

1 Chronicles 18:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: David also houghed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them an hundred chariots.

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 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

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 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

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

וְלֹכֶד	מִתְּבָנָה	אֶלְף	כָּכְבָּה:	וְשְׁבַע	תְּבָנָה
took	And David	H4480	from him a thousand	all the chariot	and seven
H3920	H1732		H505	H7393	H7651
אֶלְף	מִשְׁרָאֵל	וְעֶשֶׂר	אֶלְף	אֶלְף	אֶשְׁבַּע
from him a thousand	horsemen	and twenty	from him a thousand	footmen	
H505	H6571	H6242	H505	H376	
בְּגָלִים	אֶת	כָּל	כָּכְבָּה:	רִאשָׁת	וְאֶת
also houghed	And David	H853	all the chariot	horses but reserved	
H7273	H6131	H1732	H3605	H7393	H3498
מִתְּבָנָה	מִאָה	מִתְּבָנָה	כָּכְבָּה:		
of them an hundred	all the chariot	H3967	H7393		
H4480					

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 8:4 (References David): And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and David houghed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them for an hundred chariots.

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