

# 1 Kings 11:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he gathered men unto him, and became captain over a band, when David slew them of Zobah: and they went to Damascus, and dwelt therein, and reigned in Damascus.

## Analysis

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**And he gathered men unto him, and became captain over a band, when David slew them of Zobah: and they went to Damascus, and dwelt therein, and reigned in Damascus.**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Solomon's apostasy and death, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy.

The Hebrew text reveals nuances important for understanding this passage's contribution to 1 Kings' theological message about kingship, covenant, and faithfulness to Yahweh. This verse demonstrates the consequences when God's people—especially their leaders—either follow or forsake the covenant established at Sinai.

## Historical Context

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First Kings was written during or after the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE), reflecting on the monarchy period (10th-9th centuries BCE) to explain why the kingdoms fell. Solomon's reign (c. 970-930 BCE) represented Israel's golden age of peace and prosperity.

Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideology viewed kings as divine representatives

responsible for maintaining cosmic order through right worship. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Megiddo, Hazor, and Samaria confirm the historical reliability of 1 Kings' descriptions of building projects and administrative structures.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How did Solomon's disobedience to God's clear commands lead to his downfall, and what warnings does this provide?
2. What role do relationships and alliances play in either strengthening or compromising our faith?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּקְבֹּץ י	עָלָיו	אֲנָשׁ ים	וַיְהִי י	שָׂר		
And he gathered	H5921	H376	H1961	unto him and became captain	H8269	
H6908						
גַּד וַיִּ	בָּהֶרֶג ג	דָּוִד	אֶת־ם	וַיִּלָּכֶם ו	בְּדָמָשְׁקִי:	וַיֵּשְׁבוּ
over a band	slew	when David	H853	H1980	in Damascus	and dwelt
H1416	H2026	H1732			H1834	H3427
בָּהֶ	וַיִּמְלֹךְ ו	בְּדָמָשְׁקִי:				
H0	therein and reigned	in Damascus				
	H4427	H1834				

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 10:18** (References David): And the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew the men of seven hundred chariots of the Syrians, and forty thousand horsemen, and smote Shobach the captain of their host, who died there.

**2 Samuel 10:8** (Parallel theme): And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate: and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ish-tob, and Maacah, were by themselves in the field.