

2 Samuel 10:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the princes of the children of Ammon said unto Hanun their lord, Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? hath not David rather sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?

Analysis

And the princes of the children of Ammon said unto Hanun their lord, Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? hath not David rather sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	שַׁר	בָּנִי	עַמְּ וְ	אֶל	בָּנֵן וְ
said	And the princes	of the children	of Ammon	H413	unto Hanun
H559	H8269	H1121	H5983		H2586
מֶלֶךְ	פָּמֶכֶת	אֶל	אֶת	בְּעֵינֵךְ	כִּי
their lord	doth honour	thou that David	H853	thy father	Thinkest
H113	H3513	H1732	H1		H3588
שֶׁל	לְבָב	לְזֹאת	מְנֻחָת	רָקֶךֶת	בָּעֵיר
rather sent	H0	comforters	H3808	unto thee to	search
H7971		H5162		H5668	H853
וְלֹבֶגֶל	שֶׁל	אֶל	רָקֶךֶת	אֶת	אֶת
and to spy it out	and to overthrow	rather sent	thou that David	H853	the city
H7270	H2015	H7971	H1732		H5892
אֶלְיָהּ					

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 42:16 (Parallel theme): Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved, whether there be any truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye are spies.

Genesis 42:9 (Parallel theme): And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.