

2 Samuel 10:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

וְנִתְחִיל	וְנִתְחִיל	בְּعָד	עַמּוֹנָה	וְבָעֵד
Be of good courage	Be of good courage	H1157	for our people	H1157
H2388	H2388		H5971	
עָרֵב	אֱלֹהִים	יְהֹוָה	הַט וּבְעֵשׂ	וְבָעֵד
and for the cities	of our God	and the LORD	do	him good
H5892	H430	H3068	H6213	H2896
בְּעִירָה:				
that which seemeth				
H5869				

Additional Cross-References

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

Deuteronomy 31:6 (Good): Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

1 Samuel 3:18 (Good): And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.

Hebrews 13:6 (References Lord): So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

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 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.

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.

1 Chronicles 19:13 (Good): 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.

Job 1:21 (References Lord): And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Joshua 1:9 (Good): Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

