

1 Chronicles 14:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the fame of David went out into all lands; and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.

Analysis

And the fame of David went out into all lands—The Hebrew *shēm* (שֵׁם, 'name' or 'reputation') emphasizes not merely celebrity but authoritative renown establishing David's sovereignty. More critically, **the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations**—*pachad* (פָּחַד) denotes reverential dread, the terror of God's judgment manifest through His anointed king.

The Chronicler attributes David's international dominance entirely to Yahweh's sovereign action, fulfilling the Abrahamic promise that through Israel all nations would be blessed—or judged (Genesis 12:3). This divine *pachad* foreshadows Messiah's universal reign when **every knee shall bow** (Philippians 2:10), and Christ's name above every name brings either salvation or judgment to all peoples.

Historical Context

Following David's decisive victories over the Philistines in chapter 14, his military reputation spread beyond Israel's immediate neighbors. The Chronicler, writing post-exile, emphasizes God's sovereignty in establishing David's kingdom as a theological paradigm for Israel's hope of restoration and the coming Messianic kingdom.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's gift of David's international pachad (fear) prefigure Christ's universal authority, and what does this reveal about God's means of establishing His kingdom?
2. When your reputation (shēm) grows in your sphere of influence, do you attribute success to God's sovereign work or personal achievement?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּצֵא	וְשֵׁם	דָּוִד	בְּכָל	הָאֲרָצוֹת	יְהוָה	בָּרָא
went out	And the fame	of David	H3605	into all lands	and the LORD	brought
H3318	H8034	H1732		H776	H3068	H5414

אֶת	פְּחָדוֹ	עַל	כָּל	הַגּוֹיִם:
H853	the fear	H5921	H3605	of him upon all nations
	H6343			H1471

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 2:25 (Parallel theme): This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.

Joshua 6:27 (References Lord): So the LORD was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country.

2 Chronicles 26:8 (Parallel theme): And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah: and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened himself exceedingly.