

# 2 Samuel 8:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and David houghed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them for an hundred chariots.

## Analysis

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**And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and David houghed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them for an hundred chariots.**

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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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

## 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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וְלֹכֶד	מִתְּאַת	אֶל-	וְשָׁבָע	מֵאַה
took	and David	from him a thousand	chariots and seven	hundred
H3920	H1732	H4480	H505	H7651
וְלֹכֶד	מִתְּאַת	אֶל-	וְשָׁבָע	מֵאַה
horsemen	and twenty	from him a thousand	footmen	houghed
H6571	H6242	H505	H376	H6131
וְלֹכֶד	מִתְּאַת	כָּל	וְלֹא	מֵאַה
and David	H853	H3605	all the chariot	horses but reserved
H1732		H7393		H4480
וְלֹכֶד	מִתְּאַת	כָּל	וְלֹא	מֵאַה
all the chariot				hundred
H7393				H3967

כָּל :

all the chariot

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 11:6** (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Joshua, Be not afraid because of them: for to morrow about this time will I deliver them up all slain before Israel: thou shalt hough their horses, and burn their chariots with fire.

**Joshua 11:9** (Parallel theme): And Joshua did unto them as the LORD bade him: he houghed their horses, and burnt their chariots with fire.