

2 Samuel 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore that I am come to speak of this thing unto my lord the king, it is because the people have made me afraid: and thy handmaid said, I will now speak unto the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his handmaid.

Analysis

Now therefore that I am come to speak of this thing unto my lord the king, it is because the people have made me afraid: and thy handmaid said, I will now speak unto the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his handmaid.

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

אֶל	אֲדַבֶּרָה	בָּ אֵתִי	אֲשֶׁר עַתָּה	
H413	H1696	H935	H834	H6258
	I will now speak	Now therefore that I am come		
כִּי הִנֵּה	דִּבַּר	אֶת	אֲדֹנִי	הֵם לְךָ
H2088	H1697	H853	H113	H4428
	of this thing	unto my lord	it may be that the king	
שִׁפְחָתְךָ	וְתֵ אָמַר	הָעָם	יִרְאֵנִי	
H8198	H559	H5971	H3372	
	said	it is because the people	have made me afraid	
יַעֲשֶׂה ה'	אוֹלֵי י'	הֵם לְךָ	אֶל	אֲדַבֶּרָה
H6213	H194	H4428	H413	H4994
will perform		it may be that the king		I will now speak
				H1696
אֲמָתוֹ:	דִּבַּר	אֶת	הֵם לְךָ	
H519	H1697	H853	H4428	
of his handmaid	of this thing	it may be that the king		