

2 Samuel 22:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

Analysis

There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וְעַל הַ	עַשְׂנִ	בְּאֶפֶן	וְאֵשׁ	מִפְרָא	תָּאכַל
There went up	a smoke	out of his nostrils	and fire	out of his mouth	devoured
H5927	H6227	H639	H784	H6310	H398
מְקֻרְבָּה	בְּאֶרֶב	אֲשֶׁר	מְקֻרְבָּה		
coals	were kindled		H4480		
H1513	H1197				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 12:29 (Parallel theme): For our God is a consuming fire.

