

3[1] And the war was long between Saul's house and David's house. And David's house grew stronger,¹ and Saul's house grew weaker.² [2] And there were sons born to David in Hebron, and his firstborn was Amnon³ to Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, [3] and his second, Chileab⁴ to Abigail, woman of Fool the Carmelite, and the third Absalom,⁵ son of Maachah daughter of Talmai king of Geshur, [4] and the forth, Adonijah,⁶ son of Haggith,⁷ and the fifth, Shephatiah,⁸ son of Abital,⁹ [5] and the sixth, Ithream,¹⁰ to Heifer¹¹ David's woman. These they bore to David in Hebron.

[6] And in was, during the war between Saul's house and David's house, so Abner was strengthening himself in Saul's house. [7] And Saul had a concubine, and her name was Rizpah,¹² daughter of Ajah.¹³ And he said to Abner, “Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?” [8] And Abner became very angry at Man of Shame's words, and said, “Am I a dog's head that belongs to Judah? Today I do kindness to Saul's house, your father, to his brethren and to his friends,¹⁴ and I have not made you found in David's hand. And you put on me an iniquity of the woman today! [9] Thus, Gods, may he do to Abner and thus add to him, if just as Yehvah swore to David, so thus shall I do for him, [10] to transfer the kingdom from Saul's house and to raise up David's throne over Israel and over Judah from Dan to Beersheba.” [11] And he was not able again to return Abner a word from his fear of him.

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- 1 הָלַךְ וְחָזַק (holêkh vechâzêq) “grew stronger” - singular participle and adjective
- 2 הָלְכִים וְדָלִים (holkhiym vedalliyim) “grew weaker” - plural participle and adjective
- 3 אֲמֹנֹן ('amnon) “Amnon” - found also in 2 Samuel 13:1-4, 6-10, 15, 20(אֲמִינֹן ['amiynon] w/definite article), 22, 26-29, 32-33, 39; 1 Chronicles 3:1; and 1 Chronicles 4:20 for Shimon's son.
- 4 כִּלְאֵב (kilâv) “Chileab” - only here – called also “Daniel” דָּנִיֵּאל (dâniyyê'l) in 1 Chronicles 3:1.
- 5 אַבְשָׁלֹם ('avshâlom) “Absalom” (= father is peace) – found in 2 Samuel 13-19; 20:6; 1 Kings 1:6; 2:7, 28; 1 Chronicles 3:2; 2 Chronicles 11:20-21 (= 1 Kings 15:2, 10, אַבְיִשָׁלֹם ['aviyshâlom] = my father is peace); Psalm 3:1.
- 6 אֲדֹנִיָּה ('adonuyyâh) “Adonijah” (= my lord is Yah) – found also in 1 Kings 1:5, 7-9, 11, 13, 18, 24-25, 41-43, 49-51; 2:13, 19, 21-24, 28; 1 Chronicles 3:2; 2 Chronicles 17:8 (a Levite); Nehemiah 10:16 (a leader).
- 7 חַגִּית (chaggiyt) “Haggith” (= festive, חֵג [chag] is “feast” e.g. Judges 21:19; see also the male version of this word in Genesis 46:16) - 1 Kings 1:5, 11; 2:13; 1 Chronicles 3:2.
- 8 שֶׁפְּטִיָּה (shephatyâh) “Shephatiah” (= “Yah judged”) - found also in 1 Chronicles 3:3; 9:8; 12:5(שֶׁפְּטִיָּהּ [shephatyâhu]); 27:16 (שֶׁפְּטִיָּהּ [shephatyâhu]); 2 Chronicles 21:2 (שֶׁפְּטִיָּהּ [shephatyâhu]); Ezra 2:4, 57; 8:8; Nehemiah 7:9, 59; 11:4; Jeremiah 38:1.
- 9 אַבִּיטָל ('aviytâl) “Abital” (= “my father is dew” - Dew is seen as a good thing, e.g. Genesis 27:28) - found also in 1 Chronicles 3:3.
- 10 יִתְרֵעַם (yitre`âm) “Ithream” - found also in 1 Chronicles 3:3.
- 11 עֵגְלָה ('egklâh) “Heifer” (same exact word as in 1 Samuel 16:2 “heifer” NKJV); “Eglah” NKJV, etc. - as a name found also in 1 Chronicles 3:3.
- 12 רִצְפָּה (ritspâh) “Rizpah” (= “burning coal” e.g. Isaiah 6:6 NKJV) – found also as a name in 2 Samuekl 21:8, 10-11.
- 13 אֵיָּה ('ayyâh) “Ajah” (= “kite” TT or “falcon” NKJV e.g. Leviticus 11:14 [see footnote]) – see footnote for Genesis 36:24
- 14 מֵרַעְהוּ (mêrê`êhu) “his friends” - “friend” is singular, but translated plural due to meaning is not limited to a single friend. This same word is used in this same way in Proverbs 19:7 with the singular noun “friend” and a plural verb.

[12] And Abner sent messengers on his behalf to David, saying, “Whose is the land?” Saying, “Cut your covenant with me. And behold, my hand is with you to turn to you all of Israel.” [13] And he said, “Good, I will cut with you a covenant. However, one thing I require from you,” saying, “you shall not see my face, unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face.”

[14] And David sent messengers to Man of Shame, Saul's son, saying, “Give my woman, Michal, whom I betrothed to myself for a hundred Philistines' foreskins.” [15] And Man of Shame sent and took her from with a man, from with Paltiel,¹⁵ son of Lush.¹⁶ [16] And her man went with her, walking and weeping after her unto Young Men.¹⁷ And Abner said to him, “Go, return.” And he returned.

[17] And Abner's word was with elders of Israel, saying, “Even yesterday, even three days ago,¹⁸ you were seeking David for king over you. [18] So now, do it, for Yehvah has said to David, saying, 'In David my servant's hand, saving my people Israel from Philistines' hand and from all their enemies hand.’” [19] And Abner also spoke in Benjamin's ears, and Abner also went to speak in David's ears in Hebron all that was good in Israel's eyes and eyes of all Benjamin's house.

[20] And Abner came to David at Hebron, and with him were twenty men. And David made a feast for Abner and for the men who were with him. [21] And Abner said to David, “I will arise and go and gather together to my lord the king all Israel. And they shall cut a covenant with you, and you shall reign in all your soul desires.” And David sent Abner, and he went in peace.

15 פִּלְטִיֶּאֱל (paltiy'el) “Paltiel” - named “Palti” פִּלְטִי (palti) in 1 Samuel 25:44.

16 Read לַיִשׁ (layish) “Lion,” written לֹשׁ (lush) “Lush” (= to “knead” e.g. 2 Samuel 13:8) – named “Lion” לַיִשׁ (layish) in 1 Samuel 25:44 (see footnote).

17 בָּחֻרִים (bachuriym) “Young Men” (= “young men” e.g. Numbers 11:28); NKJV, etc. “Bahurim.”

18 גַּם־תְּמוֹל גַּם־שְׁלֹשָׁם (gam-temol gam shilshom) “Even yesterday, even three days ago” - this is a figure of speech meaning, “In time past.”