

## Chapter 3

*Ifbofeths forces daily decay, Dauid increafeth in powre, and hath manie fonnes. 7. Abner vpon occafion of a flander breaketh from Ifbofeth, and ferueth Dauid, bringing Michol to him, and much people of Ifrael. 23. Ioab of emulation and reuenge killeth Abner. 28. For which Dauid is offended with Ioab, 31. and mourneth for Abner.*

**T**here was made therefore long ftrife between the houfe of Saul, and between the houfe of Dauid: Dauid prospering and alwaies ftronger then himfelf, but the houfe of Saul decreafing daily. <sup>2</sup> And there were fonnes borne to Dauid in Hebron: and his firft begotten was Ammon of Achinoam the Iezrahelite. <sup>3</sup> And after him Cheleab of Abigail the wife of Nabal of Carmel: moreouer the third Abfalom the fonne of Maacha the daughter of Tolmai king of Geffur. <sup>4</sup> And the fourth, Adonias, the fonne of Haggith: and the fifth Saphathia, the fonne of Abital. <sup>5</sup> The fixt alfo Iethraam of Eglā the wife of Dauid. Thefe were borne to Dauid in Hebron. <sup>6</sup> Therefore when there was battel between the houfe of Saul and houfe of Dauid, Abner the fonne of Ner ruled the houfe of Saul. <sup>7</sup> And Saul had a concubine named Refpha, the daughter of Aia. And Ifbofeth faid to Abner: <sup>8</sup> Why diddeft thou go in to my fathers concubine? Who being wrath exceedingly for the wordes of Ifbofeth, faid: What <sup>a</sup>am I a dogges head againft Iuda this day, which haue done mercie vpon the houfe of Saul thy father, and vpon his brethren and neereft freinds, & haue not deliuered thee into the hands of Dauid, & haft thou fought againft me that thou mighteft charge me for a woman to day? <sup>9</sup> Thefe things do God to Abner,

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<sup>a</sup> Am I contemptible in thy fight, and yet head of them that oppofe againft Dauid, I that haue donne fo much for thee, wil not indure to be reprehended, for a fmal fault. So God fuffereth the maintainers of an euil quarel to fal out among themfelues, wherby the right caufe is aduanced.

and theſe things adde he to him, vnleſſe as our Lord hath ſworne to Dauid, ſo I doe truth to him. <sup>10</sup> That the kingdom be transferred from the houſe of Saul, and the throne of Dauid be exalted ouer Iſrael, and our Iuda, from Dan to Berſabee. <sup>11</sup> And he could not anſwer him any thing, becauſe he feared him. <sup>12</sup> Abner therefore ſent meſſengers to Dauid for himſelf ſaying: Whoſe is the land? And that they ſhould ſay: Make amitie with me, & my hand ſhal be with thee: and I wil reduce vnto thee al Iſrael. <sup>13</sup> Who ſaid: Very wel: I wil make amitie with thee: but one thing I deſire of thee, ſaying: Thou ſhalt not ſee my face before thou bring Michol the daughter of Saul: and ſo thou ſhalt come, and ſee me. <sup>14</sup> And Dauid ſent meſſengers to Iſboſeth the ſonne of Saul, ſaying: Reſtore my wife Michol, which I betrothed to me for an hundred prepuces of the Philiftijms. <sup>15</sup> Iſboſeth therefore ſent, and tooke her from her huſband Phaltiel, the ſonne of Lais. <sup>16</sup> And her huſband folowed her, weeping as farre as Bahurim: and Abner ſaid to him: Goe, and returne. Who returned. <sup>17</sup> Abner alſo ſpake to the ancientes of Iſrael, ſaying: Both yeſterday and the day before you fought Dauid that he might reigne ouer you. <sup>18</sup> Now therefore do ſo: becauſe our Lord hath ſpoken to Dauid, ſaying: In the hand of my ſeruant Dauid I wil ſaue my people Iſrael from the hands of the Philiftijms, and of al their enemies. <sup>19</sup> And Abner ſpake alſo to Benjamin. And he went to ſpeake vnto Dauid in Hebron al things which pleaſed Iſrael, and al Benjamin. <sup>20</sup> And he came to Dauid into Hebron with twentie men: and Dauid made a feaſt to Abner, and to his men that came with him. <sup>21</sup> And Abner ſayd to Dauid: I wil riſe, that I may gather vnto thee my lord king al Iſrael, and may enter a league with thee, and thou mayeſt reigne ouer al, as thy ſoule deſireth. When Dauid therefore had brought Abner on the way, and he was gone in peace, <sup>22</sup> forthwith Dauids ſeruantes and Ioab came, hauing ſlayne the robbers, with a praye exceding great: and Abner was not with Dauid in Hebron, becauſe he had now diſmiſſed him, and he was departed in peace. <sup>23</sup> And Ioab, and al the armie which

were with him, came afterward: it was therefore told Ioab, that Abner the sonne of Ner came to the king, and he dismissed him, and he departed in peace. <sup>24</sup> And Ioab went in to the king, and said: What hast thou done? Behold Abner came to thee: why didst thou dismiss him and he is gone and departed? <sup>25</sup> Knowest thou not Abner the sonne of Ner, that to this end he came to thee, that he might deceive thee, and might know thy going out, and thy coming in, and understand all things that thou doest? <sup>26</sup> Ioab therefore being gone from David, sent messengers after Abner, and brought him backe from the cesterne Sira, David being ignorant thereof. <sup>27</sup> And when Abner was returned into Hebron, Ioab brought him aside to the middes of the gate, to speak vnto him in guile: and stroke him there in the priue partes, and he died, in reuenge of the blood of Afsael his brother. <sup>28</sup> Which when David had heard, that the thing was now done, he said: I am innocent, and my kingdom before God for euer from the blood of Abner the sonne of Ner, <sup>29</sup> and come it vpon the head of Ioab, and vpon all his fathers house: neither let there faile of the house of Ioab one hauing a fluxe of feede, and a leper, and houlding the distaffe, and falling by the sword, lacking bread. <sup>30</sup> Ioab therefore and Abisai his brother flew Abner, because he had killed Afsael their brother in Gabaon in the battel. <sup>31</sup> And David said to Ioab, and to all the people, that were with him: Rent your garments, and be girded with sacke clothes, and mourne before the funeral of Abner. Moreouer king David followed the beere. <sup>32</sup> And when they had buried Abner in Hebron, king David lifted vp his voice, and wept vpon the graue of Abner: and all the people also wept. <sup>33</sup> And the king mourning and lamenting Abner, said: Not as cowardes are wont to die, hath Abner died. <sup>34</sup> Thy handes were not bound, and thy feete were not laden with fetters: but as men are wont to fall before the children of iniquitie, so art thou fallen. And all the people dubling it wept vpon him. <sup>35</sup> And when all the multitude was come to take meate with David, when it was yet cleere day David fware, saying:

These things do God to me, and these adde he, if before funne set I shal taft bread or any thing els. <sup>36</sup> And al the people heard, and al thinges pleased them which the king did in the fight of al the people. <sup>37</sup> And al the people knewe, and al Ifrael in that day that it was not the kinges doing, that Abner the sonne of Ner was slayne. <sup>38</sup> The king also said to his seruantes: Are you ignorant that a prince and the greatest is slayne this day in Ifrael? <sup>39</sup> But I as yet <sup>a</sup>delicate, and annointed king: moreouer the sonnes of Saruia are hard to me: our Lord reward him that doth euil according to his malice.

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<sup>a</sup> Weake, being newly receiued king, and not able to punish strong offenders. But Ioab & others were afterward punished. *3. Reg. 2.*