2 Samuel 3

The Death of Abner

1. **3:1-5 – The House of David**
    a. 1 – A war that started in ch. 2; David's house replaces Saul's (a new dynasty)
    b. 2 Samuel records Saul's broken house, and eventually David's house broken.
    c. 2-5 – 6 sons in Hebron, 6 wives (Many wives make a heart divided – Deu 17:17)
    d. David's wives/children/divided house is a theme later in this book.
    e. 3 of these sons became a sorrow to him, 2 try to usurp the throne, 1 murdered.
2. **A word on concubinage:** a social structure widely practiced, but not instructed by God.
    a. A wife of inferior legal/social status: no rights to property, inheritance, title, divorce
    b. Different but similarities w/common law marriage, domestic partner, surrogacy
    c. Taken for protection, provision, pleasure, power, progeny -Ex. Ge 25:1-6, Ex 21:7-11

3. **3:6-11 – Abner Betrays Ishbosheth**
    a. 6 – *"made himself strong"* in support, war, and by taking his concubine.
    b. 7 - *"wherefore ...?"* - Could it be you want my kingdom? 1 Kings 2:22
    c. 8 - Abner is angry claiming he has done so much to help Saul against David.
    d. 9 - *"as the LORD hath sworn to David"* - He knew David's anointing, if not then, now.
    e. *"so I do to him"* – not the LORD? Abner vowed his life, and his life is taken.
    f. 10 – Abner's vow to give the kingdom to faithful David – not unlike Matt 21:42-44
    g. 11 - *"feared him"* – God's will be done, despite wicked men – Matt 21:45-46

4. **3:12-16 – Abner's League with David**
    a. 12 - *"Whose is the land? Make thy league with me"* Abner not Ishbosheth, what of God?
    b. 13 - David's condition is he get Michal (his first wife) back – remember 1 Sam 25:44
    c. A daughter of Saul as his wife would secure his right to reign after Saul.
    d. (The legal defense of David's right to the throne comes through a childless woman.)
    e. 14-16 – David requests Michal of Ishbosheth to see where Abner's allegiance lay.

5. **3:17-21 – Abner Gathers All Israel**
    a. Abner, captain of the hosts, helps return the first wife back to the Messiah.
    b. 17-19 – Abner's starts a campaign persuading Israel to make David king – 1Sam 9:16
    c. 20 -His speech sounds like one converted, now preaching Messiah to Israel Acts 1:16
    d. 21- He betrayed David 3x (ch 2) but now preaches Israel to make covenant w Christ
    e. He returns to David's kingdom, feasts with him, leaves to publish peace - Isa 52:1-8

6. **3:22-27 – Joab Kills Abner**
    a. 21-23 –*"went away in peace"* – 3x mentioned to show it was not David.
    b. 22-23 – Joab learns of Abner's peace with David, and it infuriates him – Lk 15:26-28
    c. 24-25 - *"What?!"* – why do you eat with sinners? Matt 9:10-13 (Hos 6:6 – Israel)
    d. 26 – Joab does exact thing he accuses Abner of doing – keeping secrets from David.
    e. 27 – *"the fifth rib"* (revenge) Joab betrays David's peace, kills Abner – John 11:48-52
    f. Who is right? The one who repents afterward or the betrayer? - Matt 21:28-32

7. 3:28-30 – David Curses Joab's Betrayal

a. 28 – *"I... am guiltless"* – David not at fault for killing Abner.
b. 29 – David curses Joab for killing the one David sent to preach peace.
c. Psa 109 is David speaking imprecation (prayer of curse), applied to Judas.
d. 30 – Joab sought revenge instead of reconciliation, 'who is my neighbor?'

8. 3:31-39 – Abner's Funeral / David's Lament

a. 31 - David commands Joab mourn Abner's death (wear black sackcloth - Rev 6:12)
b. 32 - *"David himself followed the bier"* – an honor to the one being carried.
c. They had a bier, carried the dead to burial site, heard speeches, and wept.
d. 33-34 - *"Died Abner as a fool?"* - Betrayed by wicked man, not in justice.
e. 35 - David fasted til evening in honor and lament of Abner (not feasting, joyous)
f. 36-37 – By his respect for him, Israel knew he did not kill him, they were pleased.
g. 38 – David honors Abner as a "great man" – had always good things to say of him.
h. 39 - *"sons of Zeruiah be too hard"* – he sends their case to the LORD to judge.
i. All this betrayal will end in David's unanimous anointing as king.
j. Even those who tried to work against David's anointing cannot prevent it.
k. The anointed of Israel becomes king after the death of his friends and enemies.
l. Likewise, Christ returns to setup his kingdom after death of friends and enemies.