

2 Sam. 3:1-21

The Upper Hand



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I. Unexpected Help

II. Inverse Trajectories

A. “David grew steadily stronger, but the house of Saul grew weaker continually.”

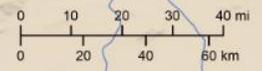
1. An enlarged household

a. Multiplying wives? Deut. 17:14-17

2. A strategic marriage?



The Kingdoms of Ish-Bosheth and David (2 Samuel 1-4)



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I. Unexpected Help

II. Inverse Trajectories

A. “David grew steadily stronger, but the house of Saul grew weaker continually.”

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a. Multiplying wives? Deut. 17:14-17

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B. God stands behind the man after His own heart and fulfills His good purposes for him.



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II. Inverse Trajectories

III. An Unexpected Ally

A. Disruption in the status quo favors David

B. Abner: a bigger piece of a shrinking pie

C. Pushed into David's corner by an ill-considered question

1. "Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?"

2. Biting the hand that feeds you

3. An irreparable breach



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III. An Unexpected Ally



D. Abner: a distinguished pawn

1. Openly recognizes God's sovereignty at work
 - a. 1 Kings 12:1-19

E. No threats, just promises

F. David seizes the opportunity

1. The return of Michal
 - a. The divorce-remarriage prohibition? Deut. 24:1-4
2. Request comes to Ish-bosheth who fulfills it

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III. An Unexpected Ally

G. Seeding the ground with the elders of Israel

1. Plays to their former desires

a. 2 Cor. 8:7-11

2. Special attention to Benjamin

3. Delivers the good news to David

IV. Not Just Deliverance for David

A. David is precious and God's favor rests on him.

B. However, Abner's appeal paints a larger picture.

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IV. Not Just Deliverance for David

- A. David is precious and God's favor rests on him.
- B. However, Abner's appeal paints a larger picture.

1. 1 Sam. 9:15-16

- C. God's actions have a wider scope than David's interests.

V. Sweetness of Success Does Not Erase the Stain of Sin

- A. A heartbreaking scene
- B. Sin will always mar. Treat it as toxic.

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VI. God's Word to Your Heart

A. Deliverance is coming.

B. God's capacity to deliver and the means He uses are intended to astonish.

1. Don't write your future.

C. It's bigger than you.

1. Phil. 1:12-26

D. Sin is doomed, but still deadly. Rom. 5:20-6:7

E. Keep looking. Rom. 15:4-6