

2 Samuel 14:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again.

Analysis

And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אֶל	יוֹאָב	הַיָּהּ	נָא	עַשׂ יָדִי		
said	And the king	H413	unto Joab	H2009	H4994	Behold now I have done		
H559	H4428		H3097			H6213		
אֶת	הַדָּבָר	הַזֶּה	וְלִי	הַשֵּׁב	אֶת	הַנָּעַר	אֶת	אַבְשָׁלוֹם:
H853	this thing	H2088	H1980	again	H853	the young man	H853	Absalom
	H1697			H7725		H5288		H53

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 14:11 (Kingdom): Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.

