

# 2 Samuel 10:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When Joab saw that the front of the battle was against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice men of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians:

## Analysis

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**When Joab saw that the front of the battle was against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice men of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians:**

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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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## 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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וַיֵּרָא	יֹאָב ב	כִּי	הָיְתָה	אֵלָיו	מִפְּנֵי ים	הַמִּלְחָמָה ה
saw	When Joab				that the front	of the battle
H7200	H3097	H3588	H1961	H413	H6440	H4421
מִפְּנֵי ים	וּמֵאַחֲרֵי	בָּחַר י	מִכָּל	בָּחַר י	בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל	
that the front	and behind	he chose		he chose	men of Israel	
H6440	H268	H977	H3605	H977	H3478	
וַיַּעַרְךָ	לְקֹבֵאֲתָם	אֲרָם:				
and put them in array	against	the Syrians				
H6186	H7125	H758				

