

Psalm 18:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; and thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people whom I have not known shall serve me.

Analysis

God delivered David from 'strife of the peoples' and made him 'head of nations.' The Hebrew 'riyb' (strife/contention) suggests both internal and external conflict. Being head ('rosh') over nations indicates expanded rule beyond Israel. People David didn't know served him. This anticipates Christ's reign over all nations (Psalm 2:8, Philippians 2:10-11) and the gathering of Gentiles into God's kingdom.

Historical Context

Reflects David's empire extending beyond Israel to include vassal states and tributary nations, fulfilling God's promise of expanded territory.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God expand your influence beyond your natural sphere?
2. In what ways do you see Christ's universal reign unfolding?

Interlinear Text

תְּפִלְתִּנִי	מִן יְבִרְכֵךְ	עַם	תְּשִׁמְנִי
Thou hast delivered	me from the strivings	a people	and thou hast made
H6403	H7379	H5971	H7760
לֶרֶשׁ	גּוֹיִם	לֹא	יְדַעְתִּי
me the head	of the heathen	a people	whom I have not known
H7218	H1471	H5971	H3045
יְעַבְדָּךְ			shall serve
			H5647

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 55:5 (Parallel theme): Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.

2 Samuel 3:1 (Parallel theme): Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

2 Samuel 19:9 (Parallel theme): And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom.

Isaiah 52:15 (Parallel theme): So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

Ephesians 1:22 (Parallel theme): And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

1 Peter 2:10 (Parallel theme): Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Revelation 11:15 (Parallel theme): And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Acts 5:31 (Parallel theme): Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Romans 15:12 (Parallel theme): And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

Romans 15:18 (Parallel theme): For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed,