

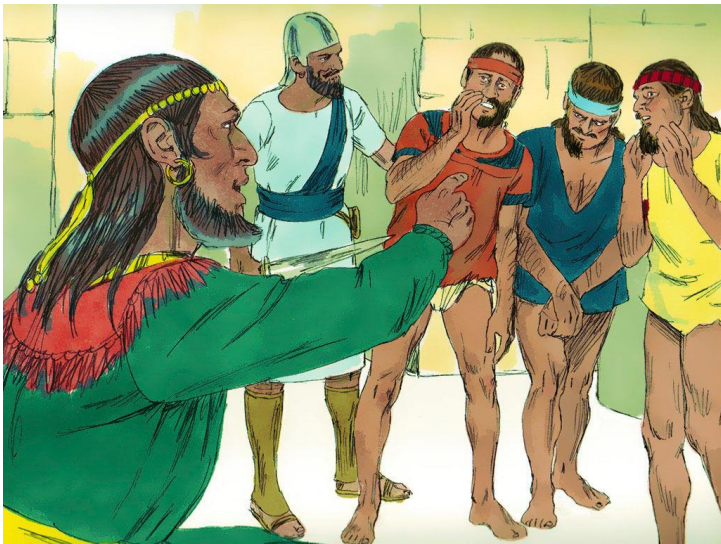
NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 SAMUEL 10

2 SAMUEL 10:1-5 - DAVID & THE KINGS OF AMMON

THE KING OF AMMON DIES, AND HE IS REPLACED BY HIS SON, HANUN. DURING DAVID'S REIGN, RELATIONS WITH AMMON, VIA THE RECENTLY DECEASED KING, WERE GOOD. HE SENDS AMBASSADORS TO AMMON TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS AND BRING CONSOLATION FROM DAVID.

"WE DO NOT KNOW IF THERE WAS SOME COVENANT OR TREATY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NAHASH AND DAVID. 'KINDNESS' (*CHESED*) MAY IMPLY THAT. BUT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN NO FORMAL PACT AT ALL. *CHESED*,... WAS AN OBLIGATION THAT DAVID IN ANY CASE FELT." (DALE RALPH DAVIS, "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 2 SAMUEL", PG 133-134)

SIDE NOTE: "*CHESED*" (KINDNESS) WAS, ACCORDING TO CHAPTER 9, THE PRINCIPLE WHICH GUIDED DAVID WITH RESPECT TO A BRANCH OF ISRAEL'S FORMER ROYAL FAMILY, AND THUS, PART OF HIS DOMESTIC POLICY. ACCORDING TO CHAPTER 10, DAVID ALSO WANTS TO APPLY THIS KEY WORD AS THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN HIS FOREIGN POLICY, AT THIS MOMENT IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO THE ROYAL FAMILY OF A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY" (J.P. FOKKELMAN IN "NARRATIVE ART AND POETRY IN THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL, VOL 1, KING DAVID", PG 43)



UPON THE ARRIVAL OF DAVID'S REPRESENTATIVES, THE NEW KING OF AMMON'S ADVISORS SUSPECT THAT DAVID'S MOTIVES ARE IMPURE AND CONVINCE THEIR KING (HANUN) TO REJECT AND DISHONOR THE EMISSARIES BY SHAVING HALF OF THEIR BEARDS AND CUTTING THEIR GARMENTS.

2 SAMUEL 10:4 (NET) - SO HANUN SEIZED DAVID'S SERVANTS AND SHAVED OFF HALF OF EACH ONE'S BEARD. HE CUT THE LOWER PART OF THEIR ROBES OFF SO THAT THEIR BUTTOCKS WERE EXPOSED, AND THEN SENT THEM AWAY.

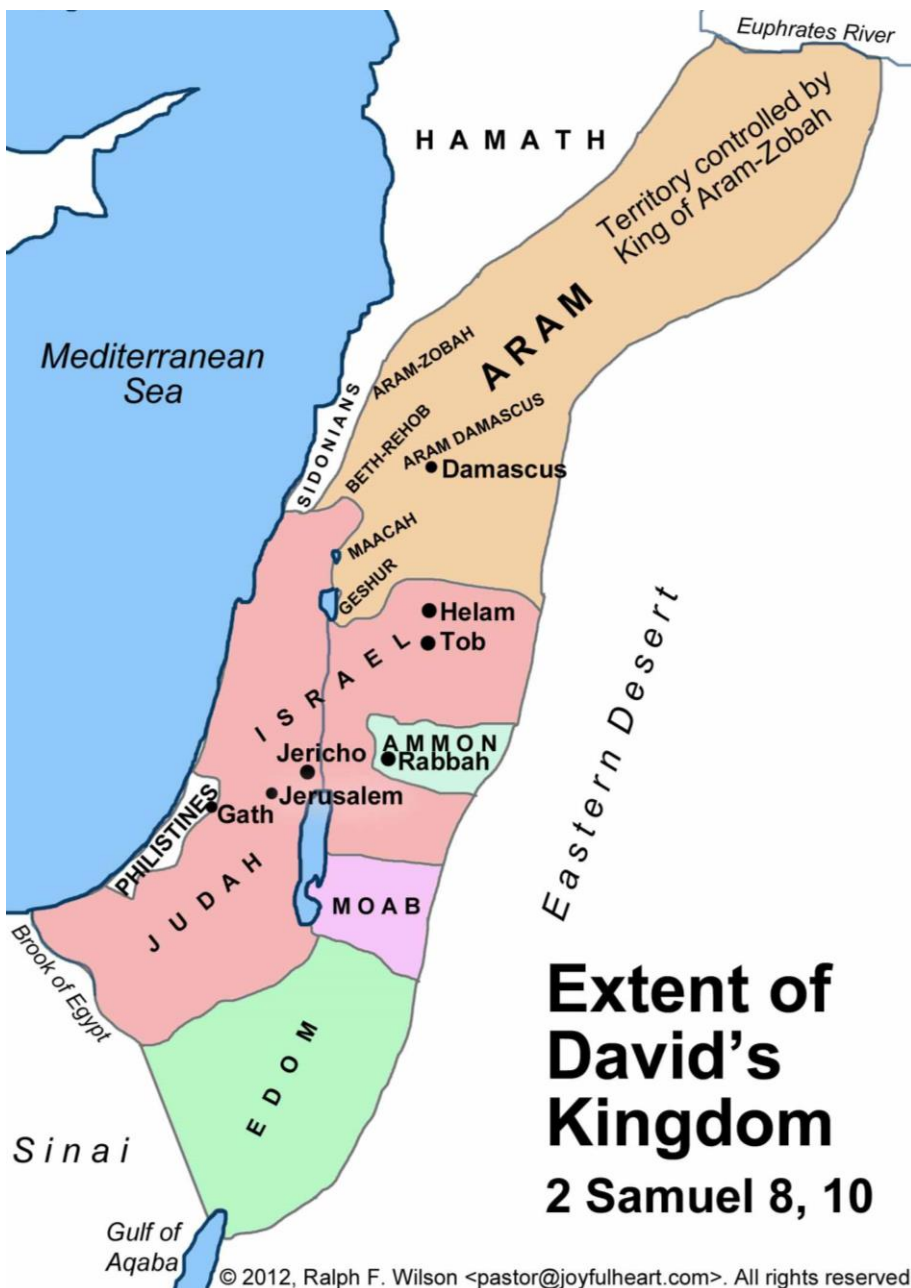
"HANUN COULD HARDLY HAVE INFLICTED A MORE SHAMEFUL INSULT: THE MEN'S MANLINESS WAS BOTH MARRED (BEARD) AND EXPOSED (BUTTOCKS/PRIVATE PARTS)." (DALE RALPH DAVIS, "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 2 SAMUEL", PG 130)

V. 5 - JERICHO WAS JUST OVER THE JORDAN RIVER ON THE WAY BACK FROM AMMON TOWARDS JERUSALEM. THE APPEARANCE OF THE AMBASSADORS WAS HUMILIATING AND DAVID ALLOWED THEM TO WAIT UNTIL THEIR BEARDS GREW AGAIN TO RETURN. HOWEVER THE ATTACK ON DAVID'S REPRESENTATIVES IS VIEWED AS AN ATTACK ON DAVID AND ISRAEL.

2 SAMUEL 10:6-7 - AMMON ENLISTS ARAMEANS AGAINST ISRAEL

THIS WAR IS AGAINST AMMON, BUT AMMON WILL ENLIST SIGNIFICANT HELP FROM THE NORTHERN NATION OF ARAM. (20,000 ARAMEAN SOLDIERS FROM BETH-REHOB & ZOBAB, 1,000 FROM KING OF MAACAH, 12,000 FROM TOB)

ESV STUDY BIBLE: SYRIANS CAN ALSO BE TRANSLATED "ARAM" OR "ARAMEANS," THE NORMAL TERM FOR SYRIA OR THE SYRIANS. "ARAMAIC," THE LATER COMMON LANGUAGE, WAS THE LANGUAGE OF SYRIA." NASB - "ARAM", ESV, KJV - "SYRIA"



THE CITIES AND REGIONS MENTIONED IN THESE VERSES ARE DIFFERENT PLACES IN THE ARAM. IT DOES SEEM THAT ZOBAB, FOR EXAMPLE, DID TAKE ON IT'S OWN NATIONAL IDENTITY. ZOBAB HAS IT'S OWN KING, HADADEZER, WHO WE MEET IN 2 SAMUEL 8 AND WILL APPEAR AGAIN IN 2:16-19.

2 SAMUEL 10:8-12 - JOAB'S STRATEGY

V. 8 - AMMON & ARAM WERE POSITIONED AROUND ISRAEL ON 2 FRONTS

V. 12 - JOAB'S POWERFUL WORD OF FAITH. THIS IS A GOOD MOMENT FOR GENERAL JOAB. IT APPEARS THAT HE KNOWS THAT ALTHOUGH HE WILL LEAD AND FIGHT, THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD.

THIS IS A GOOD WORD FOR US. GOD IS POWERFUL AND FIGHTS FOR HIS PEOPLE. SO MUCH OF OUR LIVES IN THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE WE ARE IN ARE THINGS ONLY HE CAN DO. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME THINGS ONLY WE CAN DO. WHILE WE SOMETIMES FORGET THAT WE NEED GOD'S HELP TO WIN AND OVERCOME, WE CAN ALSO NOT FORGET THAT THERE ARE AREAS IN OUR LIVES WHERE WE MUST BE "STRONG, AND SHOW OURSELVES COURAGEOUS..." AND ACT AND GO AND DO.

2 SAMUEL 10:13-19 - THE ENEMIES FLEE

V. 13-14 - JOAB ATTACKED THE ARAMEANS AND THEY FLED FROM HIM. IN TURN, THE AMMONITES FLED AS WELL. REMEMBER, AMMON, HIRED THE ARAMEANS TO HELP THEM AGAINST ISRAEL. IF AMMON SEE'S THEIR HELPER RUN, SURELY THEY WILL RUN TOO.

V. 14-19 - ARAM REGROUPS BACK IN THEIR OWN LAND AND MAKE PLAN TO ATTACK ISRAEL AGAIN (V. 15-16). HEARING OF THIS, DAVID BRINGS HIS TROOPS ACROSS THE JORDAN INTO ARAMEAN TERRITORY (V. 17). THE ARAMEANS WERE DEFEATED AGAIN (V. 18) AND AS A RESULT, THEIR KING DECIDES TO MAKE PEACE WITH DAVID (V. 19). AFTER THIS INCIDENT, ARAM "FEARED TO HELP THE SONS OF AMMON ANYMORE (V. 19)."

"IT REQUIRES BUT A VERY LITTLE CONSIDERATION TO SEE THAT THE WARS WHICH ARE SO BRIEFLY RECORDED IN THIS CHAPTER MUST HAVE BEEN MOST SERIOUS AND PERILOUS UNDERTAKINGS. THE RECORD OF THEM IS SO SHORT, SO UNIMPASSIONED, SO SIMPLE, THAT MANY READERS ARE DISPOSED TO THINK VERY LITTLE OF THEM. BUT WHEN WE PAUSE TO THINK THAT IT WAS FOR THE KING OF ISRAEL TO MEET, ON FOREIGN SOIL, CONFEDERATES SO NUMEROUS, SO POWERFUL, AND SO FAMILIAR WITH WARFARE, WE CANNOT BE SEE THAT THESE WERE TREMENDOUS WARS. THEY WERE FITTED TO TRY THE FAITH AS WELL AS THE COURAGE OF DAVID AND HIS PEOPLE TO THE VERY UTMOST." ("THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL", THE EXPOSITOR'S BIBLE, PG. 155-156)

PSALM 2

PSALM 2 IS A "MESSIANIC PSALM", MEANING THAT IT'S CONTENT IS A FORESHADOW OF JESUS' MINISTRY, ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR DESTINY. IT IS CITED BY THE EARLY CHURCH IN ACTS 4:24-30 REGARDING JESUS:

ACTS 4:23-28 - WHEN THEY HAD BEEN RELEASED, THEY WENT TO THEIR OWN COMPANIONS AND REPORTED ALL THAT THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE ELDERS HAD SAID TO THEM. 24 AND WHEN THEY HEARD THIS, THEY LIFTED THEIR VOICES TO GOD WITH ONE ACCORD AND SAID, "O LORD, IT IS YOU WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM, 25 WHO BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, THROUGH THE MOUTH OF OUR FATHER DAVID YOUR SERVANT, SAID, 'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS? 26 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.' (QUOTE OF PSALM 2:1-2) 27 "FOR TRULY IN THIS CITY THERE WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST YOUR HOLY SERVANT JESUS, WHOM YOU ANOINTED, BOTH HEROD AND PONTIUS PILATE, ALONG WITH THE GENTILES AND THE PEOPLES OF ISRAEL, 28 TO DO WHATEVER YOUR HAND AND YOUR PURPOSE PREDESTINED TO OCCUR.

HOWEVER, LOOKING AT PSALM 2 IN LIGHT OF 2 SAMUEL 10 CAN GIVE US INSIGHT INTO THE PSALM'S INITIAL MEANING. WE DO NOT HAVE SPECIFIC EVIDENCE CONNECTING PSALM 2 WITH THE EVENTS OF 2 SAMUEL 10, BUT IT IS SURELY RELATED TO SIMILAR EVENTS IN DAVID'S LIFE, IF NOT THIS WAR SPECIFICALLY.

WAR WITH THE AMMONITES BECOMES THE SETTING OF 2 SAMUEL 10:1-12:31 WITH THE CONCLUDING BATTLES OF THIS WAR FOUND IN 2 SAM 12:26-31. THE NATION IS RALLIED TOGETHER, MARCHING ON TO VICTORY YET AGAIN. BUT UNLIKE THE TIMES BEFORE, THIS NATION AT WAR WILL FIND THAT ITS KING, PERHAPS OVER CONFIDENT IN PREVIOUS VICTORIES, WILL TURN HIS ATTENTION TO OTHER THINGS. HE WILL INSTEAD MARCH DOWN HIS OWN ROAD, ONE WHICH WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF HIS LIFE.