

# 2 Samuel 14:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.

## Analysis

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**To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in 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

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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**

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## **Study Questions**

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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

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לְבַעַב וְ	סָבַב	אֶת	פָּנַי	הַדָּבָר	עָשָׂה	עַבְדְּךָ
To	fetch about	H853	this form	of speech	done	hath thy servant
H5668	H5437		H6440	H1697	H6213	H5650
יֹאבִיב	אֶת	הַדָּבָר	הַזֶּה	וְאֵדֹנָי	חָכֵם	כְּחִכְמַת
Joab	H853	of speech	H2088	and my lord	is wise	according to the wisdom
H3097		H1697		H113	H2450	H2451
מֵאֵל מַלְאָךְ	הָאֱלֹהִים	לֵדַעַת	אֶת	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	
of an angel	of God	to know	H853	H3605	H834	
H4397	H430	H3045				
בְּאֶרֶץ:						
all things that are in the earth						
H776						

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 14:17** (References God): Then thine handmaid said, The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable: for as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad: therefore the LORD thy God will be with thee.

**2 Samuel 19:27** (References God): And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king is as an angel of God: do therefore what is good in thine eyes.