

2 Samuel 10:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate: and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ish-tob, and Maacah, were by themselves in the field.

Analysis

And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate: and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ish-tob, and Maacah, were by themselves in the field.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וַיָּצֵאוּ	בְּנֵי י	עַם אוֹן	וַעֲרֹכּוּ	מִלְחָמָה ה	
came out	And the children	of Ammon	in array	and put the battle	
H3318	H1121	H5983	H6186	H4421	
כִּי תֵחַ	הַשַּׁעַר	וְאֵלֶּם	צוֹבָא	וּרְחוֹב	וְאִישׁ
at the entering in	of the gate	and the Syrians	of Zoba	and of Rehob	
H6607	H8179	H758	H6678	H7340	H376
טוּב	וּמַעַכָּה	לְבַדָּם	בַּשָּׂדֶה:		
H2897	and Maacah	were by themselves	in the field		
	H4601	H905	H7704		

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 10:6 (Parallel theme): And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ish-tob twelve thousand men.

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