

1 Chronicles 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be, when thou shalt hear a sound of going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt go out to battle: for God is gone forth before thee to smite the host of the Philistines.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on David's kingdom established - royal success. The Hebrew term מַמְלָכָה (mamlakah) - kingdom is theologically significant here, pointing to God establishes and blesses obedient leaders. 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 God establishes and blesses obedient leaders. 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: Kingdom of God inaugurated by Christ.

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 David's kingdom established - royal success 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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's emphasis on God establishes and blesses obedient leaders challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?
2. What does Kingdom of God inaugurated by Christ 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

יְהִי	כְּשִׁמְעֶךָ	אֶת	קוֹל	הַצֶּעֶדָה	בְּרָאשֵׁי
H1961	And it shall be when thou shalt hear	H853	a sound	of going	in the tops
	H8085		H6963	H6807	H7218
הַבְּזָאִים	אֵל	יָצָא	בַּמִּלְחָמָה	כִּי	יָצָא
of the mulberry trees	H227	is gone forth	to battle	H3588	is gone forth
H1057		H3318	H4421		H3318
לְפָנֵי יְיָ	לְהַכּוֹת	אֶת	מַחֲנֵה	פְּלִשְׁתִּים:	
for God	before	thee to smite	H853 the host	of the Philistines	
H430	H6440	H5221	H4264	H6430	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 13:4 (Parallel theme): The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the LORD of hosts mustereth the host of the battle.

Acts 2:2 (Parallel theme): And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.