

1 Chronicles 12:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David went out to meet them, and answered and said unto them, If ye be come peaceably unto me to help me, mine heart shall be knit unto you: but if ye be come to betray me to mine enemies, seeing there is no wrong in mine hands, the God of our fathers look thereon, and rebuke it.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on Warriors who joined David - unity of Israel. The Hebrew term גִּבּוֹר (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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וַיֵּצֵא א	וַיֵּצֵא א	וַיֵּצֵא א	וַיֵּצֵא א	וַיֵּצֵא א	וַיֵּצֵא א	וַיֵּצֵא א
went out	And David	to meet	them and answered	and said	H0	H518
H3318	H1732	H6440	H6030	H559		
לְשָׁלֵם וְ	לְשָׁלֵם וְ	לְשָׁלֵם וְ	לְשָׁלֵם וְ	לְשָׁלֵם וְ	לְשָׁלֵם וְ	לְשָׁלֵם וְ
peaceably	unto them	If ye be come	H413	unto me to help	H1961	H0
H7965	H935			H5826		
עָלֶיךָ וְ	עָלֶיךָ וְ	עָלֶיךָ וְ	עָלֶיךָ וְ	עָלֶיךָ וְ	עָלֶיךָ וְ	עָלֶיךָ וְ
H5921	me mine heart	shall be knit	H518	unto you but if ye be come to betray	H7411	
	H3824	H3162				
לְצַבִּי וְ	לְצַבִּי וְ	לְצַבִּי וְ	לְצַבִּי וְ	לְצַבִּי וְ	לְצַבִּי וְ	לְצַבִּי וְ
me to mine enemies	seeing there is no	wrong	in mine hands	look	the God	
H6862	H3808	H2555	H3709	H7200	H430	
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ	אֲבוֹתֵינוּ	אֲבוֹתֵינוּ	אֲבוֹתֵינוּ	אֲבוֹתֵינוּ	אֲבוֹתֵינוּ	אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
of our fathers	thereon and rebuke					
H1	H3198					

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 2:23 (Parallel theme): Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Jude 1:9 (Parallel theme): Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.