

2 Samuel 5:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold.

Analysis

But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold.

This verse contributes to the narrative of David Becomes King of Israel, emphasizing God establishing His chosen king. David's anointing as king over all Israel fulfills promises made years earlier (1 Samuel 16:13). The conquest of Jerusalem and establishment of it as capital demonstrates God's blessing. Military victories over Philistines show divine enablement. Theological themes include God's faithfulness to promises, the importance of proper locations for worship, and divine empowerment for tasks God assigns.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 5 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 God establishing His chosen king 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of God establishing His chosen king?
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

וַיַּשְׁמַע עַ	פָּلֶשֶׁת יָמִ	פִּ	מִשְׁחָה וְ	אֶת	צָדִיקָה
heard	But when the Philistines	H3588	that they had anointed	H853	David
H8085	H6430		H4886		H1732
לְמַלְכֵה	פָּלֶשֶׁת יָמִ	כָּל	פָּלֶשֶׁת יָמִ	לְבַקֵּשׁ	
king	over Israel	came up	But when the Philistines	to seek	
H4428	H3478	H5927	H3605	H6430	H1245
אֶת	וַיַּשְׁמַע עַ	צָדִיקָה	הַמִּצְוֹתָה:	אֶל	
David	heard	David	of it and went down	to the hold	
H1732	H8085	H1732	H3381	H413	H4686

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 23:14 (References David): And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Beth-lehem.

1 Chronicles 11:16 (References David): And David was then in the hold, and the Philistines' garrison was then at Beth-lehem.

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