

**Recap of 11/9/25 message by Pastor Joe Ricchuiti
("Struggle, Delay, Promise fulfilled") 2 Samuel 3:1-21:**

1. 2 Samuel 3:1-21 is a profile of two men: David and Abner. David was a man after God's own heart. Abner by contrast was a man after his own way.

2. 2 Samuel 3:1 is a summary statement for the next section.

-Saul's family grows weaker as they resist David's advancement over the entire Kingdom.

-David grows stronger as he moves toward God's will and its fulfillment in his life.

-Even though Saul's death cleared the way for David to move forward with his monarchy he consulted God before undertaking any move, waiting for God's timing. He is an example of walking by faith, not by sight.

-Abner selfishly pursued power for himself, defying God's will. He is an example of one who walk by sight, taking account of circumstances and opportunities without thought of what God's will is.

3. In the words of G. Campbell Morgan: "Two lessons emerge from the weakening of Saul's dynasty and the strengthening of David's dynasty in 2 Samuel 3:1ff

-First, the divine purpose is always making headway, however many circumstances may seem to give reason for a contrary opinion. Secondly, we need the patience, which is able to endure, knowing that the way to victory is the way of conflict, and of persistent faith.

4. We learn an important spiritual lesson from David's actions here. Before embarking on a new direction in life we must begin by seeking God's will (a day-by-day commitment to follow God).

5. "While in Hebron, David also made some decisions he lived to regret. He had a weakness for women, loving many and making many his wives. Along with the wives mentioned in vv. 2-5, David had other wives and concubines. It was through these polygamous relationships that some of the knarls in his character first made themselves known. (Swindoll)

6. God's ideal for marriage is seen in Genesis 2:24: one man, one woman, together for life (Genesis 2:24). David's polygamy bore bitter fruit in Solomon's life.