

1 Chronicles 17:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that are in the earth.

Analysis

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

וְאֵהָיָה	עִמָּךְ	בְּכָל	אֲשֶׁר				
H1961	H5973	H3605	H834				
וְהָיָה עִמָּךְ				וְאָכַרְתָּ	אֶת	כָּל	
H1980				H3772	H853	H3605	
וְהָיָה עִמָּךְ				וְאָכַרְתָּ	אֶת	כָּל	
H1980				H3772	H853	H3605	
אֹיְבֶיךָ	מִפְנֵי	וְאֵשׁ	לְךָ	כִּשְׁמוֹ			
H341	H6440	H6213	H0	H8034			
all thine enemies	from before	thee and have made		like the name			
H341	H6440	H6213	H0	H8034			
כִּשְׁמוֹ	הַגְּדֹלִים	אֲשֶׁר	בָּאָרֶץ:				
H8034	H1419	H834	H776				
like the name	of the great men	that are in the earth					
H8034	H1419	H834	H776				

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 17:2 (Parallel theme): Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that is in thine heart; for God is with thee.

1 Samuel 18:14 (Parallel theme): And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.

Psalms 46:7 (Parallel theme): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Psalms 75:7 (Parallel theme): But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

Psalms 71:21 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.

Genesis 28:15 (Parallel theme): And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

1 Samuel 18:28 (Parallel theme): And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him.

Psalms 18:1 (Parallel theme): I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

1 Chronicles 17:17 (Parallel theme): And yet this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast also spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O LORD God.

Luke 1:52 (Parallel theme): He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.