

2 Samuel Chapter 08 Commentary

2Sa 8:1 ¶ "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."

Back in chapter 5 the Philistines heard that David was established as King over all Israel; they set out to unseat him before he could get himself established. They tried twice but God overthrew them both times. King David, has since the second battle with the Philistines, brought up the ark of God to Jerusalem in chapter 6. In chapter 7, King David desired to build a house of cedars, a permanent temple, for God to dwell in. God tells King David that he cannot build a house for God, but that God will establish King David's house, and gave him the promise of a son, to sit upon the throne of Israel, and this son would build the temple of God in Jerusalem.

King David, having received confirmation that he is established as King over Israel, is now at liberty to break the yoke of the Philistines off Israel, and to allay any incursions from the neighboring kingdoms into the land of promise. King David begins these offensive actions with the Philistines. Methegammah is a suburb of Gath, and Gath being one of the major strongholds of the Philistines, their stranglehold on Israel is now broken. The Philistines are now required to submit to the Lordship of King David and yield to Israel their territories.

This complete reversal of power is a lesson for us. God is still on the throne and is still able to overcome all our enemies. As king over all Israel, this is the first time that King David has begun an offensive warfare. Most of King David's battles, prior to this time, were defensive in their nature. What lesson can we learn from this truth? When we first come to know we are a child of God, most of our battles are defensive. As we grow in faith and trust in God, and in knowledge of God's word of truth, we can begin to take offensive measures in our life as a Christian. What do you mean? The more knowledge we gain of God's word, the better we are armed to fight against our sin nature. The more faith and trust we have in the finished work of Jesus Christ, the more we can confront our sin nature, and the easier it is to give the word of God to drive out the temptations of the heart and mind. How is this an offensive battle? We are told in: **2Ti 2:20-26; 20 "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 22 ¶ Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. 24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."** As we can easily see from this text: Purging ourselves of ungodliness is an offensive maneuver.

"but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." An offensive maneuver is gathering with those who are following Jesus Christ and **"thus saith the Lord."** We do not gather with, or keep company with, those who are blatantly defying God's commandments.

2 "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. And so, the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts."

The Moabites have long been a snare to Israel. They are descendants from the incestuous relationship between Lot and his eldest daughter. The Moabites will continue to be a stumbling block for Israel, but we do not find where God said he would utterly destroy the memory of them as he said of the Amalekites. Why is this? Well, as we follow the lives of the Moabites and Israelites, we find in the book of Ruth that their lineage is tied together in the marriage of Boaz to Ruth, who was a Moabite, and Ruth is included in the lineage that leads us to the birth of Christ, which reminds us that God has saved people of every nation, people, kindred, and tongue.

King David makes three lines of Moabites; he slays two lines and keeps one line alive, thus 2/3's of the Moabites are slain, and 1/3 of the Moabites become servants to Israel. Several commentators state that Jewish tradition says that the King of Moab killed David's parents, and that is why King David is harsh in his judgment to the Moabites, but there is no scripture to support that claim. The last we read of David's father and mother is found in: **1Sa 22:3 "And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my**

father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me." I find no evidence to say if they were killed, died of old age, or what happened to them. Jesse was of the lineage of Ruth the Moabitess and this kinship is probably why David left his parents there.

There is a reference for this verse seen in: ***Nu 24:17; 16 "He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open: 17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. 18 And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly. 19 Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.***" This was the prophesy of Balaam, when Balak the king of Moab called Balaam to curse Israel. As we consider the events of this chapter, we see this prophecy being fulfilled in King David, which is simply a prophetic picture of what Jesus Christ shall do.

The Moabites left living, now being servant to King David, bring King David gifts, which simply means they begin to pay tribute to king David.

3 "David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates. 4 And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and David houghed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them for an hundred chariots. 5 And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succor Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men. 6 Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and the Syrians became servants to David, and brought gifts. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went. 7 And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. 8 And from Betah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, king David took exceeding much brass."

Next, King David sets out to recover the land of promise inhabited by the Syrians. He routed Hadadezer, king of Zobah, and took many spoils, including chariots and horses. King David keeps 100 of the chariots, and the horses to pull them for himself, and houghs all the rest of the horses. The Syrians of Damascus come to aid Hadadezer and King David is blessed by God to overthrow them with such force that the Syrians become servants to King David. King David establishes garrisons in Syria of Damascus to keep the Syrians in subjection.

Notice, King David's prosperity in battle is because God is fighting for Israel.

King David collects much gold and brass from the Syrians. The Syrians also bring King David gifts.

9 ¶ "When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had smitten all the host of Hadadezer, 10 Then Toi sent Joram his son unto king David, to salute him, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer, and smitten him: for Hadadezer had wars with Toi. And Joram brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass: 11 Which also king David did dedicate unto the LORD, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated of all nations which he subdued; 12 Of Syria, and of Moab, and of the children of Ammon, and of the Philistines, and of Amalek, and of the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah."

Toi the king of Hamath sends blessings, silver, gold, and brass, as presents to King David, because King David has overthrown Hadadezer. This is also to establish a friendly relationship with King David.

We see a prophetic picture here in King David gathering the gold and silver and brass of the different nations he takes captive, which picture is that of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is built from all the nations of the earth. The church is not confined to the nation Israel only, as under the law service, but includes all nations, peoples, kindred, and tongues.

13 "And David gat him a name when he returned from smiting of the Syrians in the valley of salt, being eighteen thousand men. 14 And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went."

King David continues to fight against the rest of the Syrians, and he puts garrisons throughout Edom, and the Edomites become servants to King David, which brings to pass the prophetic blessing of Isaac upon Jacob seen in: ***Ge 27:37; 37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto***

thee, my son? 38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept. 39 And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; 40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck." Esau did break the yoke of Jacob off in Jacob's lifetime, but here the Edomites are brought back to the original bondage laid upon them by the prophesy of Isaac, because now the Edomites are serving under bondage to their brethren under King David.

An additional thought here: when we read scripture and see prophesies; we should search out to see if they are already fulfilled, or if they are yet to be fulfilled. Sometimes, prophesies in scripture are fulfilled literally and this can be verified by scripture and history. Sometimes prophesies are to be fulfilled in the future, here in time. Sometimes prophesies are to be fulfilled in a spiritual, and/or eternal, sense.

We see that God is still preserving King David, and God is making David's name greater than it already was.

15 ¶ "And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people. 16 And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder; 17 And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests; and Seraiah was the scribe; 18 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief rulers."

King David reigned over all Israel, and he executed judgment with justice to every Israelite. We see and understand that God has brought King David a very long way, from keeping his father's sheep, to being King over God's people. God has given David a heart that seeks to serve and worship God, and he manifest this to his fellow brethren by judging them according to God's laws and ordinances.

We are given here those who King David had put into leadership positions, including the priests, which we consider the most important ones. Why? Because, they were needed to teach the rulers, and the nation Israel, the things of God, that they turn not back to idolatry as they have done so many times. This same application is true today. God's people need to teach their children, neighbors, and friends, the truth of God's word; thereby, they will be grounded in the truth and find the abundant blessings of God in their lives.

We are told that King David made his sons chief rulers. We are not given very much information about most of King David's sons and their lives, though we shall see that at least two shall be put on prominent display, who are Absalom and Solomon.

There is a prophetic picture here for this age of salvation by the grace of God and God's church on earth. Jesus Christ appointed sons of God, the apostles, to be chief rulers, and we see these offices continuing in: **Eph 4:11; 8 "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."** We see this fulfilled in Israel, under King David's guidance, he has appointed the ministers to their proper positions, who are to teach Israel God's truths. The goal being for every Israelite to serve God in faithfulness.

We have further evidence of the appointed offices in: **Mr 13:34 "For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch."** Add to this, the evidence of scripture for every child of God, seen in: **Re 1:6; 5 "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and**

priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." Thus, we understand that all of God's people, as were the sons of King David, have been made "chief rulers" in the kingdom of God on earth, and every child of God has a position appointed to their lives in Christ.

What lessons can we learn from this chapter in summation? Certainly, we can see that living, in accordance with God's will and purpose, brings a multitude of God's blessings, and favors, into our lives as Christians.

King David is demonstrating to Israel; they are to depend fully upon God, and to not lean on their own understanding. This demonstrates to us that living a successful life, as a disciple of Christ, is the goal that we should strive to meet each day.

We remember that in chapter 6 King David brought up the ark of God into Jerusalem. King David was demonstrating to us what we are told in: ***Mt 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*** We certainly see this demonstrated in the successful life of King David at this time. May God help us all to be faithful subjects to our Lord and King, Jesus the Christ! Amen!