

Fighting For the King – 2 Samuel 10:1-19

Introduction:

There are times in life when we do the right thing and still we find people do not respond well. How our actions are received is often determined by the mindset of the recipients. A person may give a gift simply as a gesture of kindness, but it may be seen as a bribe, or a form of manipulation. It all depends on the recipient.

A gesture of kindness from David leads to war. This war is an important turning point in the career of David as king. A powerful nation is subdued and the nations that allied with it now submit to David. One of the last great enemies of the Jewish state was crumbling. God was fulfilling his promise recorded in 2 Samuel 7:9 that He would make David a great leader and defeat his enemies.

We also discover a weakness in David, one that will come to haunt him in the months and years to come. See if you can spot the weakness, and determine where it might have come from.

David's Response to the Death of Nahash – 2 Samuel 10:1-5

1. Who is Hanun? What occasion brings David and Hanun together (v. 1)?
2. What was the relationship of David to Nahash (v.2)? What is surprising about this (cf. 1 Samuel 11)?
3. What action does David take when he hears of Nahash's death (v. 2)?
4. What was the response of the Ammonite rulers to the emissaries from David (v. 3)? What did they suspect was the motive of David? Why?
5. What did the Ammonites do to the emissaries of David (v. 4)? What did this signify?
6. What did David do for the men who were shamed by the Ammonites (v. 5)?

The First Battle Engaged – 2 Samuel 10:6-14

7. What does it mean in verse 6 that the Ammonites had “become a stench to David”?
8. What kind of army did the Ammonites hire to help them fight David (v. 6)?
9. What response does David make according to verse 7?
10. What is troubling about verse 7? Where might he have learned this response?
11. Verse 8 describes the strategy of the Ammonites. What do they do to strengthen their position for the battle?



12. What is Joab’s plan as he realizes he must face the enemy on two fronts (vss. 9-11)? Is it a good plan? Who does he partner with to lead the army?
13. In verse 12 we get the rallying cry of Joab for the troops. What does he say? Do we sense a strong faith in God through his words? Explain.
14. What success did Joab have against the Syrian army (v. 13)?
15. The Ammonites saw their allies flee. What was their response (v. 14)?

The Second Battle – 2 Samuel 10:15-19

16. The first battle was against the Ammonites with the Syrians as hired mercenaries. What shifts in verse 15? Why?
17. In chapter 8 we read how David subdued Hadadezer, and took his shields to Jerusalem. It appears that chapter 10 describes the battle itself. Hadadezer is the leader, and where does he enlist help from (v. 16)?

18. How does David respond when he hears that Hadadezer has amassed an army on the other side of the Jordan River (v. 16)?
19. How successful was David in his battle against Hadadezer's army (v. 18)?
20. Hadadezer had many countries under his control. What was their response when they heard that David had defeated Hadadezer's army (v. 19)?
21. The last line of verse 19 reintroduces the Ammonites. What do we learn about them in this verse? Why might this be important?

Conclusion:

One could read this chapter as a reluctant King David entering into a battle against the Ammonites. It was because of an insult inflicted on his dignitaries that David must respond. He sends his general, Joab, to the battle instead of going himself, and his general, wins a decisive battle.

The hired mercenaries decide it is time to fight for their own country, and they amass a great army against David. This time David goes to war and under his leadership a great victory is won.

It appears that God is fulfilling his promise to David that all his enemies would be subdued. Since the day the children of Israel entered the Promised Land they had to fight to gain control of the territory. Would a day come when there would be peace in the land, and the enemies around Israel strike peace treaties with Israel? Things seem to be moving that way.

It appears that "what seemed good to God" (v. 12) was the strengthening and solidifying of David's Kingdom. Joab was correct: these cities are the cities of God. May they never forget that. May they never turn their backs on the God who established them as a nation. The question is, would they?