

2 Samuel 22:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.

Analysis

Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

תָּרַח יָב תִּחְתֵּן נִצְעַד יְלָא מָעַד וְ
Thou hast enlarged my steps H8478 H3808 did not slip
H7337 H6806 H4571

קָרְבָּנִים:
under me so that my feet H7166

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 4:12 (Parallel theme): When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

Psalms 17:5 (Parallel theme): Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.

1 Samuel 2:9 (Parallel theme): He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

