

2 Samuel 22:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet.

Analysis

He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet.

This verse contributes to the narrative of David's Song, emphasizing praising God for deliverance. David's psalm of deliverance (parallel to Psalm 18) celebrates God's faithfulness throughout his tumultuous reign. The Hebrew poetry employs vivid imagery of divine intervention, warrior language, and covenant terminology. Theological themes include praising God for deliverance, reviewing God's faithfulness in retrospect, the righteousness of God's judgments, and anticipation of ultimate victory through God's anointed (messianic overtones).

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 22 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 praising God for deliverance 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of praising God for deliverance?
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

וַיִּט	שָׁמַיִם!	וַיָּרֵד	וְעֲרָפָה לַ	תְּהִי
He bowed	the heavens	also and came down	and darkness	H8478
H5186	H8064	H3381	H6205	
וּבְתַלְמוֹתָיו:				
was under his feet				
H7272				

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 8:12 (Darkness): Then spake Solomon, The LORD said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.

Psalms 97:2 (Darkness): Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

Psalms 144:5 (Parallel theme): Bow thy heavens, O LORD, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.

Exodus 20:21 (Darkness): And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

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