

# 2 Samuel 10:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joab drew nigh, and the people that were with him, unto the battle against the Syrians: and they fled before him.

## Analysis

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**And Joab drew nigh, and the people that were with him, unto the battle against the Syrians: and they fled before him.**

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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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עַמְּךָ וְאֶשְׁר יָמַר בְּעַמְּךָ  
drew nigh And Joab and the people H834 H5973  
H5066 H3097 H5971

לִמְלֹתָם הַתְּאֵכֶל בְּפָנָיו תִּלְכָּה  
that were with him unto the battle against the Syrians and they fled before H4421 H758 H5127 H6440