

1 Chronicles 19:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the princes of the children of Ammon said to Hanun,
Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath
sent comforters unto thee? are not his servants come unto
thee for to search, and to overthrow, and to spy out the land?

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וַיֹּאמְרוּ	שָׁרֵי י	בְּנֵי	עַם וֶן	לְחָנ וֶן	הַמְכִּיב ד
said	But the princes	of the children	of Ammon	to Hanun	doth honour
H559	H8269	H1121	H5983	H2586	H3513
דָּוִד יְד	אֶת	אָבִי יְד	כִּי	שָׁלַח	לְב
thou that David		thy father	Thinkest	that he hath sent	
H1732	H853	H1	H3588	H7971	H0
מְנַחֲמֵי יָם	הָלֵא	בְּעָבוֹר	לְחַקֵּר	וּלְהַפֵּךְ	
comforters			unto thee for to search	and to overthrow	
H5162	H3808	H5668	H2713	H2015	
וּלְבַגֵּל	הָאָרֶץ	בָּאוּ	עֲבָדֶיךָ	אֵלָיךְ:	
and to spy out	the land	come	unto thee are not his servants		
H7270	H776	H935	H5650	H413	

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