

2 Samuel 14:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the woman said, Wherefore then hast thou thought such a thing against the people of God? for the king doth speak this thing as one which is faulty, in that the king doth not fetch home again his banished.

Analysis

And the woman said, Wherefore then hast thou thought such a thing against the people of God? for the king doth speak this thing as one which is faulty, in that the king doth not fetch home again his banished.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form 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

רָאָתָּה	וְאַשְׁר	הָיָה	כַּאֲשֶׁר	יָמָה	וְלֹא	מָה	כַּאֲשֶׁר	הָיָה	וְתַּחֲנֹתָה	בְּתָהָה	כַּש	אָתָּה	כַּז	
said	And the woman				H4100		Wherefore	then hast thou thought					H2063	
H559			H802						H2803					
עַל	עַמְּךָ	עַמְּךָ	עַמְּךָ	עַמְּךָ		עַמְּךָ	עַמְּךָ	עַמְּךָ		עַמְּךָ	עַמְּךָ	עַמְּךָ	עַמְּךָ	
H5921	such a thing	against	the people				of God			doth speak	for the king	this thing		
				H5971			H430			H1696	H4428	H1697		
בְּזַהַת	כַּאֲשֶׁר	לְבָלָת	כַּש	יְבָשָׁה	לְבָלָת	כַּש	לְבָלָת	כַּש	לְבָלָת	לְבָלָת	לְבָלָת	לְבָלָת	לְבָלָת	
H2088	as one	which is faulty	H1115				doth not fetch home again							
			H818					H7725			H4428			
אָתָּה	כַּדְחֹן													
H853	his	banished												
			H5080											

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 12:7 (Kingdom): And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

Judges 20:2 (References God): And the chief of all the people, even of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand footmen that drew sword.