

2 Sam. 3:22-4:12

“... It’s How You Play the Game”–
The Character of the King





2 Sam. 3:22-4:12 “... It’s How You Play the Game”

I. Winning Isn’t Everything

II. David Stands on the Threshold of Success

A. Abner on a mission

B. As David reaches toward the prize, his character is again put on display

1. As we have seen throughout his journey

2. It is not enough for David to be a warrior & deliverer—Saul has done that.

3. Against the backdrop of treachery



2 Sam. 3:22-4:12 “... It’s How You Play the Game”

II. David Stands on the Threshold of Success

III. The Death of Abner: Joab’s Treachery & David’s Response

A. Joab is furious & out for blood!

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





2 Sam. 3:22-4:12 “... It’s How You Play the Game”

II. David Stands on the Threshold of Success

III. The Death of Abner: Joab’s Treachery & David’s Response

- A. Joab is furious & out for blood!
- B. The accusatory question: “What have you done!”
- C. Joab takes matters into his own hands.
- D. “Treachery”—an apt term
- E. David responds with godly indignation

2 Sam. 3:22-4:12 “... It’s How You Play the Game”



III. The Death of Abner: Joab’s Treachery & David’s Response

E. David responds with godly indignation

1. Protestation of innocence
2. The curse on Joab
3. Honoring the fallen: burial and lament
4. Fasting

F. David’s desire to be exonerated is fulfilled.



2 Sam. 3:22-4:12 “... It’s How You Play the Game”

III. The Death of Abner: Joab’s Treachery & David’s Response

IV. The Death of Ish-bosheth: Baanah & Rechab’s Treachery & David’s Response

A. News of Abner’s death reaches the north

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





2 Sam. 3:22-4:12 “... It’s How You Play the Game”

III. The Death of Abner: Joab’s Treachery & David’s Response

IV. The Death of Ish-bosheth: Baanah & Rechab’s Treachery & David’s Response

A. News of Abner’s death reaches the north

1. Unsettling, to say the least
 - a. Perhaps fearing a campaign of bloodshed
2. Baanah & Rechab sense the shift in the political winds and set their sail accordingly.



2 Sam. 3:22-4:12 “... It’s How You Play the Game”

IV. The Death of Ish-bosheth: Baanah & Rechab’s Treachery & David’s Response

- A. News of Abner’s death reaches the north
- B. David Responds with godly indignation.
 - 1. They have sorely misjudged him.
 - 2. Less detailed than his response to Abner’s death, but the message is unmistakable.



2 Sam. 3:22-4:12 “... It’s How You Play the Game”

V. A Commitment to What Is Right

A. David’s integrity remains consistent under different circumstances

1. Joab complicates things.
2. Baanah & Rechab make things very easy.

B. It matters how you get there.

1. What God is doing in and through David is no less important than what He’s doing for David.



2 Sam. 3:22-4:12 “... It’s How You Play the Game”

V. A Commitment to What Is Right

B. It matters how you get there.

1. What God is doing in and through David is no less important than what He’s doing for David.
2. If you’re a believer, you’re destined to reign.
 - a. 1 Tim. 2:11-13; 1 Cor. 6:3; 1 Pet. 2:9
3. What will you demonstrate on your journey to the heavenly kingdom?
 - a. 1 Pet. 1:5-11