

2 Samuel 14:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.

Analysis

Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Absalom's Return, emphasizing incomplete reconciliation. Joab's elaborate scheme to restore Absalom demonstrates human wisdom that undermines divine purposes. The partial reconciliation (Absalom returns but doesn't see David's face) proves insufficient for genuine restoration. Theological themes include the inadequacy of human reconciliation methods apart from genuine repentance, the danger of manipulation even for apparently good ends, and the necessity of complete rather than partial restoration.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 14 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity.

Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding incomplete reconciliation provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of incomplete reconciliation?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	אָתָּה	לְךָ	בְּמַעַן	לְאַתָּה	יְהוָה
And he said	remember	H4994	she I pray thee let the king	H4428	H853	As the LORD
H559	H2142				H3063	H3068
מִבְּרֹבִי תְּאַלְּהֵ בָּם	גַּאֲלֵ	פֶּדֶם				
thy God	any more		that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers	H1350	of blood	
H430	H7235				H1818	
לְשַׁחַת תְּאַלְּהֵ בָּם	כִּי					
to destroy	lest they destroy	H3808	וְשָׁמַם יְדֵךְ	H853	my son	And he said
H7843	H8045		אָתָּה בֶּן־	H1121	H559	liveth
מִשְׁעָב תְּאַלְּהֵ בָּם	בֶּן־	אֶרְצָה:				
As the LORD	fall	H518	וְשָׁמַם יְהוָה	H8185	my son	to the earth
H3068	H5307		אָתָּה בֶּן־	H1121	H776	

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 14:45 (References God): And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.

Matthew 10:30 (Parallel theme): But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Numbers 35:19 (Blood): The revenger of blood himself shall slay the murderer: when he meeteth him, he shall slay him.

Acts 27:34 (Prayer): Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

1 Kings 1:52 (Parallel theme): And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.

Numbers 35:21 (Blood): Or in enmity smite him with his hand, that he die: he that smote him shall surely be put to death; for he is a murderer: the revenger of blood shall slay the murderer, when he meeteth him.

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