

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

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

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 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for 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

עָזָב בְּנֵבֶל וְרָאשָׁב
to fetch about this form of speech done hath thy servant

To fetch about this form of speech done hath thy servant

H5668 H5437 H853 H6440 H1697 H6213 H5650

כִּסְכָּמָת יְדֵנִי אֶת יְוָאָב
according to the wisdom and my lord is wise

Job of speech and my lord is wise according to the wisdom

Job of speech and my lord is wise according to the wisdom

H3097 H853 H1697 H2088 H113 H2450 H2451

אֲשֶׁר כָּל אֶת לְדֹעַת בְּאֵלָה יִם מְלָא בָּנָה
to know all that is in the earth is filled with

of an angel of God to know all that is in the earth is filled with

H4397 H430 H3045 H853 H3605 H834

בָּאָרֶץ:

all things that are in the earth

H776

Additional Cross-References

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.