

1 Chronicles 19 - The Wars of David (Cont'd)

II. David prepares to build the temple (1 Chr 10:1—29:30)

(5) David's military victories (1 Chr 18:1—20:8)

(E) Ammon and the Arameans (19:1—20:3)

1 Chronicles 19

(E) Ammon and the Arameans (19:1—20:3) (Cf. 2 Sam 10:1-19)

1 Now it came about after this, that Nahash the king of the sons of Ammon died, and his son became king in his place.

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1 Some time later, King Nahash of Ammon died and his son succeeded him,

1 Now it came to pass after this, that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon died, and his son reigned in his stead.

2 Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me." So David sent messengers to console him concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the sons of Ammon to Hanun to console him.

2 Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me." So David sent messengers to console him concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the sons of Ammon to Hanun to console him.

2 so David told himself, "I will be loyal to Nahash's son Hanun, since his father showed loyal, gracious love to me." So David sent a delegation to console him about his loss of his father.

But when David's delegation arrived to visit Hanun in Ammonite territory to console him,

2 And David said, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father shewed kindness to me. And David sent messengers to comfort him concerning his father. So the servants of David came into the land of the children of Ammon to Hanun, to comfort him.

- The war with the Ammonites was introduced by the Chronicler the same way it was introduced in 2 Sam 10—the king of Ammon had died and David had sent a delegation to comfort the king's son and successor, Hanun (Cf. 2 Sam 10:1-2)

3 But the commanders among the sons of Ammon said to Hanun, "Do you think that David is honoring your father, in that he has sent comforters to you? Have his servants not come to you to search, to demolish, and to spy out the land?"

3 But the princes of the sons of Ammon said to Hanun, "Do you think that David is honoring your father, in that he has sent comforters to you? Have not his servants come to you to search and to overthrow and to spy out the land?"

3 the Ammonite officials asked Hanun, "Do you think that because David has sent a delegation of consolors to you that he is honoring your father? His delegation has arrived to search, overthrow, and scout the land, hasn't it?"

3 But the princes of the children of Ammon said to Hanun, Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? are not his servants come unto thee for to search, and to overthrow, and to spy out the land?

4 So Hanun took David's servants and shaved them, and cut off their robes in the middle as far as their buttocks, and sent them away.

4 So Hanun took David's servants and shaved them and cut off their garments in the middle as far as their hips, and sent them away.

4 So Hanun arrested David's delegation, shaved off their beards, cut off their clothes at the waist line, and sent them away in disgrace.

4 Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved them, and cut off their garments in the midst hard by their buttocks, and sent them away.

- But David's messengers were humiliated by the Ammonites, with the result that they returned to Israel completely embarrassed

5 Then *certain people* went and told David about the men. And he sent *messengers* to meet them, because the men were very humiliated. And the king said, "Stay at Jericho until your beards grow *back*, then return."

5 Then *certain persons* went and told David about the men. And he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly humiliated. And the king said, "Stay at Jericho until your beards grow, and *then* return."

5 After they had departed, David was informed about the men, so he sent word to them, since they had been deeply humiliated. He told them, "Stay at Jericho until your beards have grown back, and then return."

5 Then there went certain, and told David how the men were served. And he sent to meet them: for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return.

6 When the sons of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, Hanun and the sons of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from **Mesopotamia**, Aram-maacah, and Zobah.

6 When the sons of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the sons of Ammon sent 1,000 talents of silver to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia, from Aram-maacah and from Zobah.

6 When the Ammonites realized that they had created quite a stink with David, Hanun and the Ammonites spent 1,000 silver talents to hire chariots and mercenaries from Mesopotamia, from Aram-maacah, and from Zobah.

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.

- "...Mesopotamia" - not the land between the Tigris and Euphrates, but rather the area on the upper western Euphrates known as "Aram Naharaim" (Aram-maacah)

7 So they hired for themselves thirty-two thousand chariots, and the king of **Maacah** and his people, who came and camped opposite Medeba. And the sons of Ammon gathered together from their cities and came to the battle.

7 So they hired for themselves 32,000 chariots, and the king of Maacah and his people, who came and camped before Medeba. And the sons of Ammon gathered together from their cities and came to battle.

7 They hired 32,000 chariots, along with the king of Maacah and his army, who arrived and encamped at Medeba. The Ammonites also were mustered and came out to battle from their home cities.

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.

- "...Maacah" - a small kingdom located between Damascus and the Sea of Galilee

8 When David heard *about it*, he sent Joab and all the army, the mighty men.

8 When David heard *of it*, he sent Joab and all the army, the mighty men.

8 In response, David sent out Joab and his entire army of elite soldiers.

8 And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men.

9 The sons of Ammon came out and drew up in battle formation at the entrance of the city; and the kings who had come were by themselves in the field.

9 The sons of Ammon came out and drew up in battle array at the entrance of the city, and the kings who had come were by themselves in the field.

9 The Ammonites went out in battle formation in front of the entrance to the city while the kings who had come stayed by themselves in the open fields.

9 And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array before the gate of the city: and the kings that were come were by themselves in the field.

10 Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him at the front and at the rear, he selected *warriors* from all the choice men in Israel and lined *them* up against the Arameans.

10 Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him in front and in the rear, he selected from all the choice men of Israel and they arrayed themselves against the Arameans.

10 When Joab observed that the battle lines were set up to oppose him both in front and behind, he appointed some special forces from Israel and arrayed them to oppose the Arameans,

10 Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him before and behind, he chose out of all the choice of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians.

- The Ammonites guarded the gate of their capital city and the Arameans took to the surrounding fields (the open country)

— This meant that Joab, David's commander, would have to defeat the Arameans on the outer perimeter before he could even get close to the Ammonites themselves

11 But the remainder of the people he placed under the command of Abshai his brother; and they lined up against the sons of Ammon.

11 But the remainder of the people he placed in the hand of Abshai his brother; and they arrayed themselves against the sons of Ammon.

11 putting the rest of his forces under command of his brother Abishai, who arrayed them to oppose the Ammonites.

11 And the rest of the people he delivered unto the hand of Abishai his brother, and they set themselves in array against the children of Ammon.

12 He said, "If the Arameans are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the sons of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will help you.

12 He said, "If the Arameans are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the sons of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will help you.

12 He told Abishai, "If the Arameans prove too strong for me, then you are to help me. If the Ammonites prove too strong for you, then I will help you.

12 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 help thee.

- In order to effect this, Joab divided his troops into two units, one of which he led against the Arameans and the other he entrusted to his brother Abishai to engage the Ammonites — After agreeing to come to each other's aid if need be, Joab and Abishai undertook the campaign

13 Be strong, and let's show ourselves courageous for the benefit of our people and the cities of our God; and may the LORD do what is good in His sight."

13 Be strong, and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and for the cities of our God; and may the LORD do what is good in His sight."

13 Be strong, be courageous on behalf of our people and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what he thinks is best."

13 Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the LORD do that which is good in his sight.

14 So Joab and the people who were with him advanced to battle against the Arameans, and they fled from him.

14 So Joab and the people who were with him drew near to the battle against the Arameans, and they fled before him.

14 So Joab and the soldiers who were with him attacked the Arameans in battle formation, and the Arameans retreated in front of him.

14 So Joab and the people that were with him drew nigh before the Syrians unto the battle; and they fled before him.

- Confident in the Lord, they achieved success: the Arameans were routed, and the Ammonites retreated to the security of the fortifications of their city, Rabbah

15 When the sons of Ammon saw that the Arameans had fled, they also fled from his brother Abshai and entered the city. Then Joab came to Jerusalem.

15 When the sons of Ammon saw that the Arameans fled, they also fled before Abshai his brother and entered the city. Then Joab came to Jerusalem.

15 When the Ammonites saw the Arameans retreating, they also retreated from Joab's brother Abishai back to the city and Joab left for Jerusalem.

15 And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, they likewise fled before Abishai his brother, and entered into the city. Then Joab came to Jerusalem.

16 When the Arameans saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they sent messengers and brought out the Arameans who were beyond the *Euphrates* River, with Shophach the commander of the army of Hadadezer leading them.

16 When the Arameans saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they sent messengers and brought out the Arameans who were beyond the River, with Shophach the commander of the army of Hadadezer leading them.

16 After the Arameans realized that they had been defeated by Israel, they sent for the Arameans who lived beyond the Euphrates River. Shophach was leading them as commander of Hadadezer's army.

16 And when the Syrians saw that they were put to the worse before Israel, they sent messengers, and drew forth the Syrians that were beyond the river: and Shophach the captain of the host of Hadarezer went before them.

- Meantime the Arameans called for reinforcements from across the Euphrates (the River) and with Shophach (spelled Shobach in 2 Sam 10:15) as their leader engaged David's troops at Helam (2 Sam 10:16-17) in the Transjordan

17 When it was reported to David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan, and came upon them and drew up in formation against them. And when David drew up in battle formation against the Arameans, they fought against him.

17 When it was told David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan, and came upon them and drew up in formation against them. And when David drew up in battle array against the Arameans, they fought against him.

17 When David learned this, he mustered all of Israel, crossed the Jordan, approached the Arameans, and drew up his forces against them. After David had assembled in battle array against the Arameans, the Arameans attacked him.

17 And it was told David; and he gathered all Israel, and passed over Jordan, and came upon them, and set the battle in array against them. So when David had put the battle in array against the Syrians, they fought with him.

18 And the Arameans fled from Israel, and David killed of the Arameans **seven thousand charioteers** and forty thousand foot soldiers; and he put Shophach the commander of the army to death.

18 The Arameans fled before Israel, and David killed of the Arameans 7,000 charioteers and 40,000 foot soldiers, and put to death Shophach the commander of the army.

18 The Arameans retreated from Israel, and David's forces killed 7,000 Aramean charioteers, 40,000 soldiers, and Shophach, the commander of their army.

18 But the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew of the Syrians seven thousand men which fought in chariots, and forty thousand footmen, and killed Shophach the captain of the host.

- "...seven thousand charioteers" - the parallel passage in 2 Sam 10:18 says 700 charioteers; it's likely that the 7,000 total used here is accurate

- Again David was victorious, killing 7,000 charioteers, 40,000 infantrymen, and Shophach himself

— This squelched any further desire of the Arameans to confront David; in fact the Arameans made themselves vassals to Israel

19 So when the servants of Hadadezer saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with David and served him. So the Arameans were not willing to help the sons of Ammon anymore.

19 So when the servants of Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with David and served him. Thus the Arameans were not willing to help the sons of Ammon anymore.

19 When Hadadezer's officials saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they sought terms of peace with David and became subservient to him. After this, the Arameans were unwilling to help the Ammonites anymore.

19 And when the servants of Hadarezer saw that they were put to the worse before Israel, they made peace with David, and became his servants: neither would the Syrians help the children of Ammon any more.