

2 Samuel 10:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me: but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee.

Analysis

And he said, If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me: but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee.

This verse contributes to the narrative of War with Ammon and Aram, emphasizing responding to insult with strength. The Ammonite insult to David's ambassadors and subsequent war demonstrates appropriate responses to hostility. Theological themes include honor/shame dynamics in ancient cultures, the legitimacy of responding firmly to aggression, and trusting God when facing overwhelming opposition. The Hebrew narrative emphasizes strategic wisdom alongside divine enablement.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 10 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding responding to insult with strength provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed

significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

John 15:13 – Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of responding to insult with strength?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text.

לְ	וְ	כִּי	תֵּהֶם	מִמְּךָ	וְ	אָמָר
And he said	H518	be too strong	If the Syrians	H4480	H1961	H0
H559		H2388	H758			
לְיִשְׁוֹעַתְ	הִ	וְאֶם	בְּנֵי	עַמּוֹן	וְיִחְזֹקֵל	וְ
for me then thou shalt help	H3444	H518	me but if the children	of Ammon	be too strong	
			H1121	H5983	H2388	
מִמְּךָ	וְ	וְיִפְלְכָתָ	לְהַוָּשָׁתְ	לְהַ		
H4480		for thee then I will come	and help	H0		
		H1980	H3467			

