

2 Samuel 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead:

Analysis

And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead:

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

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

כִּאשׁ הַ מִשְׁמָרֶת וְשַׁלְחָנָה יְאָבִיו וְעַתָּה תְּקַוָּה
but be as a woman
and fetched
to Tekoa
And Joab
sent
H8033
H3947
H8620
H3097
H7971

תְּאַלְבְּשִׁי וְלֹבֶשִׁי וְאַתְּ מַתְאַבֵּל לְתָאַלְבְּשִׁי וְאַתְּ אָמַרְתָּ
and put on
mourned
mourned
and said
thence a wise
H4994
H3847
H56
H413
H559
H2450

וְאַתְּ בְּגִדִּי וְאַלְבְּשִׁי וְכַסְוִי וְכַסְוִי וְאַלְבְּשִׁי
not thyself with oil
and anoint
and anoint
now mourning
apparel
H1961
H8081
H5480
H408
H60
H899

עַל מַתְאַבֵּל לְתָאַלְבְּשִׁי כִּאשׁ הַ
mourned
that had a long
time
time
H5921
H56
H7227
H3117
H2088
but be as a woman
H802

מִתְּהִלָּה
for the dead
H4191

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 11:6 (Parallel theme): He built even Beth-lehem, and Etam, and Tekoa,

Amos 1:1 (Parallel theme): The words of Amos, who was among the herdmen of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

Ruth 3:3 (Parallel theme): Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.

Jeremiah 6:1 (Parallel theme): O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Beth-haccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction.

Nehemiah 3:5 (Parallel theme): And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord.

2 Chronicles 20:20 (Parallel theme): And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

2 Samuel 12:20 (Parallel theme): Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

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