

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

I. **THE EMPIRE OF DAVID. (8)**

THE CONQUEST OF PHILISTIA: (v. 1)

A. (v. 1)

1. **“And after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them: and David took Methegammah out of the hand of the Philistines.”**

a. “Methegammah” Heb. “control of the mother city”

1) From 2 Hebrew words: 1) *metheg* (“bridle; bit; authority; control”) & 2) *ammah* (“mother city; chief city”).

a) Cf. **1 Chronicles 18:1** - “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.”

2) This means that David took *control of the mother city* of the Philistines, which was Gath along with the surrounding towns.

THE CONQUEST OF MOAB: (v. 2)

B. (v. 2)

1. **“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...”**

a. David killed 2/3 of the Moabites:

1) Two lines were put to death.

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

- 2) One line was kept alive.
 - 3) Thus, 1/3 survived and 2/3 were slaughtered.
- b. **Q** = Why would David commit such a great slaughter?... We don't really know.
- 1) We do know that David took his family, including parents, to Moab for protection since his great-grandmother Ruth was from there and he had a relationship with the King of Moab earlier ([1 Sam. 22:3-4](#)). However, something must have happened for him to react this way.
 - a) Jewish tradition says that after David left Moab, that the King of Moab killed David's parents. But, the Bible does not say that.
 - 2) Whatever the case, there must have been some set of circumstances that led David to do this that we don't know about.

THE CONQUEST OF [SYRIA](#): (v. 3-8)

C. (v. 3)

1. **“David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates.”**
 - a. *“Hadadezer”* - Heb. *“Hadad is helper”*
 - 1) He was *the son of Rehob*, of whom we know nothing.
 - b. *“Zobah”*

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

1) *Zobah* was a small Aramean kingdom close to Damascus.

c. “border” - Heb. “hand; territory; strength; monument”

D. (v. 6)

1. “...***And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.***”

a.

THE SPOILS OF WAR: (v. 9-12)

THE CONQUEST OF EDOM: (v. 13-14)

E. (v. 14)

1. “...***And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.***”

THE GOVERNMENT OF DAVID: (v. 15-18)

F. (v. 16)

1. “***And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;***”

a. “*Joab the son of Zeruiah*”

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

1) He was the Commander-in-Chief (“*over the army*”).

b. “*Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud*”

1) He was Secretary of State.

a) “*recorder*” - Heb. *mazkir* - “*remembrancer; writer of chronicles*”

i. This was someone that was to remind someone of something.

ii. The modern Hebrew word for “*secretary*” comes from this particular word.

b) He brought State business to the king's attention and provided advice to the king.

G. (v. 17)

1. “*And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests;...*”

a. These were David's spiritual advisors.

2. “*...and Seraiah was the scribe;*”

a. “*scribe*” - Heb. “*one who recounts, takes account of, and writes official documents*”

b. *Seraiah* was the official *Chronicler*.

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

H. (v. 18)

1. **“And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites;...”**

a. *Benaiah* was over the Special Ops of foreign troops loyal to David.

1) “*the Cherethites and the Pelethites*”

a) These were branches of the Philistines.

b) They were elite mercenaries (2 Sam. 15:18).

i. These were the Special Ops guys (Navy Seals, Green Beret, Delta Force).

2. **“...and David's sons were chief rulers.”**

a. “*chief rulers*” - Heb. “*chief ministers; principle officers*”

1) Cf. 1 Chronicles 18:17

II. DAVID'S KINDNESS TO MEPHIBOSHETH. (9)

A. (v. 1)

1. **“And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?”**

a. “*for Jonathan's sake*”

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

- 1) Not for Saul’s sake, but *for Jonathan’s sake* because of the covenant that David and Jonathan had made.
 - a) Cf. [1 Samuel 18:3; 20:14-17, 41-42; 23:18](#)
- 2) David is wanting to bless the house of Saul for the sake of someone else.
 - a) Cf. [Ephesians 4:32](#) - “*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*”

B. (v. 3)

1. “**...Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.**”

- a. Cf. [2 Samuel 4:4](#) - “*And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.*”
 - 1) **NOTE:** Since Mephibosheth was 5 years old when his father Jonathan died, that would mean he’s about 12 years old now.

C. (v. 4)

1. “**And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.**”

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

- a. *Machir* was a wealthy man that will later on help David in his flight from Absalom. (2 Sam. 17:27-29)
- b. “*Lodebar*” - Heb. “*Pastureless; Nothingville*”
 - 1) Located on the East side of the Jordan in Gilead, near Mahanaim.

D. (v. 6)

1. **“Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence...”**
 - a. At this point, Mephibosheth doesn’t know what’s going to happen. He was fearful (v. 7) probably because of the ancient practice of Dynastic Slaughter.
 - 1) When most kings would take the throne, they would slaughter the whole family of the previous king so there is not an uprising against the throne.
2. **“...And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!”**
 - a. “*David said, Mephibosheth*”
 - 1) The difficulty with printed text is that you can’t get the intonation of the voice.
 - 2) I imagine David looking at Mephibosheth and thinking, “Man, he looks so much like Jonathan,” and I’m sure David said his name with such love

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

and compassion as he remembered his best friend.

- b. God knows your name, and He says it with such love.
 - 1) Cf. **John 10:14** - *“I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.”*

E. (v. 7)

1. “And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.”

- a. “Fear not”
 - 1) This shows that Mephibosheth was nervous!
- b. “I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake”
 - 1) David is telling Mephibosheth about the covenant that he made with his father way before he was even born.
- c. “restore thee all the land of Saul thy father”
 - 1) Saul's private estate in Gibeah would have been forfeited to David as the successor to Saul, but David will *restore* it to Mephibosheth.

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

- d. *“thou shalt eat bread at my table continually”*
 - 1) This is not an act of charity, but in that culture it is an act of honor.

F. (v. 8)

- 1. **“And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?”**
 - a. *“a dead dog as I am”*
 - 1) This was an idiomatic statement for the most vile and worthless of all.
 - a) Here is a man who was fetched from *“Nothingtown,”* and he sees himself as nothing before the King.
 - b) **NOTE:** This is the natural response when you see yourself in the light of Jesus Christ.
 - i. Cf. [Luke 5:8](#) - *“When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”*
 - ii. Cf. [Romans 7:24](#) - *“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”*
 - iii. Cf. [Matthew 5:3](#) - *“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

- c) **KEY:** It is when we see our depravity and worthlessness before the Lord that we experience the glorious grace of God.

G. (v. 11)

- 1. **“...As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.”**
 - a. *“as one of the king’s sons”*
 - 1) They would wait for the sons¹ to come to the table before eating:
 - a) In would come Amnon, Chileab, Absalom, Adonijah, Shphatiah, Ithream... then they would wait as they see the disabled young man as he stumbled and limped to the table with crutches... it was Mephibosheth, counted as one of the sons of the King with honor.

H. (v. 12)

- 1. **“And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants unto Mephibosheth.”**
 - a. *“Micha”*
 - 1) It is through *Micha* that the house of Saul and the house of Jonathan will continue for several centuries (1 Chron. 8:34-40).

¹ See 2 Samuel 3:2-5 for a list of David’s sons up to this point.
10 of 17

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

I. SPIRITUAL PARALLELS IN OUR LIVES:

1. We became “lame” from the Fall.

2. There was a Covenant made by the King before we were ever born.

- a. Cf. **Acts 2:23** - “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:”
- b. Cf. **Ephesians 1:4-6, 11** - “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. ... In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:”
- c. Cf. **Revelation 13:8** - “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

3. The King calls us by name.

- a. Cf. **Exodus 33:17** - “And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.”

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

- b. Cf. **Isaiah 43:1** - *“But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.”*
 - c. Cf. **John 10:3** - *Jesus said, “To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.”*
 - d. Cf. **Acts 9:3-4** - *“And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?”*
 - e. Cf. **Revelation 3:5** - *To the church of Sardis, Jesus promised, “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”*
- 4. The King invites us to eat with Him.**
- a. Cf. **Revelation 3:20** - *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”*
 - b. Cf. **Psalms 23:5** - *“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.”*
- 5. We will eat at His table as one of His sons.**
- a. Cf. **John 1:12** - *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”*

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

- b. Cf. **1 John 3:1-2** - *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”*
- c. Cf. **Ephesians 1:6** - *“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”*
- d. Cf. **Revelation 5:9-10** - *“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”*
- e. Cf. **Revealtion 19:9** - *“And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”*
- f. **KEY:** When we are sitting there, we will look under the table and our feet are whole, not lame. The Fall has been erased, and we will look to the the end of the table, and there will be an empty seat, and there is One limping to serve us and wash our feet... it is the King that took our infirmities from the Fall that we might be made whole.
 - 1) Cf. **Isaiah 53:5** - *“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”*

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

III. THE WAR WITH AMMON AND SYRIA. (10)

A. (v. 2)

1. ***“Then said David, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father shewed kindness unto me...”***

a. *“Nahash”*

1) This was the guy defeated by Saul (1 Sam. 11:1-11), and though he was an enemy of Saul, he became a friend to David.

b. *“his father shewed kindness unto me”*

1) We don’t know when this took place, but there are 2 possibilities:

a) It could be when David was fleeing from Saul.

b) It could have taken place during David’s long war with Ishbosheth.

i. A later Rabbinic Jewish tradition says that when the king of Moab killed David’s parents, that the brothers fled to Ammon, and Nahash took them in and protected them, which was the *kindness* spoken of here.

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

2. “...And David sent to comfort him by the hand of his servants for his father. And David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon.”

- a. David sent dignitaries in his place to the state funeral of Nahash.

B. (v. 3)

1. “And the princes of the children of Ammon said unto Hanun their lord, Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? hath not David rather sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?”

- a. They’re basically saying, “David didn’t just send state dignitaries. They’re actually CIA operatives trying to gather intelligence so that they topple our government!”

C. (v. 4)

1. “Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off the one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away.”

- a. To shave off someone’s beard was a shameful embarrassment to their manhood, and it was even more shameful to shave off only half the beard.
- b. The clothes being cut in half would be shameful because they didn’t wear underwear, thus their nakedness would be exposed.

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

- c. So, these guys are left with half a beard wearing a miniskirt! Not a good look for a dude!

D. (v. 11)

1. **“And he said, If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me: but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee.”**

- a. As Christians who are to walk in love, we are to help out our brothers and sisters when they have need.

- 1) Cf. **Romans 15:1** - “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”
- 2) Cf. **Galatians 6:2** - “Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”
- 3) Cf. **1 Thessalonians 5:14** - “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.”

E. (v. 12)

1. **“Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God:...”**

- a. “play the men” - LXX Greek ἀνδρίζου - “act like men; behave like men; act manly; be brave”

- 1) Cf. **1 Corinthians 16:13** - “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, **act like men**, be strong.” (ESV)

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 8–10 | “The Empire of David”

2. “...and the LORD do that which seemeth him good.”

- a. I thank God that it seems good to Him to bless us!
 - 1) Cf. **Luke 12:32** - *Jesus said, “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”*
 - 2) Cf. **Ephesians 1:5, 9** - *“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ... Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:”*
 - 3) Cf. **Philippians 2:13** - *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”*
 - 4) Cf. **2 Thessalonians 1:11** - *“Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:”*