

Sermon Series: A Man After God's Own Heart:  
**A Study Of The Life Of David**  
Today's Title: "God's Kingdom Will Prevail"  
(2 Samuel 2:12-3:39 ESV)

## **I. God's Kingdom Will Prevail Over Physical**

### **Opposition. 2:12-3:1**

**2:12** Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. **13** And Joab the son of Zeruiah and the servants of David went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon.

**17** And the battle was very fierce that day. And Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David.

**18** Now Asahel was as swift of foot as a wild gazelle. **19** And Asahel pursued Abner, and as he went, he turned neither to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner

**3:1** There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. And David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.

## **II. God's Kingdom Will Prevail Over Political**

### **Opportunism. 3:2-19**

**3:9** God do so to Abner and more also, if I do not accomplish for David what the LORD has sworn to him, **10** to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan to Beersheba." **11** And Ish-bosheth could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him. **12** And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, "To whom does the land belong? Make your covenant with me, and behold, my hand shall be with you to bring over all Israel to you."

**17** And Abner conferred with the elders of Israel, saying, "For some time past you have been seeking David as king over you. **18** Now then bring it about, for the LORD has promised David, saying, 'By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines, and from the hand of all their enemies.'" **19** Abner also spoke to Benjamin. And then Abner went to tell David at Hebron all that Israel and the whole house of Benjamin thought good to do.

## **III. God's Kingdom Will Prevail Over Vindictive Operations. 3:22-39**

**3:23** When Joab and all the army that was with him came, it was told Joab, "Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he has let him go, and he has gone in peace." **24** Then Joab went to the king and said, "What have you done? Behold, Abner came to you. Why is it that you have sent him away, so that he is gone? **25** You know that Abner the son of Ner came to deceive you and to know your going out and your coming in, and to know all that you are doing."

**26** When Joab came out from David's presence, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the cistern of Sirah. But David did not know about it. **27** And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the midst of the gate to speak with him privately, and there he struck him in the stomach, so that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

**28** Afterward, when David heard of it, he said, "I and my kingdom are forever guiltless before the LORD for the blood of Abner the son of Ner.

**37** So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the king's will to put to death Abner the son of Ner. **38** And the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel? **39** And I was gentle today, though anointed king. These men, the sons of Zeruiah, are more severe than I. The LORD repay the evildoer according to his wickedness!"

### **Questions for discussion and meditation:**

**I.** How did Abner provoke war with David? In spite of these provocations and war, how did God bless David? What kind of physical opposition did Jesus encounter? How does this help believers and the church when we encounter such force?

**II.** What caused Abner to want to change sides? When did it become convenient for him to proclaim God's promises? Who were examples of opportunists in the New Testament? How can believers be guilty of opportunism? How does the gospel help us overcome this temptation?

**III.** What motives were behind Joab's murder of Abner? How could this have jeopardized David's kingship over all Israel? What is the deep heart problem when Christians give in to hatred, bitterness, envy, and fear? How does the gospel help us overcome these? How do God's promises and His sovereign decrees give hope to believers when they see or experience attacks against themselves and the Kingdom of God? Why isn't the lesson of this story: be like David and God will bless you? In Whom should we trust alone and why?