

2 Samuel 8:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and
Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

Analysis

And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וְיֹאב־בֶּן־זְרוּיָהּ	עַל־הָצֶבֶת	וַיְהוֹשָׁפָט־בֶּן־אֶחֱלִיזָד
And Joab	the son	of Zeruiah
H3097	H1121	H6870
	H5921	
	was over the host	and Jehoshaphat
	H6635	H3092
		H1121

וְיֹאב־בֶּן־זְרוּיָהּ	עַל־הָצֶבֶת
of Ahilud	was recorder
H286	H2142

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 4:3 (Parallel theme): Elihoreph and Ahiah, the sons of Shisha, scribes; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder.

1 Chronicles 11:6 (Parallel theme): And David said, Whosoever smiteth the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain. So Joab the son of Zeruiah went first up, and was chief.

2 Samuel 19:13 (Parallel theme): And say ye to Amasa, Art thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab.

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