

2 Samuel 14:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.

Analysis

And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

ל א	וּפְנֵי י	בֵּית ו	אֶל	וַיֹּסֶב	הֶמָּלֶךְ	וַיֹּאמֶר
	face	to his own house	H413	Let him turn	And the king	said
	H6440	H1004		H5437	H4428	H559
וּפְנֵי י	בֵּית ו	אֶל	אַבְשָׁלוֹם	וַיֹּסֶב	כָּאֵה:	
face	to his own house	H413	So Absalom	Let him turn	and let him not see	
H6440	H1004		H53	H5437	H7200	
כָּאֵה:	ל א	הֶמָּלֶךְ				
and let him not see	H3808	And the king				
H7200		H4428				

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 22:4 (Parallel theme): And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

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