

# 2 Samuel 14:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto his house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire?

## Analysis

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**Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto his house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire?**

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

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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

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיִּקָּם	וַיֹּאבָב	וַיָּבֹא	אֶל	אֲבִשָׁל וּמִן	הַבַּיִתָּה	וַיֹּאמֶר
arose	Then Joab	and came	H413	to Absalom	unto his house	and said
H6965	H3097	H935		H53	H1004	H559
אֶל יוֹ	הָצִיתוּ לָמָּה	הָצִיתוּ	עֲבָדֶיךָ	אֶת	הַחֵלֶק הַזֶּה	
H413	H4100	set	unto him Wherefore have thy servants	H853	my field	
		H3341	H5650		H2513	
אֲשֶׁר	לִי	בָּאֵשׁ:				
H834	H0	on fire				
		H784				