

2nd Samuel Chapter 8

- In the previous chapter David was not allowed to build a Temple for the Lord for two reasons:
 1. God wasn't asking for a house of cedar, a Temple so to speak.
 2. David was a man of war, with much blood upon his hands
 - In these chapters this is exactly what we see, David at war.
 - These next three chapters probably take place in between chapters 6 & 7, from the time that we see David bring the Ark back to Jerusalem in chapter 6, and before chapter 7 where David has rest from all his enemies and considers making a Temple for God.
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V: 1 "Methegammah": Chief city / mother city.

1 Chronicles 18:1 "Now after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them, and took Gath and her towns out of the hand of the Philistines."

- Gath was the capital, the chief, or "mother city" to the Philistines, much like cutting the head off of the snake. Dealing with the Philistines enables David to move in the other direction without having to be concerned about what the Philistines might do while he is moving east.

V: 2 Moving east David smites Moab.

- David divided the men of Moab into three lines – two lines were killed, the third was spared – killing 2/3 of the men.
- The Hebrew "Midrash", a collection of Jewish scholarly writings state that after David came to power as the king, the Moabites put David's parents to death – which is why he was then seemingly so harsh to them.
- From that point forward the Moabites lived in subjection to King David and paid tribute – bringing gifts.

V: 3-4 David conquers Hadadezer king of Zobah. Zobah being part of Syria, North / East of Damascus, which was the regional power prior to the rise of Damascus and the Assyrians.

- Hadadezer = "God helps"
- David engages in this battle on the way to the Euphrates River.
- 2 Samuel uses the phrase "recover" to describe David's intent.

1 Chronicles 18:3 "And David smote Hadarezer king of Zobah unto Hamath, as he went to establish his dominion by the river Euphrates."

God made a promise to Abraham:

Genesis 15:18 “And in the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:”

According to the Word of God through Moses:

Deuteronomy 1:7 “Turn you, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites, and unto all the places nigh thereunto, in the plain, in the hills, and in the vale, and in the south, and by the sea side, to the land of the Canaanites, and unto Lebanon, unto the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Deuteronomy 11:24 “Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: for the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be.”

- It appears that David is intent on taking what God has given to the nation, taking God at His word!
- Scorecard: in the process David takes 1,000 chariots, 700 horsemen / cavalry, 20,000 infantry.
- David hocked or hamstrung all the horses except for 100.

V: 5-6 When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer they got smoted also to the tune of 22,000 killed.

- The Syrians also ended up in subjection to David and had to pay tribute.
- Stating the obvious: “*The Lord preserved David whithersoever he went.*”

Romans 8:31 “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

V: 7-8 Speaking of the spoils, David took the shields of gold, in taking Hadadezer's other cities he took much brass – all of which would one day end up in the Temple built by Solomon.

V: 9-12 Hamath was a city state located on the Orantes River, about 120 miles North of Damascus – and a rival to Hadadezer of Zobah.

- They celebrated the defeat of Hadadezer; Toi figured that the enemy of his enemy was his friend – so he sent his son to congratulate David on his victory over his enemy and to bring gifts, “vessels of silver, gold, and brass.
- All the spoil that David took in battle he dedicated to the Lord, acknowledging that the Lord had given him these victories.

V: 13 David's fame grew as he returned from another victory over the Syrians – killing over 18,000 of the enemy.

V: 14-15 David also prevailed over the Edomites – traditional enemies of Israel and placed garrisons of soldiers to enforce their subjugation.

David wrote:

Psalm 60:8 “Moab is my wash pot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe:”

- Again “... *the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went.*”.

Summary of military victories: V: 1 Philistines to the **West**, V:2 Moabites to the **East**, V:3-12 Syrians to the **North**, V:13-14 Edomites to the **South**.

- David reigned and ruled over Israel, he executed judgment and justice unto all his people.
- Even though David had these military campaigns and the kingdom is being expanded, he didn't neglect his duties at home, he still tended to the sheep.

V: 16-18 We have the record of the cabinet members, those who helped David reign:

1. Joab, commander of the army.
2. Jehoshaphat, the recorder – keep of records.
3. Zadok and Ahimelech, the priests.
4. Seraiah, the scribe.
5. Benaiah, a priest turned warrior, leader over the Cherethites and Pelethites – mercenaries, David's personal guard.
6. David's sons as chief rulers, lieutenants, princes, advisors.
7. Not mentioned is Nathan the prophet.

- This is pretty much the zenith, the high point of the kingdom of Israel.

2nd Samuel Chapter 9

V: 1-6 David remembers his vows to both Jonathan and Saul, that he would show kindness to their respective sons and families.

- Jonathan and two of his brothers died in battle along with Saul (1 Samuel 31)
- Ishbosheth, one of Saul's other sons who didn't go to the battle was later killed by treachery by two of his military men as the rule of his kingdom was falling apart.
- David inquires of Ziba, Saul's servant if there is anyone left of the house of Saul that he can bless.

- Saul's house, lands, and good had not been appropriated by the new king – David had just let them be and the steward Ziba had everything we on auto pilot taking care of things, this mean that David wasn't interested in or after the loot, he wasn't in it for financial gain.

1 Peter 5:2 “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.”

- As we'll see in 2 Samuel 21 there are several other descendants of Saul still living, but there is only one son left of Jonathan, Saul's grandson, Jonathan's son Mephibosheth, (Shame destroyer / image breaker) who is living in Lo-debar, which is near Gilead on the East side of the Jordan.
- When Mephibosheth is brought before David he falls on his face, he bows down, he humbles himself and does obeisance before David.
- David said “*Mephibosheth...*” Tone is everything, communicating love.

V: 7-8 David seeks to re-assure Mephibosheth, telling him that he need not fear, because David wants to show him kindness.

- David doesn't bless or help Mephibosheth out of pity for his condition – David, who is a type of Jesus ministers to this poor cripple to honor the father, Jonathan. Mephibosheth is a recipient of grace – having done nothing to deserve any of the blessings he receives.
- David informs Mephibosheth that all of Saul's property is to be given him, and that he shall have an honored place at David's table every night.
- Mephibosheth humbles himself further referring to himself as a “dead dog” – a worthless dog – “who am I that you would consider me?”

V: 9-12 David then informed Ziba, Saul's steward that now he was working for Mephibosheth – and that he would continue to serve as he had done for Saul.

- Ziba has a large family and lots of servants – he has prospered in Saul's house in Saul's absence, we'll see later what a rat Ziba is.
- Mephibosheth would be like one of David's sons – he would be treated very well, in keeping with his promise to Jonathan.

Galatians 3:26 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”

V: 13 Mephibosheth did just what David said, and lived in Jerusalem with David.

- Mephibosheth was lame in his feet – (2 Samuel 4) when he was little (5 yrs) and his nurse had heard that Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle – she turned to flee

with Mephibosheth and fell in the process dropping the boy and breaking both of his ankles, or maybe a spinal injury – which left him lame in both of his feet.

- Mephibosheth is a picture of God's kindness to lost sinners like us; poor, having lost everything, lame – unable to walk, living in “Lo-debar” which is a barren place with no pastures, but literally means “no word”. If there is none of God's word in our lives – that too is a desolate place!
- David, a type of Jesus – calls for Mephibosheth based on an old promise, Mephibosheth humbles himself before the king – then hears his name; Mephibosheth... Everything is restored, he receives his inheritance, and he's invited to the king's table every day – the banqueting table of love.
- David initiated, made the first move with Mephibosheth, reaching out to him.

1 John 4:19 “We love Him because He first loved us.”

2nd Samuel Chapter 10

V: 1-3 David had lived up to this point at peace with the Ammonites, who lived East of the Jordan River. The king of Ammon died, and David sends a delegation to honor the fallen king and comfort his son who now reigned in his place.

- The princes / counselors to the new king, Hanun – give the king bad counsel. They don't trust David and as a result the ambassadors, the delegation from David are abused and humiliated.
- Hanun = Blessed or Favored; but apparently not with wisdom or discernment.

V: 4-5 Hanun has David's servants's humiliated, their beards ½ shaved off, their robes and garments cut midway exposing their buttocks then sends them home.

- In that day one of the ways a slave was identified was that they were clean shaven or had short beards, only free men had long beards, it meant that they were “masters”.
- These men were ambassadors, representing the king of Israel – who had just run around and conquered everyone around them. This is reminiscent of Nabal who wouldn't help David's men and intentionally insulted David in the process.
- David heard what happened and told these men to wait in Jericho until their beards grew back, then come all the way home.

V: 6-8 When the Ammonites figured out what they'd done – and what would likely result they hired mercenaries to help defend themselves.

- They hired a combined force of 33,000 Syrians from Bethrehob, Zoba, Maacah, and Ishtob – some of which had previously been defeated

- David sends Joab and the armies of Israel to deal with the Ammonites. David underestimates the Ammonites and sets a bad precedent. (Ch. 11)

V: 9-12 Joab sizes thing up and see's that he's outnumbered and at a disadvantage, the enemy being on two sides.

- He chooses out the best warriors, the elites which is a smaller group and put them in formation against the Syrians.
- The remainder, a larger group he placed under the command of his brother Abishai – a mighty man of valor.
- They agree that if need be they will help each other, but at least to start with they have divided their forces and will each attack independently.
- The final encouragement before the battle begins: “be courageous, “let us play” – meaning show strength and prevail – dedicating the battle to God and trusting Him for the results.

V: 13-14 God is with the armies of Israel, the Syrians flee before Israel, the Ammonites flee before Abishai back into their walled city.

- Joab returns to Jerusalem to prepare for the next battle.

V: 15-19 After the Syrians had been routed, they regrouped, adding to their number those from farther North and prepared to counter attack.

- David hears of this and gathers all Israel together, crosses over the Jordan to attack the Syrians at Helam, which is a region or area of Northern Syria.
- God is with David who is victorious: They kill / take 700 chariots, and killed 40,000 cavalry men, killed their commander, with no mention of the number of infantry killed.
- The surviving Syrian kings see what's going on and sued for peace, surrendering to David – and end up paying tribute to Israel – so the Syrians are no longer a force to be dealt with.
- This sets up the next chapter; David is at the height of his power – all his enemies vanquished or subjugated – the kingdom is expanded and victorious.
- At the height of his success he / we are most vulnerable and in the most danger.

V: 7 “And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men...”

David: a type of Jesus:

- God made promises to Abraham and to Moses – and we see David fulfilling them, taking the “promised” land from the river Nile in Egypt to the River Euphrates.
- Jesus came to fulfill the word of God, and will come again to do the same.
- David’s conquests meant that the children of Israel would no longer fear the enemies that had harassed them throughout their history – by the power of God David brought peace to Israel – We see him here as a type of the “Prince of Peace”.
- David ruled and reigned in righteous judgment over all the people. Jesus is coming and will one day rule and reign in true righteousness.
- Jesus came to seek and to save the lost; and we see David doing the same thing with Mephibosheth who is adopted, protected, and taken care of for the rest of his life.