

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

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וַיֵּשׁ	יֹאָב ב	וְהָעָם	אֶל־שָׂר	עַם ו
drew nigh	And Joab	and the people	H834	H5973
H5066	H3097	H5971		
לְמִלְחָתָהּ	בְּאֶרֶץ	וַיֵּסוּ	מִפְּנֵי:	
that were with him unto the battle	against the Syrians	and they fled	before	
H4421	H758	H5127	H6440	

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