

2 Samuel 14:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And come to the king, and speak on this manner unto him. So Joab put the words in her mouth.

Analysis

And come to the king, and speak on this manner unto him. So Joab put the words in her mouth.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וּבֹאֵת	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וְדַבֵּר רִתְּ	אֵלַי	הַדְּבָר יִם	הִזָּה	וַיִּשֶׂם
And come	H413	to the king	and speak	H413	on this manner	H2088	put
H935		H4428	H1696		H1697		H7760
יֹאֵב	אֶת	הַדְּבָר יִם	בְּפִיהָ:				
unto him So Joab	H853	on this manner	in her mouth				
H3097		H1697	H6310				

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 14:19 (Kingdom): And the king said, Is not the hand of Joab with thee in all this? And the woman answered and said, As thy soul liveth, my lord the king, none can turn to the right hand or to the left from ought that my lord the king hath spoken: for thy servant Joab, he bade me, and he put all these words in the mouth of thine handmaid:

Exodus 4:15 (Word): And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.

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