

2 Samuel 14:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Geshur? it had been good for me to have been there still: now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be any iniquity in me, let him kill me.

Analysis

And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Geshur? it had been good for me to have been there still: now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be any iniquity in me, let him kill me.

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

לָאמַר ר	אֲבִשָּׁל וּם	אֶל	יֹאָב ה	הִנֵּה	וְאֶשְׁלַחַהּ	אֶל יָכֹן	לָאמַר ר
answered	And Absalom	H413	Joab	H2009	Behold I sent	H413	answered
H559	H53		H3097		H7971		H559
לָמָּה	לָאמַר ר	הִנֵּה	וְאֶשְׁלַחַהּ	אֶתְּךָ	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ	לָמָּה
	Come	H2008	Behold I sent	H853	H413	the king's	answered
	H935		H7971			H4428	H559
וְעַתָּה	שָׁם	אֲנִי	עַד	לִי	טוֹב	מִגֶּשׁוּר	לָאמַר ר
				H0	H5750	H589	H8033
	Come	from Geshur	it had been good				H6258
	H935	H1650	H2896				
וְאָמַר	הַמֶּלֶךְ	פָּנָיו	אֶרְאֶה				
			for me to have been there still now therefore let me see		face	the king's	H518
			H7200		H6440	H4428	
וְהִמָּתְנִי:	עוֹן	בִּי	וְשֵׁן				
			and if there be	H0	any iniquity	in me let him kill	
			H3426		H5771	H4191	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 28:13 (Sin): He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Exodus 14:12 (Parallel theme): Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

1 Samuel 20:8 (Sin): Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of the LORD with thee: notwithstanding, if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldest thou bring me to thy father?