

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

Psalm 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

וְשִׁפְטָתְךָ	בְּ	עַל	הַמְשֻׁפֶּתְךָ	כְּלָקְמָה	וְהַנֶּה
H2009	is risen	H3605	And behold the whole family	H5921	against thine handmaid
	H6965		H4940		H8198
וְיִאָמְרוּ	וְיִגְמְתִּהוּ	מִכְהָא	אֶחָד	אֶחָד	וְיִאָמְרוּ
and they said	Deliver	H853	him that smote	his brother	that we may kill
H559	H5414		H5221	H251	H4191
בְּנֵי פְּשָׁ	אֶשְׁר	בְּנֵי גָּד	בְּנֵי יְהָוָה	וְבָנָם	בְּנֵי
him for the life	his brother	H834	whom he slew	and we will destroy	H1571
H5315	H251		H2026	H8045	
הַיּוֹרֵד	וְאֶת	וְיִכְבְּדֵה	אֶת	אֶשְׁר	גַּמְלָתִי
H853	the heir	also and so they shall quench	H853	my coal	H834
H3423		H3518		H1513	
נִשְׁאָה	לְבָלָת	שָׁוֹם	לְאִישׁ	שָׁם	
and shall not leave	H1115	which is left	to my husband	neither name	
H7604		H7760	H376	H8034	
וְשִׁאָר	עַל	פְּגַי	לְאִישׁ	שָׁם	
ית		בָּאָדָם			
nor remainder	H5921	upon	the earth		
H7611	H6440		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.