

Psalms 18:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.

Analysis

Foreigners came cringing, submitting 'as soon as they heard.' The Hebrew 'shama' (heard) suggests David's reputation preceded him. The 'cringing' ('kachash'—pretending/yielding reluctantly) indicates submission without genuine loyalty. This demonstrates God establishing David's authority through reputation and fear. It anticipates Christ's name before which every knee will bow (Philippians 2:10), some willingly and some reluctantly.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern vassals would submit to powerful kings upon hearing of their might, bringing tribute and pledging allegiance to avoid conquest.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God establish your influence through reputation and His work in your life?
2. What's the difference between genuine submission to Christ and reluctant compliance?

Interlinear Text

לִשְׁמָע	אֵין	יִשְׁמְעוּ	לִי	בְנֵי	נְכָרִים
As soon as they hear	H241	of me they shall obey	H0	me the strangers	H5236
H8088		H8085		H1121	
יִכְבְּשׁוּ	לִי				
shall submit	H0				
H3584					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 81:15 (Parallel theme): The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him: but their time should have endured for ever.

Psalms 66:3 (Parallel theme): Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

Deuteronomy 33:29 (Parallel theme): Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

Isaiah 62:8 (Parallel theme): The LORD hath sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, Surely I will no more give thy corn to be meat for thine enemies; and the sons of the stranger shall not drink thy wine, for the which thou hast laboured:

Psalms 68:30 (Parallel theme): Rebuke the company of spearmen, the multitude of the bulls, with the calves of the people, till every one submit himself with pieces of silver: scatter thou the people that delight in war.

Ezekiel 44:7 (Parallel theme): In that ye have brought into my sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in my sanctuary, to pollute it, even my house, when ye offer my bread, the fat and the blood, and they have broken my covenant because of all your abominations.

2 Samuel 1:13 (Parallel theme): And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence art thou? And he answered, I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite.