

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

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

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

וַיִּשֶׂם	דָּוִד	נִצְבִּים	אֲרָם	דָּמָשְׁקַי	וְהָיָה	אֲרָם
put	David	garrisons	and the Syrians	of Damascus	H1961	and the Syrians
H7760	H1732	H5333	H758	H1834		H758
דָּוִד	לְעֶבְדֵי יָם	וְנוֹשְׂאָיו	מִנְחָה	וַיִּשְׁעַר	יְהוָה	אֶת־
David	became servants	and brought	gifts	preserved	And the LORD	H853
H1732	H5650	H5375	H4503	H3467	H3068	
דָּוִד	לְכָל־	אֲשֶׁר־	הָלַךְ:			
David	H3605	H834	whithersoever he went			
H1732			H1980			

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.