

1 Chronicles 18:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadarezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on David's military victories - kingdom expansion. The Hebrew term *יְשׁוּאָה* (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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וַיָּבֹא	בְּאֶחָד מֵ	דִּרְמָ שֶׁקֶ	לָעֵז וְ	לְהַדָּעֵזֶר	מֶלֶךְ	
came	And when the Syrians	of Damascus	to help	Hadarezer	king	
H935	H758	H1834	H5826	H1928	H4428	
הָ	וַיַּךְ	דָּוִיד	בְּאֶחָד מֵ	עֶשְׂרִים	וּשְׁנַיִם	אֶלֶף
of Zobah	slew	David	And when the Syrians	and twenty	two	thousand
H6678	H5221	H1732	H758	H6242	H8147	H505
אִישׁ:						
men						
H376						

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 19:6 (References David): And when the children of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the children of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire them chariots and horsemen out of Mesopotamia, and out of Syria-maachah, and out of Zobah.