

2 Samuel Chapter 10 Commentary

2Sa 10:1 ¶ "And it came to pass after this, that the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead. **2** Then said David, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father shewed kindness unto me. 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."

Some history of the Ammonites: *Ge 19:35-38; 35 "And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. 36 Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father. 37 And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day. 38 And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same is the father of the children of Ammon unto this day."* Thus, we see that the Moabites, who Israel was fighting with earlier, and the Ammonites, who they will be fighting with shortly, are descendants of Lot, who was Abraham's nephew.

God had made a promise to the children of Lot and given them a possession of land: *De 2:19 "And when thou comest nigh over against the children of Ammon, distress them not, nor meddle with them: for I will not give thee of the land of the children of Ammon any possession; because I have given it unto the children of Lot for a possession."* We feel sure that King David knew of the kinship, of the Israelites to the Ammonites, and that God had given the children of Lot a possession of land. Scripture does not tell us what act of kindness Nahash did to King David. Whatever the kindness was; King David is moved to show kindness to his son. Therefore, King David sends emissaries to King Hanum, to express his condolences at the loss of his father.

3 "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? 4 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."

For no known reason, the princes of the children of Ammon are suspicious, and do not believe in the sincerity of King David sending his condolences to King Hanum. King Hanum, having been stirred to be suspicion of King David, does not receive the emissaries nor King David's condolences, rather he does them much shame and sends them away.

The lesson for us: where do suspicions arise from, when there is no just cause to be suspicious? In the hearts of those who are not true and faithful men. Has any ill report of deceit from King David come to the Ammonites? None that is recorded in scripture. Therefore, we understand that these princes are not true and faithful to their King.

The lesson for us: Remember, we have a warning to not be led astray by vain words, seen in: *Eph 5:6; 3 ¶ "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them."* King Hanum listened to, and acted upon, vain words, which will bring God's judgment upon him and his people.

We are reminded of a New Testament scripture here: *Jas 3:5 "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. 7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: 8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." "Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"* We shall see this fulfilled in this chapter. The wagging tongues shall bring much warfare.

5 "When they told it unto David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed: and the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return."

King David hears of the mistreatment of his emissaries, and he sends them word to tarry at Jerico until their beards be grown out again and their shame removed.

6 ¶ "And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Bethrehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ishtob twelve thousand men."

The Ammonites recognize they have done wrong, and prepare to make war, even though King David has made no move to bring war to them. Again, we see guilty consciences at work as they hire the Syrians to fight for them.

7 "And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men. 8 And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate: and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ishtob, and Maacah, were by themselves in the field. 9 When Joab saw that the front of the battle was against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice men of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians: 10 And the rest of the people he delivered into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put them in array against the children of Ammon. 11 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. 12 Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good."

King David hears that King Hanum has gathered an army to make war against Israel, wherefore, he sends Joab and all the choice men of Israel to make defense.

We have more detail given in: **1Ch 19:6-7; 6 "And when the children of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the children of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire them chariots and horsemen out of Mesopotamia, and out of Syriamaachah, and out of Zobah. 7 So they hired thirty and two thousand chariots, and the king of Maachah and his people, who came and pitched before Medeba. And the children of Ammon gathered themselves together from their cities, and came to battle."**

This extra detail gives us the city of Medeba, as the city gate where the Ammonites have gathered. When Joab gets his army in position, he realizes that the Syrians have hidden in the fields, and he now has two fronts to sustain. He divides his army and puts his brother Abishai in charge of the group to fight the Ammonites and he takes the group to fight the Syrians. He tells Abishai: if you need help, we will come to your aid; and if we need help, you come to our aid. Joab instructs Abishai to be of good courage and let God do that which is good in his sight. Herein is the key to the victory to come. God is fighting for Israel and defending King David's honor.

13 "And Joab drew nigh, and the people that were with him, unto the battle against the Syrians: and they fled before him. 14 And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, then fled they also before Abishai, and entered into the city. So Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem."

The Syrians flee from Joab and his army, and then the Ammonites flee from Abishai and his army. So, Joab and his army returned to Jerusalem.

15 ¶ "And when the Syrians saw that they were smitten before Israel, they gathered themselves together. 16 And Hadarezer sent, and brought out the Syrians that were beyond the river: and they came to Helam; and Shobach the captain of the host of Hadarezer went before them."

These poor Syrians just do not get the picture that they cannot fight against God and win. They gather their armies from all over the place and come to make war on Israel again. Hadarezer is the head king of the many kings of the Syrians.

17 "And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together, and passed over Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in array against David and fought with him. 18 And the Syrians fled before

Israel; and David slew the men of seven hundred chariots of the Syrians, and forty thousand horsemen, and smote Shobach the captain of their host, who died there. 19 And when all the kings that were servants to Hadarezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Syrians feared to help the children of Ammon anymore."

King David is told that the Hadarezer and the Syrians are gathering to make war on Israel. King David and his armies went to meet them and slew them with a very great victory, by the grace and power of God. Therefore, all the Syrian kings made peace with King David, and the Syrians became servants to Israel. The Syrians refuse to help the Ammonites anymore.

We understand from this chapter that the intent of King David's heart was good, and God defends King David's honor to the full. A lesson for us is to know if the intent of our heart is for good, because, if it is, then God will defend our honor also.

Did you know that we don't have to tell God the intent of our hearts? Why? Because God knows the intent of our heart already, as seen in: *Heb 4:12; 9 "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. 11 ¶ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. 12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. 14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."* Just as God knew King David's heart and defended his honor: So, God knows the intent of our hearts and defends our honor, when our intents are in line with "*thus saith the Lord*."

We can certainly see "**Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!**" and the providence of God to provide peace for Israel with all nations around them. This peace, which is wrought before Solomon becomes king in the stead of King David, is all worked out through King David to provide a peaceful environment for the building of the temple of God.

Thank you, King Jesus, for the defense of your people, and your honor, in this world.