### 2 Samuel

## Chapter 3

1Well, the war between the house of David and the house of Saul lasted a long time and the house of David kept getting stronger while the house of Saul kept getting weaker.  
  
  
2In the meantime, David had sons born to him in HebRon.  
  
 • His firstborn was AmNon through AhiNoam the JezreElite.  
  
 • 3The second was DaluJah through AbiGail the CarMelite.  
  
 • The third was AbSalom through MaAcha the daughter of TholMi, the king of Gesir.  
  
 • 4The fourth was Ornia through PhegGith.  
  
 • The fifth was SabaTia through AbiTal.  
  
 • 5The sixth was JetheraAm through AiGla.  
  
These were all David’s women and all of his sons that were born in HebRon.  
  
  
6Well, during the war between the house of Saul and the house of David, AbNer became [more powerful] in IsraEl.  
  
7Now, Saul used to have a concubine named ResPha (the daughter of Jal). Then Saul’s son IshBosheth went to AbNer and asked him this:  
  
 ‘Why are you [sleeping] with my father’s concubine?’  
  
8Well, this made AbNer furious with IshBosheth, and AbNer said:  
  
 ‘How dare you to speak to me like a dog after the mercy I’ve shown to the house of your father Saul and to his family and friends!  
  
 ‘Since I never went over to the side of the house of David, why are you coming to me and complaining that I’ve been unjust over some woman today?  
  
 9‘Now, as Jehovah swore in an oath to David; may God curse AbNer and add to it if I don’t do this:  
  
 10‘I will now remove the kingship from the house of Saul and raise the throne of David to be over all of IsraEl and Judah from Dan to BeerSheba!’  
  
11Well, IshBosheth didn’t say anything more, because he was so frightened!  
  
12Then AbNer sent messengers to David right away (who was in ThaiLam at the time), with the message:  
  
 ‘Make a treaty with me, because I’m on your side now, and I’m going to give the whole house of IsraEl to you.’  
  
13And David replied:  
  
 ‘Yes, I’ll make a treaty with you!  
  
 ‘However, there’s one thing that I want to ask of you… I don’t want to see your face unless you bring Saul’s daughter Michal with you when you come to me.’  
  
14Meanwhile, David also sent messengers to Saul’s son IshBosheth, telling him:  
  
 ‘Give back my woman Michal, for whom I paid with the foreskins of 100 Philistines!’  
  
15As a result, IshBosheth sent and had her taken from her man PhaltiEl (son of SelLe), 16who then followed her all the way to BarAkim. But after AbNer warned him to go back, he turned around and went home.  
  
  
17Thereafter, AbNer spoke to the elders of IsraEl and said this:  
  
 ‘Since you’ve been looking for David to rule over you a long time, 18you should do something now. For Jehovah has said concerning him:  
  
 ‘I will deliver IsraEl from the hands of the Philistines and all their other enemies at the hands of David!’  
  
19Then AbNer also went and spoke to the people of the tribe of BenJamin (before he went to speak to David at HebRon), and everyone in the house of BenJamin and the rest of IsraEl was pleased with this idea. 20It was then that AbNer went with 20 of his men to see David in HebRon… And David prepared a banquet for them.  
  
21So AbNer said this to David:  
  
 ‘I’ll go and gather all IsraEl to my lord the king, and I’ll conclude a treaty with you for you to rule over whomever you may wish.’  
  
Then David sent AbNer away in peace.  
  
  
22However, shortly thereafter, JoAb returned to David with his army after a battle, carrying many spoils of war. Well, AbNer was no longer there with David in HebRon, since he’d been sent away in peace.  
  
23But when JoAb and his men heard that AbNer (son of Ner) had come to David and that he’d been sent away in peace, 24JoAb came to the king and asked:  
  
 ‘What have you done?  
  
 ‘Look! AbNer actually came here and you sent him away in peace?  
  
 25‘Don’t you know that AbNer just came here to deceive you? He just came to find out your plans!’  
  
26So, after JoAb left David, he sent messengers to AbNer (who was at the well of SeiRam), asking him to return… But David didn’t know anything about this.  
  
27And when AbNer returned to HebRon, JoAb called to him as he arrived at the city gate, saying that he wanted to speak to him. Well, it was a trap; for he stabbed him in the stomach and killed him! He did this to [avenge] the blood of his brother AshaEl.  
  
28Then when David heard about [what AbNer had done], he said:  
  
 ‘My kingdom and I are innocent before Jehovah throughout the ages over the blood of AbNer, son of Ner!  
  
 29‘But may the guilt of this rest upon JoAb and the house of his father! May the house of JoAb always suffer from gonorrhea and leprosy; may they walk on crutches; may they starve and be cut down in battle... 30For it was JoAb and his brother AbiShai [that did this to] AbNer, because he’d killed their brother AshaEl at the battle of GibeOn.’  
  
31Then David told JoAb and all of his men to rip their clothes, wrap themselves in sackcloth, and to mourn for AbNer! And after that, David walked behind AbNer’s casket in his funeral procession.  
  
32For they buried him in a tomb in HebRon, where David screamed and cried, as did all the people.  
  
33The king mourned over AbNer, saying these words:  
  
 ‘Should AbNer have died like NaBal?  
  
 34‘For his hands and feet were not tied,  
 Nor like NaBal, was he led away…  
 He was cut down by an unrighteous man.’  
  
So, all the people gathered to weep for him, 35and David invited them all to eat loaves of bread in a funeral meal that day.  
  
Then David swore an oath, saying:  
  
 ‘May God curse me and add more to it if I eat anything before the sun sets today.’  
  
36As a result, all the people were pleased by these things that the king had done before them. 37And all IsraEl got to know that the king had nothing to do with killing AbNer (son of Ner).  
  
38Then the king said to his servants:  
  
 ‘Don’t you know that a great leader has fallen in IsraEl today?  
  
 39‘I feel like one of his closest relatives and like someone who’s stood in the presence of a king!  
  
 ‘However these men, these sons of ZeruJah, are hard for me to bear... May Jehovah repay the one who did this wicked thing with the evil that he deserves.’