

1 Chronicles Chapter 18

V: 1 David deals with the Philistines, Israel's perennial enemies. Gath was their capital, their biggest city.

- Gath was the capital, the chief, or "mother city" to the Philistines, with small satellite cities ([Map](#)) around it. 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 David smote the Moabites - a great understatement:

2 Samuel 8:2 "And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And so the Moabites becomes David's servants, and brought gifts."

- David divided the men of Moab into three lines – two lines were killed, the third was spared – killing 2/3 of the men.
- Early on the Moabites had been friendly to David because they thought he was Saul's enemy, and because David was related to the Moabites through his great-grandmother Ruth.
- The Moabites were actually related to the Jews through Abraham's nephew Lot, and his incestuous relationship with his daughters.
- While living in exile David placed his parents in the care of the king of Moab pending the outcome of things with Saul.
- 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.
- Another factor is that because the Moabites had hired Balaam to curse Israel (**Numbers 22-25**) and led Moab in seducing the Men of Israel to commit sin, God had declared war on Moab. So David was God's instrument of judgment upon Moab.

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.

- David is going to establish his "dominion" all the way to the Euphrates: While reading about how to carry the ark he ran across some other interesting things.

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

(Map)

- 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, 7,000 horsemen / cavalry, 20,000 infantry.

(Map)

- David hocked or hamstrung all the horses except for 100 - out of obedience.

Speaking of kings:

Deuteronomy 17:16 “But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses...”

V: 5-8 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?”

Hebrews 9:27 “And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

- God has appointed to each man that specific time when we will each be called home. It's not random - it's very specific: and we will each be preserved invincibly until that day.
- **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.
- God told David that he couldn't build Him a house, but He didn't say that David couldn't gather up the materials for his son to build the house. Not complaining, David used his gifts to do what he could!

V: 9-10 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; Tou 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.

V: 11 All the spoil that David took in battle he dedicated to the Lord, acknowledging that the Lord had given him these victories.

Psalm 96:8 “Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come into His courts.”

V: 12-13 David’s fame and power, both he and his servants who also are victorious in battle grew as he returned from another victory over the Edomites – killing over 18,000 of the enemy.

- The Edomites were traditional enemies of Israel, David placed garrisons of soldiers to enforce their subjugation.

David later wrote:

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

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

Map - and he went a bunch of places:

- **Summary of military victories:** Philistines to the **West**, Moabites to the **East**, Syrians to the **North**, Edomites to the **South**.

V: 14-17 David reigned and ruled over Israel, he executed judgment and justice unto all his people.

- Executing judgment & justice, not just judgment but justice as well - doing it right!

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God.”

- 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.
- 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. **Shavsha** / **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. (training / instruction)
7. Not mentioned is [Nathan](#) the prophet.
 - This is pretty much the high point of the kingdom of Israel. ([Map](#))

1 Chronicles Chapter 19

Parentetical sub-plot:

V: 1-2 ([Map / Ammon - Rabbah / Amon](#)) David has already been victorious in dealing with Israel’s enemies and doesn’t seem to be looking for a fight or anything.

- David had up to this point lived 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.

2 Samuel 10:2 “Then said David, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father shewed kindness unto me...”

- As David learns of the death of a neighboring king who had shown David some kindness, we don’t know what that kindness was but he sincerely just wants to send his condolences.

V: 3-5 The princes / counselors to the new king, Hanun – give the him bad counsel. They don’t trust David and as a result the ambassadors, the delegation from David are abused and humiliated.

“you don’t tug on superman’s cape, you don’t spit in the wind, you don’t pull the mask off the o’l Long Ranger, and you don’t mess around with King David!”

- Jesus admonished those who would be His followers to carefully consider the cost of that decision, then He used the illustration:

Luke 14:31-32 “³¹Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? ³²Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.”

- Hanun had not fully considered who he was provoking and what would result with this insult to David.

- Hanun has David's servants's humiliated, their beards ½ shaved off, (2 Samuel 10:4) their robes and garments cut midway exposing their buttocks then sends them home - humiliated.
- 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.

Sometimes as ambassadors for Christ it's the same for us - Jesus tells us:

Matthew 10:16 "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves..."

John 15:20 "Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also."

- The people our King has sends us to are often suspicious and mis-guided; they will at times mistreat us, we too will be abused and humiliated - but our King will set it straight.

V: 6-7 The Ammonites are starting to figure out what they had done and instead of humbling themselves and apologizing, they make it worse and prepare for a war they cannot win. **Odius**: bad smell, abhorrent, repulsive, hated, disgusting.

- **2 Samuel Ch. 10** describes that they hired a combined mercenary force of infantry and chariots numbering 32,000. Syrians from Bethrehab, Zoba, Maacah, and Ishtob – some of which had previously been defeated by David.

V: 8 David hears of this and responds but notice that he sends Joab and the "mighty men" of Israel (not the whole army) to deal with the Ammonites as opposed to leading them himself. David underestimates the Ammonites and sets a bad precedent.

V: 9-15 Joab sizes things up and see's that he's outnumbered and surrounded.

- 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 – also 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! Be valiant! Commit it to the Lord! Do your best and commit the rest! Then they attack! First move!**

2 Samuel 10:12 "...be courageous, let us play" – meaning show strength and prevail – dedicating the battle to God and trusting Him for the results.

- 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: 16-19 After the Syrians had been routed, they regrouped, adding to their number those from farther North and prepared to counter attack.

- David responds to this and gathers all Israel together, the entire army and crosses over the Jordan to attack the Syrians at Helam, which is a region or area of Northern Syria.
- God is again with David who is victorious: They kill / take 7,000 chariots, and killed 40,000 infantrymen, also killing their commander.
- The surviving Syrian kings see what's going on and sued for peace, surrendering to David – and ends up paying tribute to Israel, becoming his servants – so the Syrians are no longer a force to be dealt with.

Romans 8:37 "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

- This sets up the next chapter; David is at the height of his power – all his enemies vanquished or subjugated – the kingdom is expanding and victorious.
- At the height of his success he / we are most vulnerable and in the most danger.

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

V: 8 "And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men..."

- David is victorious but sadly we see the first hint of compromise, that will lead to another.