

1 Chronicles 18:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruiah slew of the Edomites in the valley of salt eighteen thousand.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on David's military victories - kingdom expansion. The Hebrew term *יְשׁוּעָה* (yeshuah) - salvation/victory is theologically significant here, pointing to God gives victory to His anointed. 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 gives victory to His anointed. 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: Christ's victory over sin, death, and Satan.

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 military victories - kingdom expansion 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's emphasis on God gives victory to His anointed challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?
2. What does Christ's victory over sin, death, and Satan 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

וְאַבְשָׁי י	בֶּן	צְרוּיָה ה	הָכָה	אֶת	אֱדוֹמִים	בְּגֵי יַא
Moreover Abishai	the son	of Zeruiah	slew	H853	of the Edomites	in the valley
H52	H1121	H6870	H5221		H123	H1516
לַח	שְׁמוֹנֶה ה	עָשָׂר	אֶלֶף:			
of salt	eighteen	H6240	thousand			
H4417	H8083		H505			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 60:1 (Parallel theme): O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again.

1 Chronicles 19:11 (Parallel theme): And the rest of the people he delivered unto the hand of Abishai his brother, and they set themselves in array against the children of Ammon.

1 Chronicles 2:16 (Parallel theme): Whose sisters were Zeruiah, and Abigail. And the sons of Zeruiah; Abishai, and Joab, and Asahel, three.

1 Chronicles 11:20 (Parallel theme): And Abishai the brother of Joab, he was chief of the three: for lifting up his spear against three hundred, he slew them, and had a name among the three.

2 Chronicles 25:11 (Parallel theme): And Amaziah strengthened himself, and led forth his people, and went to the valley of salt, and smote of the children of Seir ten thousand.

1 Samuel 26:6 (Parallel theme): Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee.

2 Samuel 10:10 (Parallel theme): And the rest of the people he delivered into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put them in array against the children of Ammon.

