

DAVID, ABNER, AND JOAB

TRUST AND TREACHERY

Introduction:

1. David had been anointed King over Judah.
2. However, Abner had worked to have Ishbosheth, Saul's son, anointed as King of Israel.
3. This led to conflict between Israel and Judah – and between Abner (captain of Israel's army) and Joab (captain of Judah's army).

- I. The Strength of David's House (3:1-5)
 - A. As the house of Saul grew weaker, the house of David grew stronger.
 - B. As evidence of this, the record of David's children born in Hebron is given.
 1. Chileab is also known as Daniel (1 Chron. 3:1).
 2. Chileab seems to mean, "Like his father."
 - C. David's polygamy will lead to conflict among his offspring.
- II. The Weakness of Israel (3:6-11)
 - A. At the beginning of this conflict, Abner was aligned strongly with Israel.
 - B. However, after Ishbosheth accused him of taking Saul's concubine, he was overcome with outrage.
 - C. He vowed to turn against Israel and help David become King over the entire nation of Israel.
- III. The Covenant between David and Abner (3:12-21)
 - A. Abner offered to make a covenant with David.
 - B. David agreed but demanded proof of Abner's faithfulness – the return of Michal, his wife.
 - C. She was returned to David and Abner began persuading the tribes to align with David.
 - D. Abner was having success and David celebrated with a feast.
 - E. Abner left the king in peace to continue his work for David.
- IV. The Rebellion of Joab (3:22-30)
 - A. During this time, Joab and the army of Judah had been away.
 - B. When Joab learned of David's covenant with Abner, he was outraged.
 - C. Thus, he secretly sent word for Abner to return.
 - D. Upon meeting him, Joab assassinated Abner.
 - E. David declared his innocence in this matter and pronounced a curse upon Joab and his family.
- V. The Sincerity of David (3:31-39)
 - A. David proved by his actions that Joab had acted without his approval.
 - B. As a result, the people approved of David.
 - C. Yet, David recognized the weakness of his situation concerning Joab.