

## The Kingdom Secured – 2 Samuel 8-9

### Introduction:

We have been following the rise of David from Shepherd boy to king. It has been a long, slow process but throughout there have been wonderful glimpses of what kind of king David would be. He seems to be a man moved and guided by the hand of God. There were far too many coincidences to ignore the fact that someone else was guiding the events to put David in the place of leadership.

In the chapters 8 & 9 we get a glimpse of the king in action. We will see him on the battle field, in the seat of justice, and dealing with promises he made in the past. How will he perform? More importantly, is the hand of God still on him? God has established an “everlasting covenant” with David and his descendants. Will David’s approach to leadership be changed by that fact?

These two chapters not only record the history of David’s reign, but also look a little deeper to his character. Is God still the driving force of his leadership or has power and authority started to corrupt the good king? You be the judge.

### Victories in Battle – 2 Samuel 8:1-8

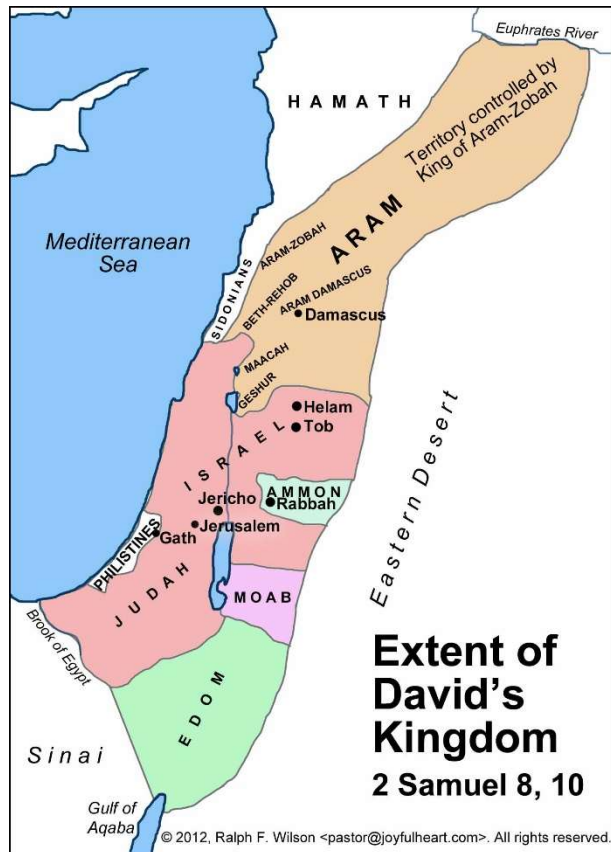
1. God has blessed David with a covenant that promised prosperity now and a kingdom ruled by his descendants for generations to come. What seems to be the first order of business according to verse 1? Why?
2. Metheg-ammah (v. 1) is likely the Philistine city of Gath. Metheg ammah means bridle or elbow. It jut into Judean territory and was the base from which the Philistines subdued the Jews. Why would this be such an important city to conquer?
3. What is the next area David conquered (v. 2)? How did he treat the people of Moab?

BACKGROUND: Jewish writers suggest that the people are treated so ruthlessly because when David left his family with them for protection, they killed them. This was a moment of judgement and revenge. Though the practice of laying out captured peoples and killing a determined group was common in the area, it was not a usual Jewish practice.

4. Where does David turn next to expand his kingdom (v. 3)? (Zobah was a small Syrian territory east of the Dead Sea and Jordan River). What was the outcome of this battle (v. 4)? Why were the horses maimed? (cf. Joshua 11:6)
5. As Zobah was a part of the Syrian empire, we should not be surprised that an army from Syria came to their defence. How did that turn out for them (v. 5)?
6. What became of the Syrians according to verse 6?
7. In verse 6 we have the first mention of the Lord in this chapter. What do we learn here?
8. What captured treasure did David get from Hadadezer (v. 7)? What did he do with it?
9. What did David find in the cities of Berothi and Betah when he conquered them? What did he do with this?

### **Wealth for the Kingdom – 2 Samuel 8:9-14**

10. David made a new allies according to verse 9-10. Who were they and why did they become allies with David?
11. It appears there was a great deal of wealth in the region, and as David continued to conquer more and more territory, wealth continued to flow to him. Gold, silver and bronze seem to be the most prized treasures. What did David do with the wealth coming to him (v. 11)?
12. In verse 13 David “makes a name for himself.” What did he do to make a name for himself?



13. Besides defeating the armies of the Edomites, what else did David do in their territories (v. 14)?

14. What is the key to David's success according to verse 14?

### David's Officials – 2 Samuel 8:15- 18

15. How is the reign of David characterized in verse 15?

16. Who are the important people mentioned in verses 16-18? What were their roles?

17. What roles were David's sons given (v. 18)?

### David Fulfills a Promise – 2 Samuel 9:1-8

18. What is the background of David's question in verse 1 (of chapter 9)? (cf. 1 Samuel 20:14-16)

19. What position did Ziba have (v2)? Why is this information important?

20. The king asks Ziba about any survivors of Saul's family. What does David discover (v. 4)?

21. What does King David do when he learns of Mephibosheth (v. 5)?

22. When Mephibosheth is brought before the king, how does he respond (v. 6)? What might be going through his mind at this time?

23. David promises to show kindness to Mephibosheth for Jonathan's sake. What two things does he promise to do for this crippled man (v. 7)?

24. How does Mephibosheth respond to the offer of the king (v. 8)? What is his attitude?

### **Provisions for the Son of a Friend – 2 Samuel 9:9-13**

25. What generous gift does David give to Mephibosheth (v. 9)?

26. What role will Ziba have (and his family) (v. 10)? How might he feel about this? What do we learn about Ziba in this verse?

27. Where will Mephibosheth get his food (v. 10)?

28. How does Ziba respond to the command of the king (v. 11)? Did he have much choice?

29. What was Mephibosheth's life like after this moment (v. 11)? What was life like for Ziba?

30. What would Mephibosheth expect from life as a cripple? What did he receive (v. 13)? How is this a picture of the grace of God?

### **Conclusion:**

In these chapters, David is portrayed as a great military leader, securing the borders of Judea and establishing a strong army. We also see him showing generosity and compassion to the son of his friend. We read that the Lord was giving him the victory. These are all good signs in the kingdom.

There is one troubling phrase in this passage. In 8:13 we read, "David made a name for himself." The language is similar to that used in Genesis 11:4 when the people built the tower of Babel so they could "make a name for themselves." Throughout this scripture David is the subject of most of the verbs. There was a time God was the subject. Was something shifting? The danger of success is it can drive a person to seek more success in their own strength. The pursuit of power can be dangerous. Has David started to succumb or is he still listening to God?