

## 2 Samuel 14 shape and keywords

Now **Joab** son of Zeruiah knew that the **king**'s heart was on Absalom. **Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman.** He said to her, "Pretend, please, to be a mourner; put on, please, mourning garments, do not anoint yourself with oil, but become a woman who has been mourning many days for the dead. Go to the **king** and speak this word toward him." And **Joab put the words into her mouth.**

When the woman of Tekoa came to the **king**, **she fell on her face to the ground and did obeisance**, and said, "Help, O **king**!"

The **king** asked her, "What is with you?"

She answered, "Alas, I am a widow woman; my man is dead. Your **slave** had two sons, and they quarreled with one another in the field; there was no rescuer between them, and one struck the other and killed him. Behold, the whole clan has risen against your **slave**. They say, 'Give up the man who struck his brother, so that we may kill him for the life of his brother whom he murdered, even if we destroy the heir as well.' Thus they would quench my one remaining ember, and leave to my man neither name nor remnant on the face of the earth."

Then the **king** said to the woman, "Go to your house, and I will rule concerning you."

The woman of Tekoa said to the **king**, "On me be the guilt, **my lord the king**, and on my father's house; let the **king** and his throne be guiltless."

The **king** said, "If anyone says anything to you, bring him to me, and he shall never touch you again."

Then she said, "Please, may the **king** remember YHWH your God, so that the redeemer of blood may kill no more, and my son not be destroyed."

He said, "As YHWH lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground."

Then the woman said, "Please let your **slave** speak a word to **my lord the king**."

He said, "Speak."

The woman said, "Why then have you conceived such a thing against the people of God? For in speaking this word the **king** guiltless himself, inasmuch as the **king** does not bring his banished one home again. Because we die, yes, die; we are like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up. But God will not take away a life; he will devise plans so not to push away a banished one. Now I have come to say this to **my lord the king** because the people have made me afraid; your handmaid thought, 'I will speak to the **king**; it may be that the **king** will make this word of his **slave**. For the **king** will hear and rescue his handmaid from the hand of the man who would destroy both me and my son off from the heritage of God.'

Your **slave** thought, 'The word of **my lord the king** will set me at rest'; for **my lord the king** is like the **angel of God**, discerning good and evil. YHWH your God be with you!"

Then the **king** answered the woman, "Do not withhold from me anything I ask you."

The woman said, "Let **my lord the king** speak, please."

The **king** said, "**Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?**"

The woman answered and said, "As surely as you live, **my lord the king**, one cannot turn right or left from anything that **my lord the king** has said. For **it was your slave Joab who commanded me; it was he who put all these words into the mouth of your slave.** For the sake of turning **faces**, your **slave Joab** did this.

But my lord has wisdom like the wisdom of the **angel of God** to know all things that are on the earth."

Then the **king** said to **Joab**, "Behold, please, I make this word of yours; go, bring back the young man Absalom." **Joab prostrated himself with his face to the ground and did**

**obeisance**, and blessed the **king**; and **Joab** said, "Today your **slave** knows that I have found favor in your sight, **my lord the king**, in that the **king** has made the word of his **slave**, yes, his **slave**." So **Joab** set off, went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.

The **king** said, "Let him go to his own house; he is not to come before my **face**." So Absalom went to his own house and did not see the **king's face**.

Now in all Israel there was no one to be praised so much for his beauty as Absalom; from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. When he cut the hair of his head (for at the end of every year he used to cut it; when it was heavy on him, he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head, two hundred shekels by the **king's** weight. There were born to Absalom three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar; she was a beautiful woman. So Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem, without seeing the **king's face**.

Then **Absalom sent for Joab to send him to the king**; but **Joab** would not come to him. He sent a second time, but **Joab** would not come. Then he said to his **slaves**, "Look, **Joab's** field is next to mine, and he has barley there; go and kindle, yes, kindle, a fire." So **Absalom's slaves** kindled a fire. Then **Joab** rose and went to Absalom at his house, and said to him, "Why have your **slaves** kindled fire in my field?"

Absalom answered **Joab**, "Behold, I sent word to you: Behold, come, that I may send you to the **king** with the question, 'Why have I come from Geshur? It would be good for me to be there always.' Now let me go see the **king's face**; if there is iniquity in me, let him kill me!"

Then **Joab** went to the **king** and told him; and he summoned **Absalom**. So he came to the **king and prostrated himself with his face to the ground** before the **king**; and the **king** kissed Absalom.