

1 Chronicles 18-19 – Thursday, September 8th, 2016

1 Chronicles 18:1 -- 1 After this it came to pass that David attacked the Philistines, subdued them, and took Gath and its towns from the hand of the Philistines. 2 Then he defeated Moab, and the Moabites became David's servants, and brought tribute. 3 And David defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah as far as Hamath, as he went to establish his power by the River Euphrates. 4 David took from him one thousand chariots, seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand foot soldiers. Also David hamstringed all the chariot horses, except that he spared enough of them for one hundred chariots. 5 When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David killed twenty-two thousand of the Syrians. 6 Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, and brought tribute. So the LORD preserved David wherever he went. 7 And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. 8 Also from Tibhath and from Chun, cities of Hadadezer, David brought a large amount of bronze, with which Solomon made the bronze Sea, the pillars, and the articles of bronze. 9 Now when Tou king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer king of Zobah, 10 he sent Hadoram his son to King David, to greet him and bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him (for Hadadezer had been at war with Tou); and Hadoram brought with him all kinds of articles of gold, silver, and bronze. 11 King David also dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold that he had brought from all these nations—from Edom, from Moab, from the people of Ammon, from the Philistines, and from Amalek. 12 Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruiah killed eighteen thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt. 13 He also put garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David wherever he went. 14 So David reigned over all Israel, and administered judgment and justice to all his people. 15 Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder; 16 Zadok the son of Ahitub and Abimelech the son of Abiathar were the priests; Shavsha was the scribe; 17 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief ministers at the king's side.

- Because we did an in depth study of this back when we were in 2 Samuel 8, I'll only point out two things from this chapter.
- First, notice we're told that David took back the territory all the way from Syria, Moab, Ammon, from the Philistines and Amalek.
- I point this out because David would ultimately occupy more of the Promised Land than at any other time in Israel's history.

- Under David's reign, he possessed about 30,000 square miles, which was 10% of the original size of the Promised Land.
- This because, the borders of the original Promised Land given to Israel for them to possess would total 300,000 square miles.
- To put this into perspective, today Israel is only about 8,000 square miles in size, which is only about 2% of the Promised Land.

- This sort of ties into the second thing I'd like to point out, which is how noticeably small David's cabinet and administration is.
- I believe the reason that the size was so small is because they had the Law of Moses, which chiefly governed Israel's society.
- In other words, when God's Law governs, there's no need for big government implementing more and more of the laws of man.

- What comes as a result of more and more man made laws is that they replace God's laws, which will bring an end to a nation.
- Perhaps it goes without saying, but the handwriting would seem to be on the wall as it relates this once most powerful nation.
- It's only a matter of time, as we see in our prophecy updates, before a nation is crushed under the weight of its godlessness.

1 Chronicles 19 -- 1 It happened after this that Nahash the king of the people of Ammon died, and his son reigned in his place. 2 Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me." So David sent messengers to comfort him concerning his father. And David's servants came to Hanun in the land of the people of Ammon to comfort him.

- We first studied this account back in 2 Samuel 10, which begins with David showing kindness to Hanun because of his father.
- His father, Nahash had shown kindness to David so he responds by sending his servants that he might offer Hanun comfort.
- As we're about to see, it's going to go terribly wrong and lead to a horrific end, which to me is why we have it recorded again.

3 And the princes of the people of Ammon said to Hanun, "Do you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to you? Did his servants not come to you to search and to overthrow and to spy out the land?"

- This reminds me of that saying no good deed goes unpunished; such is the case here with the princes of the people of Ammon.
- I would suggest this is a textbook case of wrongly judging the motive of someone's heart, which is the worst thing we can do.
- While it's always good to have sound judgment and good discernment, we do err greatly when we judge someone's motives.

- Let me hasten to say this doesn't mean we don't judge the actions of others, or the fruit of others, as we talked about Sunday.
- We are to judge someone's words but not the motives of their heart, such that, we can know them by the fruit on their tree.
- The reason being is, man only sees the outward appearance, but God is the Who can see the heart, or the root of the tree.

- Sadly, when this judging the motive of David's heart runs its course, it will cost the lives of some fifty thousand of Hanun's men.
- I point this out because we would do well to take heed of the devastation that always ensues when we're given over to this.
- When we wrongly judge the motives of another man's heart, there's always the propensity for many others to also get hurt.

- Before we move on to verse four there's something else I'd like to address and it has to do with people judging other's motives.
- In my own personal experience over the years like many of you I've been on the receiving end of this wrongly judging the heart.
- Because of the devastation it always causes, I've sought to discern why people like Hanun's men are motivated to do this.

- As best as I can understand it, people do this because they have an agenda and or they want to seek a position for themselves.
- I've seen people demonize other Christians in order to displace them so they themselves can take over their position in the end.
- If this weren't bad enough, I've seen churches split over this, which I believe greatly grieves the heart of God when it happens.

4 Therefore Hanun took David's servants, shaved them, and cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away. 5 Then some went and told David about the men; and he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Wait at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return."

- At first read, it's difficult to really understand just how unthinkable and shameful this would have been to happen to these men.
- In the Jewish culture, a man's beard wasn't only a symbol of his manhood, it was also a sign of his respect and honor as well.

Adam Clarke of this said, "The beard is held in high respect in the East: the possessor considers it his greatest ornament; often swears by it; and, in matters of great importance, pledges it. Nothing can be more secure than a pledge of this kind; its owner will redeem it at the hazard of his life."

- It's interesting to note Hanun's men don't stop there, in addition to cutting off half their beards; they cut off half their garments.
- The humiliation of this cannot be understated. It's quite clear that they want nothing more than to utterly disgrace David's men.
- Notice also that David has them wait in Jericho until their beards grow back before they come back so they won't be shamed.

- I can't get over how something that was intended for good could get so out of hand as to become something so utterly evil.
- What makes this so hard to get ones mind around is it all happened because Hanun believed the suspicions of his advisors.
- I would suggest that this is the lesson of the text, namely, we should be careful in choosing people who speak into our lives.

6 When the people of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, Hanun and the people of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia, from Syrian Maacah, and from Zobah.

- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is at this point, it's still not too late for them to right their wrong.
- However, it seems that they have no interest in what's right or wrong and instead, they start their campaign of recruiting others.
- Again, this could have gone in an entirely different direction if they would have simply admitted that what they did was wrong.

- Another reason I find it interesting is because David doesn't react right away. He could have instantly declared war on them.
- It almost seems as if David is giving them some time to come to their senses and humble themselves so as to make this right.
- The problem is, it's very rare for people to do that, instead, like Hanun's men, they draw other people into it and go to battle.

7 So they hired for themselves thirty-two thousand chariots, with the king of Maacah and his people, who came and encamped before Medeba. Also the people of Ammon gathered together from their cities, and came to battle. 8 Now when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men. 9 Then the people of Ammon came out and put themselves in battle array before the gate of the city, and the kings who had come were by themselves in the field. 10 When Joab saw that the battle line was against him before and behind, he chose some of Israel's best, and put them in battle array against the Syrians. 11 And the rest of the people he put under the command of Abishai his brother, and they set themselves in battle array against the people of Ammon. 12 Then he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the people of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will help you. 13 Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the LORD do what is good in His sight."

- While Joab isn't the godliest man, to his credit he's submitted to the Lord in that he knows He will do what's good in His sight.
- Moreover, he displays a profound courage himself and instills courage in his men to be strong even though they're surrounded.
- This would appear to be a suicide mission for David's mighty men; however, Joab is giving them hope by trusting in the Lord.

G. Campbell Morgan - "It is interesting to observe that in his arrangements he made no allowance for the possibility of ultimate defeat in his conflict with Ammon ... it does not seem to have occurred to him that the combination might have been too much for both of them."

14 So Joab and the people who were with him drew near for the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him. 15 When the people of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fleeing, they also fled before Abishai his brother, and entered the city. So Joab went to Jerusalem.

- I don't know you if noticed this but nowhere are we told Joab and the army of the Israelites engaged in a battle with the Syrians.
- We're only told that they fled from before the army of the Israelites, and once the Ammonites saw the Syrians flee, they too fled.
- The point being is God can so intervene into our battles we don't even have to do anything. The victory belongs to the Lord.

16 Now when the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they sent messengers and brought the Syrians who were beyond the River, and Shophach the commander of Hadadezer's army went before them. 17 When it was told David, he gathered all Israel, crossed over the Jordan and came upon them, and set up in battle array against them. So when David had set up in battle array against the Syrians, they fought with him. 18 Then the Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed seven thousand charioteers and forty thousand foot soldiers of the Syrians, and killed Shophach the commander of the army. 19 And when the servants of Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with David and became his servants. So the Syrians were not willing to help the people of Ammon anymore.

- The chapter ends with a decided victory for Israel. Before we bring the study to an end, I'd like to address an important issue.
- Namely, that of what I call the anatomy of a split, whether it's in a family, a business, or infinitely worse, when it's in a church.
- More specifically, the progressive phases of how the split starts, how it is able to continue, and ultimately how it then succeeds.

- Phase 1: It starts with a false accusation against the one who is innocent and righteous.
- Phase 2: They humiliate, excoriate and even assassinate the character of the righteous.
- Phase 3: They refuse to humble themselves and admit they are wrong because they're too full of pride
- Phase 4: They start recruiting supporters who will take their side against the righteous
- Phase 5: They wage a full on war against the righteous, and invariably it leads to people fleeing
- Phase 6: While God will ultimately give the victory in the end, there are always casualties that ensue