600 men & families were in the city of Ziklag after defeating the Amorites and rescuing their families. Achish the king of Gath had given David Ziklag when in a lapse of faith & on the run from Saul, found safety in the camp of the Philistines.

But now Saul died in battle and David seeks the Lord as to what he should do. Anointed King by Samuel as a youth but Jealous Saul for 10-12 year sought to kill him.

1 Then it came about afterwards that David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up to one of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." So David said, "Where shall I go up?" And He said, "To Hebron." 2 So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite. 3 And David brought up his men who were with him, each with his household; and they lived in the cities of Hebron. 4 Then the men of Judah came and there anointed David king over the house of Judah.

Steps of man ordained by the Lord....man plans his way but the Lord directs his steps. David doesn't want to get ahead of God or fall behind so he asks directions.

David knows he's king but doesn't want to push it... *God raises up & He puts down.* David goes & waits, he & his men and families lived in towns around Hebron the most important city of southern Judah, about 25 miles from Ziklag.

After a dozen years David & his men were no longer fugitives. *Those who suffer w/ Christ will reign w/ Him.* People know Saul is dead & David is to be king, yet David doesn't force it. Men of Judah moved by Lord & come to anoint David. *Gifts and callings are of the Lord...* people see... *Me & Homer*

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But not all get on board but some create conflict, self-willed & costly---bad things happen, blood is shed. Abner Saul's commander & nephew not wanting to give up power sets Saul's son Ish-Bosheth as king of Israel.

And they told David, saying, "It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul." 5 And David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead, and said to them, "May you be blessed of the LORD because you have shown this kindness to Saul your lord, and have buried him. 6 "And now may the LORD show lovingkindness and truth to you; and I also will show this goodness to you, because you have done this thing. 7 "Now therefore, let your hands be strong, and be valiant; for Saul your lord is dead, and also the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

David concerned w/ bodies & burial of Saul and his sons & was told men of Jabesh-Gilead risked their lives to recover the mutilated bodies and bury in Jabesh--remembering Saul rescuing them from **Nahash the Ammonite**. JG was across the Jordan on East side--so men traveled NW cross Jordan to Beth Shan 25 miles round trip.

David impressed w/ their concern for Israel & kindness to Saul & his sons...God will reward w/ kindness. David recruits them to follow him as king like their loyalty to king Saul had been.

Sadly they didn't follow David but choose to follow Abner who installed Ish-Bosheth a weak son of Saul who he could control & feared him. **Why? Sentimentality!** When emotions and sentiment rule they blind us to God's will. Too often affections & feelings can dominate a life to where they miss, keep from Gods plan & purposes for their life.

8 But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, had taken Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim. 9 And he made him king over Gilead, over the Ashurites, over Jezreel, over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, even over all Israel. 10 Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he became king over Israel, and he was king for two years. The house of Judah, however, followed David. 11 And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

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Abner, Saul's commander had no great affection for David...he was first to bring David to Saul after killing Goliath...humiliated by David as army slept & David took spear and water jug....Abner w/ Saul pursued David for 10-12 years & now Saul is dead & David installed as king over Judah.

Abner hungry for power plots a coup w/ the rest of Israel. Abner was a man who looked out for his own self-interest not the interest of God or the people.

INSURRECTION? NY AG Letitia James' Fiery Speech Sparks Accusations of Incitement

While America seeks to compose itself following a most contentious election season, antisocial, anti-democratic, Antifa types will commit violence in scores of our major cities, lavishly funded by belligerent billionaires who believe that they have the supreme right to interfere in the affairs of state, domestically and abroad.

David waits patiently 7 1/2 years for God to bring rest of the nation around....**strive to attain, strive to maintain.**

Abner uses Saul's remaining son Ish-Bosheth as puppet king to plot for himself to stay in a power position in nation. Abner knew God had departed Saul & taken away the kingdom & given it to David but Abner was a rebel looking out only for himself.

12 Now Abner the son of Ner, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon with the servants of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul. 13 And Joab the son of Zeruiah and the servants of David went out and met them by the pool of Gibeon; and they sat down, one on the one side of the pool and the other on the other side of the pool. 14 Then Abner said to Joab, "Now let the young men arise and hold a contest before us." And Joab said, "Let them arise." 15 So they arose and went over by count, twelve for Benjamin and Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David. 16 And each one of them seized his opponent by the head, and thrust his sword in his opponent's side; so they fell down together. Therefore that place was called Helkath-hazzurim, which is in Gibeon. 17 And that day the battle was very severe, and Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David.

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Mahanaim Eastern side of Jordan river a Levitical city & city of refuge where Abner established a capital for Israel but the people didn't fully embrace all this & a new king for a number of years. Not long after Ish-bosheth was assassinated. In political arena there are weak leaders who get there by family, who know people, use bribes, etc.

Also powerful people who bully their way, manipulate, coerce yet void of character and calling. Sad when qualified leaders are rejected for unqualified because of connections, manipulation and lies.

Abner was committing insurrection & civil war broke out in David's first 7 1/2 years. Abner suggested a contest between the men of war, **blood sport**. Joab, David's commander agrees, also his nephew. Each man killed the other man so place was called '**field of daggers**' Immediately both armies arrayed for battle & Abner was defeated.

18 Now the three sons of Zeruah were there, Joab and Abishai and Asahel; and Asahel was as swift-footed as one of the gazelles which is in the field. 19 And Asahel pursued Abner and did not turn to the right or to the left from following Abner. 20 Then Abner looked behind him and said, "Is that you, Asahel?" And he answered, "It is I." 21 So Abner said to him, "Turn to your right or to your left, and take hold of one of the young men for yourself, and take for yourself his spoil." But Asahel was not willing to turn aside from following him. 22 And Abner repeated again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I lift up my face to your brother Joab?" 23 However, he refused to turn aside; therefore Abner struck him in the belly with the butt end of the spear, so that the spear came out at his back. And he fell there and died on the spot. And it came about that all who came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died, stood still.

Joab, Abishai & Asahel were David's nephews sons of his sister Zeruah
1Cron 2:13-16. Asahel went after Abner to kill him & bring an end to fighting. Abner didn't want to hurt Asahel but he persisted, told him to turn back, if I kill you it would bring a blood feud between our families.

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Abner realized he wasn't going to listen so he stopped abruptly and Asahel ran into the back of the spear propelling himself onto the spear and died.

24 But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner, and when the sun was going down, they came to the hill of Ammah, which is in front of Giah by the way of the wilderness of Gibeon. 25 And the sons of Benjamin gathered together behind Abner and became one band, and they stood on the top of a certain hill. 26 Then Abner called to Joab and said, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that it will be bitter in the end? How long will you refrain from telling the people to turn back from following their brothers?" 27 And Joab said, "As God lives, if you had not spoken, surely then the people would have gone away in the morning, each from following his brother." 28 So Joab blew the trumpet; and all the people halted and pursued Israel no longer, nor did they continue to fight anymore. 29 Abner and his men then went through the Arabah all that night; so they crossed the Jordan, walked all morning, and came to Mahanaim. 30 Then Joab returned from following Abner; when he had gathered all the people together, nineteen of David's servants besides Asahel were missing. 31 But the servants of David had struck down many of Benjamin and Abner's men, so that three hundred and sixty men died. 32 And they took up Asahel and buried him in his father's tomb which was in Bethlehem. Then Joab and his men went all night until the day dawned at Hebron.

The brothers likely were close behind & saw the brother impaled now in hot pursuit to avenge their brothers death. Abners men surrounded him & rescued him & retreated to the hill of Ammah.

Abner called for a truce that there not be a continual shedding of Hebrew blood both were families of Jacob, brothers fighting brothers. *A house divided cannot stand.*

But Abner started the battle, a schemer who wanted top position as commander didn't matter what the cost. Joab complied because he knew the heart of David was for unity.

He said *if you'd had not spoken we would have come after you all night if we had to'*. Abner and his men walked all night to Mahanaim & Joab & his army back to Hebron. Stopped by **Bethlehem** to bury their brother Asahel. We see later they were not going to let the blood of their brother fall to the ground in vain but plotted against Abner to avenge Asahel.