

# 2 Samuel 8:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succour  
Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and  
twenty thousand men.

## Analysis

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**And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succour Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty 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

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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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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## 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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וַתָּבֹא	בְּאֶרְם	יָמֵי שָׁקִי	לְעֹזֵר	לְהַדָּעֵזֶר	מֶלֶךְ	
came	And when the Syrians	of Damascus	to succour	Hadadezer	king	
H935	H758	H1834	H5826	H1909	H4428	
הָצֹבָה	וַיַּךְ	דָּוִד	בְּאֶרְם	עֶשְׂרִים	וּשְׁנַיִם	אֶלְפֵי
of Zobah	slew	David	And when the Syrians	and twenty	two	thousand
H6678	H5221	H1732	H758	H6242	H8147	H505
אֲנָשִׁים:						
men						
H376						