

2 Samuel 10:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וַיִּנָּס	מֵאֶחָד מֵ	מִפְנֵי י	וַהֲרֹג יִשְׂרָאֵל	דָּוִד	מֵאֶחָד מֵ	
fled	And the Syrians	before	Israel	slew	and David	And the Syrians
H5127	H758	H6440	H3478	H2026	H1732	H758
שְׁבַע ע	מֵאוֹת	כֶּבֶד	וְאַרְבָּעִים	אֶלֶף	פָּרָשִׁים	וְאֵת
the men of seven	hundred	chariots	and forty	thousand	horsemen	H853
H7651	H3967	H7393	H705	H505	H6571	
שׁוּבַח הַ	שָׂר	צָבָא וְ	הִכָּה	וַיָּמָת	שָׁם:	
Shobach	the captain	of their host	and smote	who died	H8033	
H7731	H8269	H6635	H5221	H4191		

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 19:18 (References David): But the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew of the Syrians seven thousand men which fought in chariots, and forty thousand footmen, and killed Shophach the captain of the host.

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