

1 Chronicles 19:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the LORD do that which is good in his sight.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on Ammonite war - David's continued conquests. The Hebrew term מלחמה (milchamah) - war/battle is theologically significant here, pointing to God fights for His people. 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 fights for His people. 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: Spiritual warfare and Christ's triumph.

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 Ammonite war - David's continued conquests 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's emphasis on God fights for His people challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?
2. What does Spiritual warfare and Christ's triumph 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

וְתִתְמֹזֵקְתָּה	וְתִתְמֹזֵקְתָּה	בְּעֵד	עַמּוֹנָה	וְבָעֵד
Be of good courage	Be of good courage	H1157	for our people	H1157
H2388	H2388		H5971	
עָרָה	אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה	בְּעֵין יָמִין	בְּעֵין יָמִין	
and for the cities	of our God	and let the LORD	that which is good	in his sight
H5892	H430	H3068	H2896	H5869
וְעַשֵּׂה:				
do				
H6213				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 27:14 (Good): Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Nehemiah 4:14 (References Lord): And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

1 Corinthians 16:13 (Parallel theme): Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Joshua 10:25 (Good): And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.

2 Samuel 10:12 (Good): Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good.

1 Samuel 4:9 (Parallel theme): Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.

Joshua 1:7 (Parallel theme): Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

1 Samuel 17:32 (Parallel theme): And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

Judges 10:15 (Good): And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, We have sinned: do thou unto us whatsoever seemeth good unto thee; deliver us only, we pray thee, this day.

Ezra 10:4 (Good): Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it.

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