

2 Samuel 8:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests; and Seraiah was the scribe;

Analysis

And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests; and Seraiah was the scribe;

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

וְאַחֲרֵי זָדוֹק	וְאַחֲרֵי אַחִיטָב	וְאַחֲרֵי אַחִימֶלֶךְ	וְאַחֲרֵי אַבְיָתָר
וְאַחֲרֵי שַׁׁבַת	וְאַחֲרֵי מִתְנְדֵב	וְאַחֲרֵי שָׁבָתָה	
וְאַחֲרֵי שְׁבַת	וְאַחֲרֵי מִתְנְדֵב	וְאַחֲרֵי שָׁבָתָה	

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 18:16 (Parallel theme): And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Abimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests; and Shavsha was scribe;

1 Chronicles 6:8 (Parallel theme): And Ahitub begat Zadok, and Zadok begat Ahimaaz,

1 Chronicles 16:39 (Parallel theme): And Zadok the priest, and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD in the high place that was at Gibeon,