

# 1 Chronicles 18:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and the sons of David were chief about the king.

## Analysis

**Theological Analysis:** This passage falls within the section on David's military victories - kingdom expansion. The Hebrew term יְשֻׁעָה (yeshuah) - salvation/victory is theologically significant here, pointing to God giving 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 giving 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

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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 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

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

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse's emphasis on God give 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

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הַכְּרָתָה וְיַעֲשֵׂה יְהוָה עַל בְּנֵי יְהוּדָה וְבְנֵי יְהוּדָה  
And Benaiah and the sons of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites  
H1141 H1121 H3077 H5921 H3774

הַמֶּלֶךְ לְדִין הַרְאָשָׁנִים וְבְנֵי יְהוּדָה וְבְנֵי יְהוּדָה וְפְלִתָּה  
and the Pelethites and the sons of David were chief about the king  
H6432 H1121 H1732 H7223 H3027 H4428

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 8:18** (References David): And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief rulers.

**2 Samuel 15:18** (Kingdom): And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.