

# 1 Chronicles 17:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And what one nation in the earth is like thy people Israel, whom God went to redeem to be his own people, to make thee a name of greatness and terribleness, by driving out nations from before thy people, whom thou hast redeemed out of Egypt?

## Analysis

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**Theological Analysis:** This passage falls within the section on Davidic Covenant - God's promise of eternal dynasty. The Hebrew term **עולם** (olam) - everlasting/eternal is theologically significant here, pointing to God's unconditional covenant promises. 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's unconditional covenant promises. 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: Jesus as eternal Son of David.

## Historical Context

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**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 Davidic Covenant - God's promise of eternal dynasty 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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse's emphasis on God's unconditional covenant promises challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?
2. What does Jesus as eternal Son of David 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

וְיָמִי H4310	עַמְּךָ H5971	יִשְׂרָאֵל H3478	גּוֹיִם: H1471	אֵת דָּ H259	בְּאֶרֶץ H776	אֲשֶׁר H834
is like thy people	Israel	nation	And what one	in the earth		
וָהָלַךְ H1980	הַאֱלֹהִים H430	יְתֵּן H6299	לֹא H0	עַמְּךָ H5971	לַשֵּׁם H7760	לַעֲשׂוֹת H0
went	whom God	to redeem	is like thy people	to make		
שֵׁם H8034	גִּדְלוֹת H1420	וְנִכְאֹת H3372	לְגִירָתוֹ H1644	מִפְּנֵי H6440		
thee a name	of greatness	and terribleness	by driving out	from before		
עַמְּךָ H5971	אֲשֶׁר H834	יְתֵּן H6299	מִמִּצְרַיִם H4714	גּוֹיִם: H1471		
is like thy people		to redeem	out of Egypt	nation		

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