

1 Chronicles 19:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

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

Psalm 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 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

בְּנֵי	שָׁלֵחַ	עַמּוֹ	יְהוָה	הַתְּבַאַשׁ	1
that they had made themselves odious	H5973	to David	sent	Hanun	H2586

וּבָנָי	עַמּוֹן	אֶלֶף	כְּפֶר	כֶּסֶף	לְשָׁכָר	לְהַם
And when the children	of Ammon	a thousand	talents	of silver	to hire	
H1121	H5983	H505	H3603	H3701	H7936	H0

מִצְרַיִם וּמִצְרָעָה וְאַבְרָהָם
H4480 H0 out of Mesopotamia H4480 and out of Syriamaachah H4601
H763 H758

וְמִצּוֹבָה	רְכָב	רְכָבִים:
and out of Zobah	them chariots	and horsemen
H6678	H7393	H6571

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 18:5 (References David): And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadarezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men.

1 Chronicles 18:9 (References David): Now when Tou king of Hamath heard how David had smitten all the host of Hadarezer king of Zobah;

Genesis 34:30 (Parallel theme): And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

2 Samuel 10:6 (References David): And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ish-tob twelve thousand men.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org