

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

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

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

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

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

וַיַּעַשׂ	דָּוִד	שֵׁם	בְּשֻׁבוֹ	מִהַכּוֹתֹו	אֶת
gat	And David	him a name	when he returned	from smiting	H853
H6213	H1732	H8034	H7725	H5221	
אֶלֶף	בְּגִיא	מֶלַח	שְׁמוֹנֶה	עָשָׂר	:
of the Syrians	in the valley	of salt	being eighteen	H6240	thousand
H758	H1516	H4417	H8083		H505

Additional Cross-References

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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