

2 Samuel 14:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight.

Analysis

And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וְגַלְחַ	וְגַלְחַ	רָאשׁ	רָאשׁ	מִקְזֵ	מִקְזֵ	לִימִים
And when he polled	his head	at	his head	at	for it was at every year's	
H1548	H853		H7218	H1961	end	H3117
					H7093	
לִימִים	רָאשׁ	וְגַלְחַ	וְגַלְחַ	פִ		
for it was at every year's		And when he polled	And when he polled		H3588	
H3117	H834		H1548			
אַת	אַת	וְגַלְחַ	וְגַלְחַ	שְׁקָל	שְׁקָל	
בְּ	בְּ	רָאשׁ	רָאשׁ	ימִם	ימִם	
כְּבָד	כְּבָד	עַל	עַל	מִתְמַמָּה	מִתְמַמָּה	
it because the hair was heavy		H5921		And when he polled	And when he polled	
H3513				H1548	it he weighed	H853
					H8254	
שְׁעַר	שְׁעַר	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ
the hair	his head	at two hundred	shekels	weight	after the king's	
H8181	H7218	H3967	H8255	H68	H4428	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 44:20 (Parallel theme): Neither shall they shave their heads, nor suffer their locks to grow long; they shall only poll their heads.

1 Corinthians 11:14 (Parallel theme): Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

2 Samuel 18:9 (Parallel theme): And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.