

# 2 Samuel 8:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David gat him a name when he returned from smiting of the Syrians in the valley of salt, being eighteen thousand men.

## Analysis

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**And David gat him a name when he returned from smiting of the Syrians in the valley of salt, being eighteen thousand men.**

This verse contributes to the narrative of David's Military Victories, emphasizing God granting victory and expansion. David's military campaigns demonstrate God's promise-keeping (Genesis 15:18-21) regarding territorial boundaries. The Hebrew emphasizes that "the LORD gave David victory wherever he went," attributing success to divine enablement rather than mere military prowess. Theological themes include God's sovereignty over nations, the legitimacy of defensive/offensive warfare under certain circumstances, and proper use of conquered wealth for God's purposes.

## Historical Context

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The historical setting of 2 Samuel 8 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 granting victory and expansion 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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of God granting victory and expansion?
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

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אָתָּה מִתְּחִכּוֹת וְבִשְׁבָּבִים יְמִינֵךְ שְׁמַעַנְתָּי

gat And David him a name when he returned from smiting H853

H6213

H1732

H8034

H7725

H5221

H853

אַלְפִים שָׁמֵן הַשְׁמַן רְאַבְנָה בְּגִיא לְחַדְשָׁה אֶת מִ

of the Syrians in the valley of salt being eighteen thousand H6240

H758

H1516

H4417

H8083

H505

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Kings 14:7** (Parallel theme): He slew of Edom in the valley of salt ten thousand, and took Selah by war, and called the name of it Joktheel unto this day.

**2 Samuel 7:9** (Parallel theme): And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth.

**1 Chronicles 18:12** (Parallel theme): Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruiah slew of the Edomites in the valley of salt eighteen thousand.

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