

# 1 Chronicles 12:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are they that went over Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all his banks; and they put to flight all them of the valleys, both toward the east, and toward the west.

## Analysis

**Theological Analysis:** This passage falls within the section on Warriors who joined David - unity of Israel. The Hebrew term גִּבֹּר (gibbor) - mighty warrior is theologically significant here, pointing to Unity of God's people under chosen leader. The Chronicler's narrative, while paralleling Samuel-Kings in places, offers a distinct theological perspective emphasizing temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Chronicles presents David not primarily as warrior-king but as worship organizer and temple planner. This verse contributes to that portrait by highlighting the spiritual dimensions of Israel's national life. The text demonstrates that true prosperity comes through proper worship and covenant obedience rather than merely military or political success.

Doctrinally, this passage teaches about Unity of God's people under chosen leader. Cross-references throughout Chronicles connect David's reign to the broader redemptive narrative, showing how God's covenant promises advance through faithful human leadership while ultimately depending on divine grace and power. The messianic implications are profound: Church united under Christ's headship.

## Historical Context

---

**Historical Background:** This section describes events from David's reign (c. 1010-970 BCE) but was written centuries later during the Persian period (c. 450-400 BCE). The Chronicler's selectivity in retelling David's story serves his theological purposes—he omits David's sins (Bathsheba, Absalom's rebellion) while emphasizing David's worship reforms and temple preparations.

The historical setting of Warriors who joined David - unity of Israel occurred during Israel's united monarchy, when the nation reached its territorial and political zenith. Archaeological evidence from this period shows significant building projects and administrative development. However, the Chronicler writes for a much smaller, struggling post-exilic community, using David's golden age to inspire hope for restoration.

Ancient Near Eastern parallels show that temple construction and royal sponsorship of worship were common across cultures. However, Israel's understanding of worship centered on covenant relationship with the one true God rather than manipulation of capricious deities. This theological distinctiveness shapes the Chronicler's presentation.

## Related Passages

---

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

---

1. How does this verse's emphasis on Unity of God's people under chosen leader challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?
2. What does Church united under Christ's headship teach you about Jesus Christ and His redemptive work?
3. In what practical ways can you apply the principles of covenant faithfulness and proper worship demonstrated in this passage?

## Interlinear Text

---

בְּחַדְשָׁה אֶת־יַרְדֵּן אֲשֶׁר־רָא־יְהוָה

H428

H1992

H834

עָבָר וְאֵלֶּי

H5674

בְּחַדְשָׁה אֶת־יַרְדֵּן

Jordan

בְּחַדְשָׁה

month

H853

H3383

H2320

גַּדְיוֹת יְהוָה וְאֶת־בְּרָאשׁוֹ וְ

in the first

H1931

when it had overflowed

H5921

מַמְלֵא עַל־כָּל־עַל

H4390

H1428

לְמִזְרָחָה וְכָל־עַמְקֵי יַם־כָּל־אֶת־יְהוָה

and they put to flight

H853

H3605

all them of the valleys

H6010

לְמִזְרָחָה

H4217

וְלִמְעֵדֶבֶן:

and toward the west

H4628

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Joshua 3:15** (Parallel theme): And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)

**Joshua 4:18** (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD were come up out of the midst of Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up unto the dry land, that the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before.