

# 2 Samuel 8:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and the Syrians became servants to David, and brought gifts. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

## Analysis

**Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and the Syrians became servants to David, and brought gifts. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.**

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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## 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

אָתָה יְהוָה	וְשָׁעָם	מִנְחָה	תֹּשֶׁא	לְעָבֵד יְמִינָה	לְעָבֵד יְמִינָה	לְעָבֵד יְמִינָה	לְעָבֵד יְמִינָה	לְעָבֵד יְמִינָה
<b>David</b>	<b>became servants</b>	<b>and brought</b>	<b>gifts</b>	<b>preserved</b>	<b>And the LORD</b>			
H1732	H5650	H5375	H4503	H3467				H853

בָּלָה:	אֲשֶׁר בָּכְלָה	בָּכְלָה
<b>David</b>	H3605	H834

## Additional Cross-References

**2 Samuel 8:14** (References Lord): And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

**Psalms 140:7** (References Lord): O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.

**2 Chronicles 17:2** (Parallel theme): And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken.

**2 Samuel 7:9** (Parallel theme): And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth.