

# 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

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**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

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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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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## 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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מְאַכֵּם יְהִי דָּבָר מִשְׁכָּלָל מִפְנֵי מְאַכֵּם יְהִי נֶסֶת  
fled And the Syrians before Israel slew and David And the Syrians  
H5127 H758 H6440 H3478 H2026 H1732 H758

וְאֵת פְּרַשׁ יָמָם אֶלָּף וְאֶרְבַּע יָמִים כִּכְבָּד מֵאוֹת שָׁבָע  
the men of seven hundred chariots and forty thousand horsemen H853  
H7651 H3967 H7393 H705 H505 H6571

שָׁם: תֵּימָת הַכְּהֵן אֶצְבָּא וְשָׁר שׁוֹבֵךְ  
Shobach the captain of their host and smote who died H8033  
H7731 H8269 H6635 H5221 H4191

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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