

## Sunday Night Message

May 3, 2020

### 2 Samuel 8 – Securing the Kingdom

Topics – David; David's Wars; Syrians; Philistines; Edomites; Moabites; Ammonites

Series – 2 Samuel

Text – 2 Samuel 8 (Parallel passage 1 Chronicles 18)

### Introduction

#### Read vs. 6 and 14:

*"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**. ... 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**." (2 Samuel 8:6, 14)*

Notice the phrase – “withersoever he went,” meaning that God was mightily blessing David militarily in every geographical area. North, south, east, and west – all areas surrounding Israel were secured by David.

Because David was “a man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22), and because David was obedient to the Lord and faithful to the people of God, God was blessing him and the kingdom in a mighty way. Israel was victorious over her enemies; her borders were expanded and her coffers were getting full because of the tribute being paid by her neighbors.

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance." (Psalm 33:12)*

*"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34)*

The blessings that Israel was experiencing under the reign of King David were promised in Deuteronomy 28:1 – 14. Unfortunately, the curses described beginning in verse 15 of that same chapter, would be the case for Israel under many of her future ungodly leaders.

All of Israel’s future kings would be compared to David:

*"And if thou wilt walk before me, **as David thy father walked**, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:" (1 Kings 9:4)*

*"And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do that is right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, **as David my servant did; that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house, as I built for David**, and will give Israel unto thee." (1 Kings 11:38)*

*"And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, **as David thy father walked**, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;" (2 Chronicles 7:17)*

*"And he (Amaziah) did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like David his father: he did according to all things as Joash his father did." (2 Kings 14:3)*

*"Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: but he did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father:" (2 Chronicles 28:1)*

Illustrate – did you ever get compared to somebody else – like an older brother or sister.

### Transition

This chapter perfectly illustrates how God will bless a nation that is yielded to Him. You and I need to pray that America turns back to God. However, though the interpretation of this passage involves King David and the Nation of Israel, I believe wholeheartedly that you and I can apply this truth in a practical way to our homes and families. I believe with all my heart that the home that is yielded to God will be blessed: protected and provided for by the Lord.

#### I. David's Conquests (vs. 1 – 8)

Refer to Map – The battles and nations referred to in this chapter are: the Philistines (to the southwest; the Edomites (to the southeast); the Moabites and Ammonites (to the west – on the other side of the Dead Sea); the King of Zobah, which is way to the north; and the Syrians who came to help the King of Zobah, but were defeated as well. A summary of some of these battles are mentioned here in chapter eight, but will be discussed in greater detail in later on chapter ten. The point is that during David's reign the borders of Israel were both secured and extended.

Notice in v. 1 – "after this time." These events outline many of the conquests throughout David's reign. However, these events are very likely not chronologically after the events of chapter seven. 2 Samuel 7:1 states that David had rest from all of his enemies. However it does come "after" the conquest of the Philistines, which was discussed in chapter five.

Notice the name, "Methegamma." It means "mother city;" or "the bridle of the metropolis;"<sup>1</sup> or "bridle of the mother, a figurative name for a chief city."<sup>2</sup> The chief city of the Philistines at this time was Gath. Note the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 18.

*"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." (1 Chronicles 18:1)*

David does not eradicate completely the Philistines, but he does eliminate them as a threat, and they are never referred to again in Scripture as a serious enemy to Israel.

Verse 2 – At one time David had a good relationship with the Moabites. They had taken in David's family when David was trying to protect them from King Saul (1 Samuel 22:3 – 4). Also, David's great-grandmother, Ruth, was a Moabite (Ruth 4:21 – 22).

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<sup>1</sup> Stelman Smith and Judson Cornwall, *The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names* (North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos, 1998), 173.

<sup>2</sup> M. G. Easton, *Easton's Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).

Notice the phrase – “*even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive.*” This is a strange expression. Some believe that this means David killed two-thirds of the men, but allowed one-third to remain to pay tribute. The theory is that he lined up the prisoners on the ground in rows, and measured them with a line so that two-thirds would be put to death. Some believe that he spared all those that were under a certain height, as in the children.

The people who were spared were able to return to Moab and live and grow their crops as normal, but they had to pay a portion back to David.

Verses 3 – 4 – Zobah to the north

Apparently, King Hadarezer went to fight a battle at the far eastern end of his kingdom on the Euphrates River, and while he was occupied, David attacked him from the south.

Notice – “*houghed all the chariots horses*” – meaning he cut their hamstrings, the back sinews of the hind legs, which rendered them useless for military action.

Note – there is a difference in the number of horsemen listed in 2 Samuel 8 and 1 Chronicles 18, which I cannot explain.

Psalm 60 was a commemoration of this battle.

Vs. 5 – 8 – The Syrians attempt to held King Hadarezer but were also defeated, and David ends up placing a garrison, in Damascus, their capital city, meaning he left some of his military there. The Syrians as well as the people of Zobah end up paying tribute to David.

David took a lot of brass from the cities of Zobah, which according to the parallel passage in 2 Chronicles 8:8: “*Solomon made the brasen sea, and the pillars, and the vessels of brass.*”

## II. David’s Crowns (vs. 9 – 14)

These verses tell us that another king, Toi, from Hamath, which was an enemy of Hadarezer and Zobah rewarded David with gifts of silver, gold, and brass.

Notice verse 14 – Apparently, when David was busy fighting in the north, the Edomites attacked him from the south. Joab (Psalm 60:1) and Abishai (2 Chronicles 18:12) were sent to fight them, and prevailed. 2 Chronicles 18 also tells us that the Edomites were fighting together with the Syrians.

Thus, David secured all of his borders – north, south, east, and west. He also collected taxes from all of these nations.

## III. David’s Conduct (vs. 15 – 18)

Notice that David executed judgment and justice to all of his people. God does the same thing:

*“Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.”* (Psalm 89:14)

The Book of Proverbs equates justice and judgment with wisdom:

*"To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:"* (Proverbs 1:2-5)

*"To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice."* (Proverbs 21:3)

David was a good and godly King. He loved his people and he loved His God.

Notice there are two lines of priests at this time – Zadok and Ahimelech. Both of these men descended from the family of Aaron. Abiathar was a direct descendant of Eli. Samuel pronounced a judgment of the family of Eli:

*"And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end. For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever."* (1 Samuel 3:11-14)

Abiathar will be removed from being a priest by Solomon:

*"And unto Abiathar the priest said the king, Get thee to Anathoth, unto thine own fields; for thou art worthy of death: but I will not at this time put thee to death, because thou barest the ark of the Lord GOD before David my father, and because thou hast been afflicted in all wherein my father was afflicted. So Solomon thrust out Abiathar from being priest unto the LORD; that he might fulfil the word of the LORD, which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh."* (1 Kings 2:26-27)

The Family of Zadok will be the priests during the Millennium:

*"But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:"* (Ezekiel 44:15)

## Conclusion

This chapter depicts David and Israel at their very best. This is as close as it will get to the Millennial reign when Christ is actually ruling the nation. The principle that we can clearly see is that God mightily blesses the nation and the leader that is in subjection to Him.



### BATTLES DURING DAVID'S REIGN

- City
- City with an uncertain location
- ← Philistines attack David in the Valley of Rephaim, near Baal-perazim (2 Sam. 5:17ff)
- ← David repels Philistine attacks (2 Sam. 5:25)
- ← David attacks Hadadezer, king of Zobah (2 Sam. 8:3ff)
- ← Edomites threaten David at Valley of Salt (2 Sam. 8:13)
- ← David decisively defeats the Edomites (2 Sam. 8:14)
- ← Ammonites, aided by the Aramean mercenary forces of Zobah, Beth-rehob, Maacah and Tob, challenge David near Rabbah (Amman) (2 Sam. 10:1ff)
- ← David's forces defeat the Ammonite-Aramean confederation (2 Sam. 10:7ff)
- ← Hadadezer, king of Zobah, leads an Aramean army against David at Helam (2 Sam. 10:15ff)
- ← David defeats Hadadezer's Aramean confederation at Helam (2 Sam. 10:17ff)
- ← David is expelled from Jerusalem by his son Absalom (2 Sam. 17:21ff)
- ← David dispatches a census team throughout his realm (2 Sam. 24:1ff)
- ★ Battle scene

