

2 Samuel 22:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken
by mine arms.

Analysis

He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

הַמְלִיךָ	יְדֵי	לַמְלָחָה	וְנִתְּ	קִשֶׁת	בְּחֹשֶׁךְ
He teacheth	my hands	to war	is broken	so that a bow	of steel
H3925	H3027	H4421	H5181	H7198	H5154
וּבְיָמֵי					
by mine arms					
H2220					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 144:1 (Parallel theme): Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight: