



# A BETTER KING

## A SERIES IN 2 SAMUEL



## 2 Samuel 8 – The Conquests Of The Kingdom

May 7, 2023

### Background

**Abraham** — On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,…” Genesis 15:18 (ESV)

**Moses** — Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours. Your territory shall be from the wilderness to the Lebanon and from the River, the river Euphrates, to the western sea. Deuteronomy 11:24 (ESV)

**Joshua** — From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. Joshua 1:4 (ESV)

## 1. David conquered the nations around Israel.

### A. The Philistines

After this David defeated the Philistines and subdued them,.... 2 Samuel 8:1a (ESV)

and David took Metheg-ammah out of the hand of the Philistines. 2 Samuel 8:1b (ESV)

After this David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and he took Gath and its villages out of the hand of the Philistines. 1 Chronicles 18:1 (ESV)

### B. The Moabites

And he defeated Moab... 2 Samuel 8:2 (ESV)

...a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab... Numbers 24:17 (ESV)

...and he measured them with a line, making them lie down on the ground. Two lines he measured to be put to death, and one full line to be spared... 2 Samuel 8:2b (ESV)

...And the Moabites became servants to David and brought tribute.  
2 Samuel 8:2c (ESV)

Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and he had to deliver to the king of Israel 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams. 2 Kings 3:4 (ESV)

## C. The Zobahites

David also defeated Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to restore his power at the river Euphrates. 2 Samuel 8:3 (ESV)

And David took from him 1,700 horsemen, and 20,000 foot soldiers. And David hamstrung all the chariot horses but left enough for 100 chariots. 2 Samuel 8:4 (ESV)

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. Psalm 20:7 (ESV)

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the LORD! Isaiah 31:1 (ESV)

When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Deuteronomy 20:1 (ESV)

Solomon also had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen. 1 Kings 4:26 (ESV)

## D. The Syrians

And when the Syrians [Hebrew, Aram] of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David struck down 22,000 men of the Syrians [Hebrews, Aram]. 2 Samuel 8:5 (ESV)

Then David put garrisons in Aram of Damascus, and the Syrians became servants to David and brought tribute... 2 Samuel 8:6a (ESV)

...And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went. 2 Samuel 8:6b (ESV)

Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. Psalm 3:7 (ESV)

## E. The Edomites

And David made a name for himself when he returned from striking down 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. Then he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David's servants... 2 Samuel 8:13–14 (ESV)

To the choirmaster: according to Shushan Eduth. A Miktam of David; for instruction; when he strove with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and when Joab on his return struck down twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt. Psalm 60 Preface

O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses; you have been angry; oh, restore us. You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open; repair its breaches, for it totters... Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead

me to Edom? Have you not rejected us, O God? You do not go forth, O God, with our armies. Oh, grant us help against the foe, for vain is the salvation of man! With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.  
Psalm 60:1-2, 9-12 (ESV)

And Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, killed 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt.  
1 Chronicles 18:12 (ESV)

## **2. David brought the wealth of the nations to Jerusalem.**

### **A. The wealth of Hadadezer was forcibly brought to Jerusalem.**

And David took the shields of gold that were carried by the servants of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem. And from Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took very much bronze. 2 Samuel 8:7-8 (ESV)

By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, Revelation 21:24 (ESV)

### **B. The wealth of Hamath was willingly brought to Jerusalem.**

When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the whole army of Hadadezer, Toi sent his son Joram to King David, to ask about his health and to bless him because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him, for Hadadezer had often been at war with Toi. And Joram brought with him articles of silver, of gold, and of bronze.  
2 Samuel 8:9-10 (ESV)

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. Psalm 2:10-12 (ESV)

### **C. The wealth of the nations was dedicated to God.**

These also King David dedicated to the LORD, together with the silver and gold that he dedicated from all the nations he subdued, from Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, the Philistines, Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah.  
2 Samuel 8:11-12 (ESV)

## **3. David reigned with justice and righteousness.**

So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to ALL his people. 2 Samuel 8:15 (ESV)

A perverse heart shall be far from me; I will know nothing of evil. Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy. Whoever has a haughty look and an

arrogant heart I will not endure. I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me. No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes. Morning by morning I will destroy all the wicked in the land, cutting off all the evildoers from the city of the Lord.  
Psalm 101:4–8 (ESV)

#### 4. David surrounded himself with men of integrity.

Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder, and Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests, and Seraiah was secretary, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and David's sons were priests. 2 Samuel 8:16–18 (ESV)

...Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were the chief officials in the service of the king.  
1 Chronicles 18:17 (ESV)

### Applications

1. David's reign as God's anointed is a preview of Jesus' reign as God's anointed.
  - A. Just as David destroyed those who resisted God's kingdom but blessed those who welcomed it, when Jesus returns, he will destroy those who resist his kingdom but save those who welcome it.
  - B. Just as the wealth of the nations were brought to Jerusalem, the wealth of the new creation will be dedicated to Jesus in the new Jerusalem.
  - C. Just as David reigned with righteousness and justice in a world of corruption, Jesus is the one who will reign with righteousness and justice in the new creation.

### Life Group Questions

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1. **Read 2 Samuel 8.** Was David justified in the aggression he showed toward the nations around him? Why or why not?
2. After David captured horses, he hamstringed most of them. Why didn't God want Israel using horses and chariots in war? What does this teach us about how easy it is to place our trust in a false savior for our future? **See Psalm 20:7, Deuteronomy 20:1-4, 17:14-20 and other verses in the outline under point 1. C.**
3. **Read Psalm 60.** This psalm describes the challenges David faced while battling the Edomites in the south, plus Hadadezer and the Syrians in the north. While God gave the victory, David was emotionally overwhelmed. What does this teach us about facing tough times in our life?
4. **Read Psalm 101.** This Psalm describes the kind of integrity David demanded from his government leaders. What small sins did he refuse to tolerate? How can the small sins mentioned in this chapter destroy a church or business?
5. David's reign was a preview of Jesus' future reign. What parallels do you see between David's reign then, Jesus' reign now, and what Jesus will do when he returns in the future?