

Message #5**II Samuel 3:1-16**

When you get into the deep dark world of dirty politics, there are many allegations of sexual misconduct. In our day and age, it doesn't seem to matter to some whether or not the allegations are even true. If it were proven that the person running for office were guilty of forcible sexual misconduct, one could still get elected to be President. If a leader uses his political office as a means of pursuing immoral things, most people turn their heads.

Most of the people would just dismiss the allegation and continue to support their party. They wouldn't care if their candidate was a child molester visiting the Jeffrey Epstein Island, woman proper who backs an intern up against a wall or serial adulterer who uses the White House swimming pool and offices for immoral behavior. Most of those in leadership today have no scruples or integrity. It is a dirty, filthy swamp.

Abner was not like that. Abner was a high-ranking political leader. Abner did have some scruples. When Abner learned that Saul's son and replacement King Ish-Bosheth accused him of raping Saul's concubine, it was enough to prompt Abner to want to join David.

GOD SOVEREIGNLY USES FALSE IMMORAL ALLEGATIONS TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF CAUSING ABNER TO JOIN DAVID AND START THE PROCESS OF MAKING HIM KING OVER ALL ISRAEL.

Again, you would never suspect the sovereignty of God to be working behind closed doors in a conversation concerning sexual matters. But God was in this scenario and this becomes a key turning point in Abner's life and thinking to cause him to want to join David.

HISTORICAL FACT #1 – David grows stronger in his conflict with Saul. 3:1-5

Verse 1 informs us that David's rise to becoming king of Israel was not a quick, swift process. We may remember that ever since David was a shepherd teenager, Samuel had said he would be the next king. Well years had transpired and still he was not king over all Israel.

We learn here that there was a long war that was taking place between the house of Saul and the house of David. But carefully notice that David's house is growing stronger and stronger and Saul's house is growing weaker and weaker. God was causing David to increase.

In **verses 2-5** we learn that David was certainly not a perfect man. He had several wives, which was certainly not the will of God. In fact, Deuteronomy 17:17 says that God's king "shall not multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away."

So the major concern was that multiple wives would pull the king's heart away from God. It did in Solomon's case, but it did not in David's case.

In **verse 2**, we learn that six sons were born to David while he was at Hebron to six different women. By virtue of the number of sons born we may assume that this is spread out over quite a bit of time. We know that David was in Hebron for seven years and six months (I Chron. 3:4).

The list given here is in chronological order of their birth. So this would be the list of those who would be legally eligible to succeed the Davidic throne in their order of eligibility.

Now another list of David's sons is given to us in I Chronicles 3:1-3. The list is identical except David's second born son here is Chileab or Kileab, but in I Chronicles 3:1, he is named "Daniel."

There are two possibilities for the change of name:

- 1) These are two different names that describe the same person. For example we know that Solomon was also named Jedidiah by Nathan the prophet (II Sam. 12:24-25). So while most people used the name Solomon, Nathan called him Jedidiah (beloved of the LORD).
- 2) Some have suggested that Chileab died at a young age and was replaced by another son, Daniel.

This particular list gives us the names of six wives of David and four of the six are not listed anywhere else in Scripture:

(Son #1) - Amnon was born to David by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess (**v. 2**).

Ahinoam was one of the two wives that David brought with him to Hebron. Amnon will show up later in the book in a sordid story of the incestuous rape of his half-sister, Tamar. Amnon will be the cause of what John Woodhouse appropriately called a "bloody feud" (*II Samuel*, p. 100). Absalom will not let Amnon get away with raping his sister.

(Son #2) - Chileab was born to David by Abigail the Carmelite widow of Nabal (**v. 3a**).

Abigail was the other wife that David brought with him to Hebron. She had been Nabal's wife who died of a heart attack and David married her. It is possible that Chileab died at a young age because he is never mentioned again.

(Son #3) - Absalom was born to David by Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur (**3b**).

Geshur was a small kingdom located on the NE side of the Jordan River. It was opposite of Mahanaim, which was the place that Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, had made his home. By virtue of the fact that Maacah married David shows that Talmai did not join forces with Saul, but with David.

(Son #4) - Adonijah was born to David by Haggith (**4a**).

In David's older years, Adonijah would be David's oldest surviving son, who would lead a revolt against Solomon and claim he was the next king (I Kings 1:5-2:25).

(Son #5) - Shephatiah was born to David by Abital **(4b)**.

We know nothing further about this son.

(Son #6) - Ithream was born to David by Eglah **(5)**.

We know nothing further about this son other than he is David's son.

Not all of David's sons turned out to be big name winners. But God in His sovereignty did allow these sons to be born to David.

HISTORICAL FACT #2 – Abner grows stronger in his conflict with Saul's son. **3:6-16**

Verse 6 again reinforces the fact that there was a war taking place between David's house, who was king of Judah, and Saul's house, who was king of Israel.

Now the key player in Saul's house was Abner. Abner had been Saul's right hand man and commander of Saul's military. He was the one responsible for making Saul's son Ish-bosheth king in Mahanaim (II Sam. 2:8-10).

Certainly one thing you could say about Abner is that he was loyal to Saul and was a warrior against David. But God sovereignly begins to move and swing the pendulum toward David by a bizarre set of circumstances that will actually cause Abner to want to join David. You could not dream this up if you tried.

When you analyze this, this is all part of the sovereign plan of God to make David king of Israel.

Historical Circumstance #1 - Abner is falsely accused by Ish-bosheth. **3:7-11**

Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah. She was the daughter of Aiah. Having concubines was a practice often seen in the O.T.. Abraham and Jacob had concubines (Gen. 16:2, 3; 25:6; 35:22; I Chron. 1:32). Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines (I Kings 11:3). A concubine was a woman with whom one would have sexual relations. The tradeoff was that she was to be provided for by the man.

Now most read their Bibles and say this is not good. This was not right and it wasn't. But before you look down your nose at this, take a look at your own family lineage because you are likely to discover there are some in your family line who are not lily whites when it comes to your family. **What this shows is that God uses imperfect people to accomplish His perfect will.**

Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah and according to **verse 7**, Ish-bosheth, for some unknown reason, accused Abner of either raping the woman or having some immoral liaison with her. **Notice in verse 7, Ish-bosheth doesn't ask Abner if he did it, he accuses him and assumes he did do it.**

He is making this up. These are all false allegations. Political gain by making false allegations of immorality against someone is not new to our political world; this was happening here.

In **verse 8**, when Abner learned of this, he was red hot. For this puny Ish-bosheth to dare accuse him of immoral behavior, when it was not true, was a tremendous insult and Abner would not put up with it.

Abner says what do you think I am, some dog in heat. I have the head and brain of a dog. Abner says I am the one who has protected you and promoted you and you accuse me of this evil.

This so made Abner angry that in **verses 9-10**, he says to Ish-bosheth, I am going to do everything I can to transfer the kingdom from Saul to David. I am going to work on making it possible for David to be King over Israel and over all the land.

According to **verse 11**, when Ish-bosheth heard this, he shut his mouth because he was afraid of Abner.

Saul's house is becoming weaker and weaker by the hour. It is imploding and God is sovereignly causing every bit of this.

When God sovereignly determines the right time for His leader, He will cause things to happen that will make it possible. He can cause a political leader and political party to implode. He can cause people who were friends to start making crazy false allegations in order to accomplish His will.

Historical Circumstance #2 - Abner negotiates with David. **3:12-16**

Abner did not waste any time. He is a military man used to making decisions. God was turning his mind and events to accomplish His sovereign will:

(Action #1) - Abner sent messengers to David. **3:12a**

Abner did not go himself, but he sent messengers in his place to contact David. Frankly, it would have been dangerous for him to go himself, due to the fact that he had killed David's sister's son, Asahel.

(Action #2) - Abner's messengers request that David make a covenant with Abner. **3:12b**

We may remember that Jonathan had made a covenant with David so Abner wants David to make a covenant with him. He knew David was willing to make covenant deals.

(Action #3) - Abner says that if David will make a covenant with him, he will bring all Israel to David. **3:12c**

The fact is Abner is probably the one guy who can actually accomplish this. He put Ish-bosheth into power and he can take him out of power.

Historical Circumstance #3 - David responds to Abner. **3:13**

David agrees to make a covenant but he demands that he bring Michal to him. Michal had been Saul's daughter and had been given to David, but Saul had given her to another man.

Historical Circumstance #4 - Abner oversees David getting Michal. **3:14-16**

It is clear that Abner made the deal. David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth demanding that he return Michal to him.

According to **verse 15**, Ish-bosheth took Michal from her husband, Paltiel, to give her back to David.

According to **verse 16**, Paltiel was a cry baby of a husband who followed weeping and crying.

But Abner told him to basically shut up and go home.

You get to see what will happen one day when people have to face Jesus Christ. They will be crying and weeping like sniveling cowards.

This whole thing started when Ish-bosheth made false allegations against Abner. But the secret, silent, sovereign hand of God was working because God was going to use these circumstances as part of a process to fulfill a promise that David would be king.