

~ABNER (451)

(Ab'ner) [Father Is a Lamp]

- Son of Ner, of the tribe of Benjamin.
- And the name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam the daughter of Ahimaaz, and the name of the chief of his army was **Abner** the son of Ner, the uncle of Saul. (1 Samuel 14:50)
- And Kish was the father of Saul, and Ner the father of **Abner** was the son of Abiel. (1 Samuel 14:51)
- Evidently refers to **Abner** as the uncle of Saul, though this phrase in the Hebrew can be applied either to **Abner** or to Ner, his father. Josephus speaks of **Abner** as Saul's cousin, and of their fathers, Ner and Kish, as brothers. [Jewish Antiquities, VI, 129,130 [vi, 6]]. However, the inspired history at;
- As for Ner, he became father to Kish. Kish, in turn, became father to Saul. Saul, in turn, became father to Jonathan and Malchi-shua and Abinadab and Eshbaal. (1 Chronicles 8:33)
- As for Ner, he became father to Kish. Kish, in turn, became father to Saul. Saul, in turn, became father to Jonathan and Malchi-shua and Abinadab and Eshbaal. (1 Chronicles 9:39)
- Seems to weigh heavily in favor of Kish as being the son of Ner and, hence, the brother of **Abner**. This would make **Abner** the uncle of Saul.

See Also ABIEL 1

- **Abner** served as chief of the army for Saul, and his fighting force sometimes assumed major proportions, upwards of 200,000 men.
- Accordingly Saul summoned the people and took the count of them in Telaim, two hundred thousand men on foot and ten thousand men of Judah. (1 Samuel 15:4)
- On special occasions he sat next to the king at the banquet table.
- And the king was sitting in his seat as at other times, in the seat

by the wall, and Jonathan was facing him, and **Abner** was sitting at Saul's side, but David's place was vacant. (1 Samuel 20:25)

- Though **Abner** was undoubtedly a powerful and valiant man, **Abner** was chided by David, when the latter was a fugitive in the Wilderness of Ziph, for having failed to guard Saul's person properly as his lord and the anointed of Yehowah.
- And David began to call out to the people and to **Abner** the son of Ner, saying; Will you not answer, **Abner**? And **Abner** began to answer and say; Who are you that have called out to the king? (1 Samuel 26:14)
- And David went on to say to **Abner**; Are you not a man? And who is like you in Israel? Why, then, did you not watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came in to bring the king your lord to ruin. (1 Samuel 26:15)
- This thing that you have done is not good. As Yehowah is living, you men deserve to die, because you have not watched over your lord, over the anointed of Yehowah. And now see where the king's spear and the water jug are that were at his head. (1 Samuel 26:16)
- Following Saul's death in the crushing defeat administered by the Philistines, **Abner** withdrew across the Jordan to Mahanaim in Gilead, taking Saul's son Ish-bosheth with him. Though David had been proclaimed king in Hebron by the tribe of Judah, **Abner** set up Ish-bosheth as a rival king in Mahanaim. **Abner** was clearly the power behind the throne and in time obtained the support of all the tribes except Judah on behalf of Ish-bosheth.
- As for **Abner** the son of Ner the chief of the army that had belonged to Saul, he took Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, and proceeded to bring him across to Mahanaim. (2 Samuel 2:8)
- And to make him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and Jezreel and over Ephraim and Benjamin and over Israel, all of it. (2 Samuel 2:9)
- Forty years old Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was when he became king over Israel, and for two years he ruled as king. Only the house of Judah proved themselves followers of David. (2 Samuel 2:10)

- Eventually, the armies of the two opposing kings met in a test of strength at the Pool of Gibeon in the territory of Benjamin, about a third of the way from Hebron to Mahanaim. After the two armies had sized each other up, **Abner** proposed a contest between a dozen young warriors from each side. The sides were so evenly matched that a mutual slaughter resulted, provoking a full-scale combat between the two armies. **Abner's** forces lost 18 men for every one of Joab's soldiers and retreated toward the wilderness.

- In time **Abner** the son of Ner and the servants of Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. (2 Samuel 2:12)

- As for Joab the son of Zeruiah and the servants of David, they went out and later met together by the pool of Gibeon, and they kept sitting, these on this side of the pool and those on that side of the pool. (2 Samuel 2:13)

- Finally **Abner** said to Joab; Let the young men rise up, please, and let them put on a combat before us. To this Joab said; Let them rise up. (2 Samuel 2:14)

- So they rose up and went across by number, twelve belonging to Benjamin and Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, and twelve from the servants of David. (2 Samuel 2:15)

- And they began grabbing hold of one another by the head, with the sword of each one in the side of the other, so that they fell down together. And that place came to be called Helkath-hazzurim, which is in Gibeon. (2 Samuel 2:16)

- And the fighting came to be extremely hard on that day, and **Abner** and the men of Israel were finally defeated before the servants of David. (2 Samuel 2:17)

- As for Joab, he turned back from following **Abner** and began to collect all the people together. And there were missing from the servants of David nineteen men and Asahel. (2 Samuel 2:30)

- And the servants of David, for their part, had struck down those of Benjamin and of the men of **Abner**, there were three hundred and sixty men that died. (2 Samuel 2:31)

- **Abner**, pursued by Joab's fleet-footed brother Asahel, urged him repeatedly to turn his attention elsewhere and avoid a deadly encounter with him. When Asahel kept refusing, **Abner** finally made a powerful backstroke and killed Asahel with the butt end of his spear, running him through in the abdomen.
- Now the three sons of Zeruiah happened to be there, Joab and Abishai and Asahel, and Asahel was swift on his feet, like one of the gazelles that are in the open field. (2 Samuel 2:18)
- And Asahel went chasing after **Abner**, and he did not incline to go to the right or to the left from following Abner. (2 Samuel 2:19)
- At length **Abner** looked behind him and said; Is this you, Asahel? To which he said; It is I. (2 Samuel 2:20)
- Then **Abner** said to him; Veer to your right or to your left and seize one of the young men as yours and take what you strip off him as yours. And Asahel did not want to turn aside from following him. (2 Samuel 2:21)
- So **Abner** said to Asahel yet again; Turn your course aside from following me. Why should I strike you down to the earth? How, then, could I raise my face to Joab your brother? (2 Samuel 2:22)
- But he kept refusing to turn aside, and **Abner** got to strike him in the abdomen with the butt end of the spear, so that the spear came out from his back, and he fell there and died where he was. And it came about that all those who came to the place where Asahel fell and then died would stand still. (2 Samuel 2:23)
- At **Abner's** appeal, Joab finally called a halt to the pursuit at sundown, and the two armies began marches back to their respective capitals. Their stamina can be seen from the 80 kilometers (50 miles) or more that **Abner's** forces marched, down into the basin of the Jordan, fording the river, then up the Jordan Valley to the hills of Gilead, where they made their way to Mahanaim. After burying Asahel in Bethlehem, perhaps on the following day, Joab's men had a night-long march of over 22 kilometers (14 miles) through the mountains to Hebron.
- As for **Abner** and his men, they marched through the Arabah all that night and went crossing the Jordan and marching through the entire gully and finally came to Mahanaim. (2 Samuel 2:29)

- As for Joab, he turned back from following **Abner** and began to collect all the people together. And there were missing from the servants of David nineteen men and Asahel. (2 Samuel 2:30)
- And the servants of David, for their part, had struck down those of Benjamin and of the men of **Abner**, there were three hundred and sixty men that died. (2 Samuel 2:31)
- And they proceeded to carry Asahel and bury him in the burial place of his father, which is at Bethlehem. Then Joab and his men went marching on all night long, and it became daylight for them at Hebron. (2 Samuel 2:32)
- **Abner** supported Ish-bosheth's declining regime but also strengthened his own position, perhaps with an eye on the kingship, since he was, after all, the brother of Saul's father. When taken to task by Ish-bosheth for having relations with one of Saul's concubines, an act allowable only to the dead king's heir, **Abner** angrily announced the transfer of his support to David's side.
- And it came about that while the war between the house of Saul and the house of David kept up, **Abner** himself was continually strengthening his position in the house of Saul. (2 Samuel 3:6)
- Now Saul had had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. Later Ish-bosheth said to **Abner**; Why was it that you had relations with the concubine of my father? (2 Samuel 3:7)
- And **Abner** got very angry at the words of Ish-bosheth and went on to say; Am I a dogs head that belongs to Judah? Today I keep exercising loving-kindness toward the house of Saul your father, to his brothers and his personal friends, and I have not let you find yourself in the hand of David, and yet you call me to account for an error concerning a woman today. (2 Samuel 3:8)
- So may God do to **Abner** and so may he add to it, if, just as Yehowah swore to David, that is not the way that I shall do to him. (2 Samuel 3:9)
- So as to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and to establish the throne of David over Israel and over Judah from Dan to Beer-sheba. (2 Samuel 3:10)

- And he was not able to say one word more in reply to **Abner** because of being afraid of him. (2 Samuel 3:11)
- He made overtures to David, stressing his own position as virtual ruler of the rest of Israel outside Judah. Satisfying David's requirement of the return of his wife Michal, **Abner** now privately approached the heads of the 11 tribes separated from Judah to build up their favor toward Yehowah's appointed king, David.
- Accordingly **Abner** sent messengers to David on the spot, saying; To whom does the land belong? Adding; Do conclude your covenant with me, and, look! My hand will be with you to turn to your side the whole of Israel. (2 Samuel 3:12)
- To this he said; Good! I myself shall conclude a covenant with you. Only one thing there is that I am asking of you, saying; You may not see my face except first you bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face. (2 Samuel 3:13)
- Further, David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, saying; Do give over my wife Michal, whom I engaged to myself for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines. (2 Samuel 3:14)
- So Ish-bosheth sent and took her from her husband, Paltiel the son of Laish. (2 Samuel 3:15)
- But her husband kept walking with her, weeping as he walked after her as far as Bahurim. Then **Abner** said to him; Go, return! At that he returned. (2 Samuel 3:16)
- Meanwhile there had come to be communication by **Abner** with the older men of Israel, saying; Both yesterday and previously you proved yourselves seeking David as king over you. (2 Samuel 3:17)
- And now act, for Yehowah himself said to David; By the hand of David my servant I shall save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and from the hand of all their enemies. (2 Samuel 3:18)
- Then **Abner** also spoke in the ears of Benjamin, after which Abner also went to speak in the ears of David at Hebron all that was good in the eyes of Israel and in the eyes of the whole house of

Benjamin. (2 Samuel 3:19)

- **Thereafter he was warmly received by David at his capital in Hebron, and that same day set out to persuade all the tribes to make a covenant with David. But Joab, absent on a raid, returned and, after denouncing **Abner** as a conniving spy, personally called him back and tricked **Abner** into a position where he could kill him.**
- **When **Abner** came to David at Hebron, and with him twenty men, David proceeded to make a feast for **Abner** and for the men that were with him. (2 Samuel 3:20)**
- **Then **Abner** said to David; Let me rise up and go and collect all Israel together to my lord the king, that they may conclude a covenant with you, and you will certainly become king over all that your soul craves. So David sent **Abner** off, and he got on his way in peace. (2 Samuel 3:21)**
- **And here David's servants and Joab were coming from a raid, and the spoil that they brought with them was abundant. As for **Abner**, he was not with David in Hebron, for he had sent him off, and he was on his way in peace. (2 Samuel 3:22)**
- **And Joab and all the army that was with him came in, and they now reported to Joab, saying; **Abner** the son of Ner came to the king, and he proceeded to send him off, and he is on his way in peace. (2 Samuel 3:23)**
- **So Joab went in to the king and said; What have you done? Look! **Abner** has come to you. Why was it that you sent him off so that he successfully went away? (2 Samuel 3:24)**
- **You well know **Abner** the son of Ner, that it was to fool you that he came and to get to know your going out and your coming in and to get to know everything that you are doing. (2 Samuel 3:25)**
- **With that Joab went out from David and sent messengers after **Abner**, and they then had him return from the cistern of Sirah, and David himself did not know of it. (2 Samuel 3:26)**
- **When **Abner** returned to Hebron, Joab now led him aside inside the gate to speak with him quietly. However, there he struck him in the abdomen, so that he died because of the blood of**

Asahel his brother. (2 Samuel 3:27)

- With **Abner's** death, any hoped-for support for Ish-bosheth collapsed and Ish-bosheth was soon assassinated by traitorous men. With this the rule of the house of Saul came to a complete end.
- When the son of Saul heard that **Abner** had died in Hebron, then his hands became feeble and all the Israelites themselves were disturbed. (2 Samuel 4:1)
- And there were two men, chiefs of the marauding bands, that happened to belong to the son of Saul, the name of the one being Baanah and the name of the other being Rechab, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the sons of Benjamin, for Beeroth, too, used to be counted as part of Benjamin. (2 Samuel 4:2)
- And the Beerothites went running away to Gittaim, and they came to be alien residents there down to this day. (2 Samuel 4:3)
- And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, proceeded to go and come to the house of Ish-bosheth about when the day had heated up, as he was taking his noonday siesta. (2 Samuel 4:5)
- And here they came into the middle of the house as men fetching wheat, and then struck him in the abdomen, and Rechab and Baanah his brother themselves escaped detection. (2 Samuel 4:6)
- When they went into the house, he was lying upon his couch in his inner bedroom, and then they struck him so that they put him to death, after which they removed his head and took his head and walked on the road to the Arabah all night long. (2 Samuel 4:7)
- Eventually they came bringing the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron and said to the king; Here is the head of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul your enemy who looked for your soul, but Yehowah gives to my lord the king revenge this day upon Saul and his offspring. (2 Samuel 4:8)
- However, David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them; As Yehowah who redeemed my soul out of all distress is living. (2 Samuel 4:9)

- When there was one reporting to me, saying; Here Saul is dead, and he himself in his own eyes became like a bringer of Good News, I, however, took hold of him and killed him in Ziklag when it was due for me to give him the messengers fee. (2 Samuel 4:10)
- How much more so when wicked men themselves have killed a righteous man in his own house upon his bed? And now should I not require his blood from your hands, and must I not clear you out of the earth? (2 Samuel 4:11)
- With that David commanded the young men and they killed them and cut off their hands and their feet and hanged them by the pool in Hebron, and the head of Ish-bosheth they took and then buried in the burial place of Abner in Hebron. (2 Samuel 4:12)
- Many years later, while nearing the time of his own death, David remembered Abner's death, as well as Amasa's, and charged Solomon with the responsibility of removing the stain of bloodguilt that Joab had brought on David's house.
- And the days of David gradually drew near for him to die, and he proceeded to command Solomon his son, saying; (1 Kings 2:1)
- And you yourself also well know what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me in what he did to two chiefs of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner and Amasa the son of Jether, when he killed them and placed the blood of war in peacetime and put the blood of war on his belt that was about his hips and in his sandals that were on his feet. (1 Kings 2:5)
- And you must act according to your wisdom, and not let his gray hairs go down in peace to Sheol. (1 Kings 2:6)
- Shortly thereafter, Abner's slayer, Joab, was executed at Solomon's order.
- Then the king said to him; Do just as he has spoken and fall upon him, and you must bury him and remove from off me and from off the house of my father the blood undeservedly shed that Joab spilled. (1 Kings 2:31)
- And Yehowah will certainly bring back his blood upon his own

head, because he fell upon two men more righteous and better than he was, and he proceeded to kill them with the sword, when my father David himself had not known of it, namely, **Abner** the son of Ner the chief of the army of Israel and Amasa the son of Jether the chief of the army of Judah. (**1 Kings 2:32**)

- And their blood must come back upon the head of Joab and upon the head of his offspring to time indefinite, but for David and for his offspring and for his house and for his throne there will come to be peace to time indefinite from Yehowah. (**1 Kings 2:33**)
- Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went on up and fell upon him and put him to death, and he got to be buried at his own house in the wilderness. (**1 Kings 2:34**)
- Only one son of **Abner** is listed, Jaasiel, who was a leader in the tribe of Benjamin during David's reign.
- Of the half tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah, of Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of **Abner**. (**1 Chronicles 27:21**)
- And also all that Samuel the seer and Saul the son of Kish and **Abner** the son of Ner and Joab the son of Zeruiah had made holy. What anyone made holy was under the control of Shelomith and his brothers. (**1 Chronicles 26:28**)
- This also mentions **Abner's** contributions toward the tabernacle from spoils won as chief of the army.

See Also ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

See Also DISGUSTING THING

See Also LOATHSOME THING