

2 Samuel 10:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when all the kings that were servants to Hadarezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Syrians feared to help the children of Ammon any more.

Analysis

And when all the kings that were servants to Hadarezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Syrians feared to help the children of Ammon any more.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

כָּל וַיֵּרָא ו	הַמֶּלֶךְ יִם	עֲבָד י	הַדֹּדֶע זָר	כִּי
saw H7200	And when all the kings H4428	that were servants H5650	to Hadarezer H1928	H3588
נִגְפוּ	לִפְנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	וַשְׁלָמוּ	אֶת
that they were smitten H5062	before H6440	Israel H3478	they made peace H7999	H854 Israel H3478
וַעֲבָדוּם	וַיֵּרָא ו	אֲכָם	לְהוֹשִׁיעַ	עֹד
and served H5647	feared H3372	them So the Syrians H758	to help H3467	H5750 H853 the children H1121
עַמּוֹן:				
of Ammon H5983				

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 8:6 (Parallel theme): Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and the Syrians became servants to David, and brought gifts. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.