

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

Psalm 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

לְאָמֵן רְאֵל יְבָנָה וְאַשְׁלַמָּה	לְאָמֵן רְאֵל יְבָנָה וְאַשְׁלַמָּה	לְאָמֵן רְאֵל יְבָנָה וְאַשְׁלַמָּה
answered And Absalom H413	Joab H2009	Behold I sent H413
H559	H53	H3097
לְאָמֵן רְאֵל יְבָנָה וְאַשְׁלַמָּה	לְאָמֵן רְאֵל יְבָנָה וְאַשְׁלַמָּה	לְאָמֵן רְאֵל יְבָנָה וְאַשְׁלַמָּה
Come H2008	Behold I sent H7971	the king's answered H4100
H935	H7971	H4428
לְאָמֵן רְאֵל יְבָנָה וְאַשְׁלַמָּה	לְאָמֵן רְאֵל יְבָנָה וְאַשְׁלַמָּה	לְאָמֵן רְאֵל יְבָנָה וְאַשְׁלַמָּה
Come from Geshur H1650	it had been good H2896	H0 H5750 H589 H8033 H6258
H935	H1650	
אָרָא ה	אָרָא ה	אָמַם פָּנֵי
for me to have been there still now therefore let me see H7200		face the king's H518
		H6440 H4428
וְשָׁ	וְשָׁ	וְשָׁ
and if there be H0	any iniquity H5771	וְשָׁ
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?