

2 Samuel 14:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, the whole family is risen against thine handmaid, and they said, Deliver him that smote his brother, that we may kill him, for the life of his brother whom he slew; and we will destroy the heir also: and so they shall quench my coal which is left, and shall not leave to my husband neither name nor remainder upon the earth.

Analysis

And, behold, the whole family is risen against thine handmaid, and they said, Deliver him that smote his brother, that we may kill him, for the life of his brother whom he slew; and we will destroy the heir also: and so they shall quench my coal which is left, and shall not leave to my husband neither name nor remainder upon the earth.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| וְהָיָה H2009 | קָם is risen H6965 | כָּל H3605 | הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה And behold the whole family H4940 | עַל H5921 | שִׁפְחֶתָּךְ against thine handmaid H8198 |
| וַיֹּאמְרוּ H559 | וְיִצְחָק Deliver H5414 | אֶת H853 | מִיָּד him that smote H5221 | אָחִיו his brother H251 | וְנָמַתְּ הוּא that we may kill H4191 |
| בְּנֵי פָשׁ H5315 | אָחִיו his brother H251 | אֶשׁ ר H834 | הָרָג whom he slew H2026 | וְנִשְׁמַת יָדָה and we will destroy H8045 | גַּם H1571 |
| אֶת H853 | הַיֵּזֶר שׁ the heir H3423 | וְכַבּוּ also and so they shall quench H3518 | אֶת H853 | גַּחְלִיתִי my coal H1513 | אֶשׁ ר H834 |
| וְשָׂאָה and shall not leave H7604 | לְבַלְתָּ י H1115 | שׁוּם which is left H7760 | לְאִישׁ י to my husband H376 | שֵׁם neither name H8034 | |
| וְשָׂאֵר יֵת nor remainder H7611 | עַל H5921 | פָּנָיו upon H6440 | הָאֲדָמָה: the earth H127 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 35:19 (Parallel theme): The revenger of blood himself shall slay the murderer: when he meeteth him, he shall slay him.

Matthew 21:38 (Parallel theme): But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.