

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

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

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

וְלָכַד דָּוִד מִמֶּנּוּ אֶלֶף וְשִׁבְעָה מֵאָה
took and David H4480 from him a thousand chariots and seven hundred
H3920 H1732 H505 H7651 H3967

וַיַּעַקְרוּ רַגְלֵי יֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ וַיַּחַדּוּ מִמֶּנּוּ אֶלֶף וְשִׁבְעָה מֵאָה
horsemen and twenty from him a thousand footmen H7273 houghed
H6571 H6242 H505 H376 H6131

וְדָוִד אֶת כָּל רֶכֶב הָאָרֶץ וַיִּזְוֶה רַגְלֵי יֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ מִמֶּנּוּ
and David H853 H3605 all the chariot horses but reserved H4480 hundred
H1732 H7393 H3498 H3967

רֶכֶב:
all the chariot
H7393

Additional Cross-References

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.