



David Goes To War

2 Sam. 7:1-29; 1 Chr. 17:1-27

Last Week...

- We covered the Davidic Covenant and the phenomenal promises the Lord revealed to David.
- This week we see some of those promises in action.



2 Samuel 8:1-2

1 Now after this it came about that David defeated the Philistines and subdued them; and David took control of the chief city from the hand of the Philistines.





THE GREAT SEA
(Mediterranean Sea)

PHILISTIA

JUDAH

MOAB

Philistia

Since Samson's Day...

- Israel's most oppressive enemy had been the Philistines.
- David waged holy war against them, and his efforts were mightily successful.
- While he did not eradicate them, after David's time, the Philistines are never portrayed in the OT as presenting a serious threat to Israel.



In Addition

- David also waged war successfully against a traditional enemy that had opposed Israel since the days of Moses.
- In fact, we have some fulfilled prophecy here!



2 Samuel 8:2

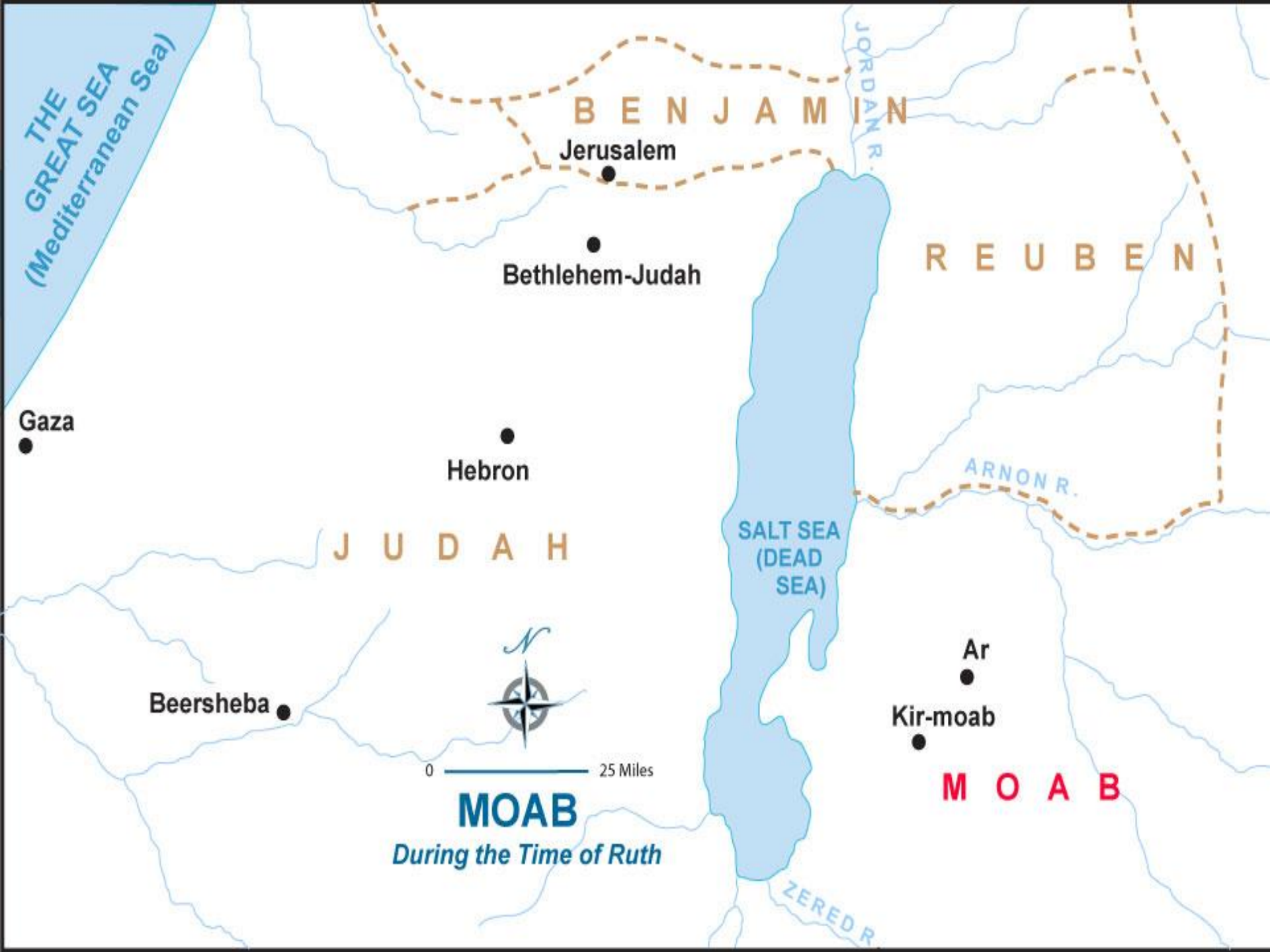
2 He defeated Moab, and measured them with the line, making them lie down on the ground; and he measured two lines to put to death and one full line to keep alive. And the Moabites became servants to David, bringing tribute.



Numbers 24:17

“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons of Sheth.”





THE GREAT SEA
(Mediterranean Sea)

BENJAMIN

Jerusalem

Bethlehem-Judah

REUBEN

Gaza

Hebron

ARNON R.

JUDAH

SALT SEA
(DEAD SEA)

Beersheba



0 25 Miles

MOAB

During the Time of Ruth

Ar

Kir-moab

MOAB

ZERED R.

A Controversial Policy

- In the Moabite campaign, David captured a number of the prisoners of war.
- He made them “lie down on the ground,” and “measured two lines to put to death and one full line to keep alive.”
- Believe it or not, this may have been done out of compassion.

Other Options

1. Kill 'em all.
 2. Make them slaves.
- Many of David's enemies were allowed to live and return to their families.
 - And from an economic perspective, allowing some to live benefits Israel financially.



2 Samuel 8:3-8

3 Then David defeated Hadadezer, the son of Rehob king of Zobah, as he went to restore his rule at the River. **4** David captured from him 1,700 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers; and David hamstringed the chariot horses, but reserved enough of them for 100 chariots. **5** When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer, king of Zobah, David killed 22,000 Arameans. **6** Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of Damascus, and the Arameans became servants to David, bringing tribute. And the Lord helped David wherever he went. **7** David took the shields of gold which were carried by the servants of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem. **8** From Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took a very large amount of bronze.

“the River”

• Three possibilities:

1. Euphrates

2. Jordan

3. Yarmuk

Question #2: Who is “he” in v. 3?



THE GREAT SEA
(Mediterranean Sea)

PHOENICIA

ARAM
(SYRIA)

ISRAEL

GILEAD

AMMON

Tyre

Dan

Damascus

Accho

SEA OF CHINNERETH

Aphek

Dor

KISHON R.

YARMOUK R.

Jezreel

Edrei

Ramoth-gilead

Mahanaim

Samaria

JORDAN R.

JABBOK R.

Shechem



0 20 Miles

Israel and Syria

If “he” is David...

What was he doing so far north?

And if “he” is Hadadezer...

Why was David contesting
Hadadezer’s activities so far
from Jerusalem?



My Two Cents

- I believe David led a military expedition to the Euphrates to fulfill another Torah promise.
- Namely, Genesis 15:18 –
“On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates”



As Well As...

- **Exodus 23:31** – “I will fix your boundary from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River Euphrates...”
- **Deuteronomy 1:7** – “Turn and set your journey...as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.”
- **Deuteronomy 11:24** – “Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours...from the river, the river Euphrates, as far as the western sea.”

Saul Attempted to Conquer It

• 1 Samuel 14:47 –

“Now when Saul had taken the kingdom over Israel, he fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, the sons of Ammon, Edom, **the kings of Zobah**, and the Philistines; and wherever he turned, he inflicted punishment.”



To the Victor, the Spoils

King David:

1. Captured 1,700 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers
2. Hamstrung the chariot horses, but reserved enough of them for 100 chariots.

Why?



Three Reasons

1. Deuteronomy 17:16 – “Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses...”
2. Israel was not equipped to maintain thousands of horses.
3. Chariots (and therefore chariot horses) were useless for military purposes in much of Israel because of the terrain.

David Secures the Region

1. Killed 22,000 Arameans that came to fight with Hadadezer.
2. Put garrisons in Damascus.
3. The Arameans became tributaries of David.
4. David took the shields of gold which were carried by the servants of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem.
5. David also secured a very large amount of bronze.



Securing Damascus Was Huge

1. The city was the junction point for the Via Maris and King's Highway, the two major caravan routes connecting Asia with Africa.
2. David was able to tap the reserves of wealth already in place in the region (i.e., gold shields, bronze).





Mediterranean Sea

MESOPOTAMIA
Euphrates

Cyprus

Syrian Desert

Way of the Sea

King's Highway

Libyan Desert

Sinai

Arabian Desert

Red Sea

200 400 600 km
0 200 300 400 miles

No-amon (Thebes)

The Key Verse is v. 6b

“And the Lord
helped David
wherever he
went.”



2 Samuel 8:9-10

9 Now when Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer, **10** Toi sent Joram his son to King David to greet him and bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him; for Hadadezer had been at war with Toi. And Joram brought with him articles of silver, of gold and of bronze.



Putting Them on Notice

- David's successful military exploits intimidated leaders of other Aramean city-states, causing them to take steps to appease David and establish non-aggression pacts with him.
- The importance of the person (the king's son) and the gifts (silver, gold, bronze) sent to David suggest that Hamath was establishing a treaty with Israel in which Israel was the superior party.



2 Samuel 8:11-12

11 King David also dedicated these to the Lord, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nations which he had subdued: **12** from Aram and Moab and the sons of Ammon and the Philistines and Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.



According to 1 Chronicles 22:4

- The cumulative amount of these acquisitions was staggering:
 - 100,000 talents of gold (approx. 7.5 million pounds)
 - 1 million talents of silver (approx. 75 million pounds)



Again, the Key Here (v. 11):

“King David also dedicated these to the Lord...”

• Deuteronomy 17:17 –

“He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself.”



Contrast This with Solomon

Turn to 1 Kings 10:14-22

Then 10:26-29




2 Samuel 8:13-14

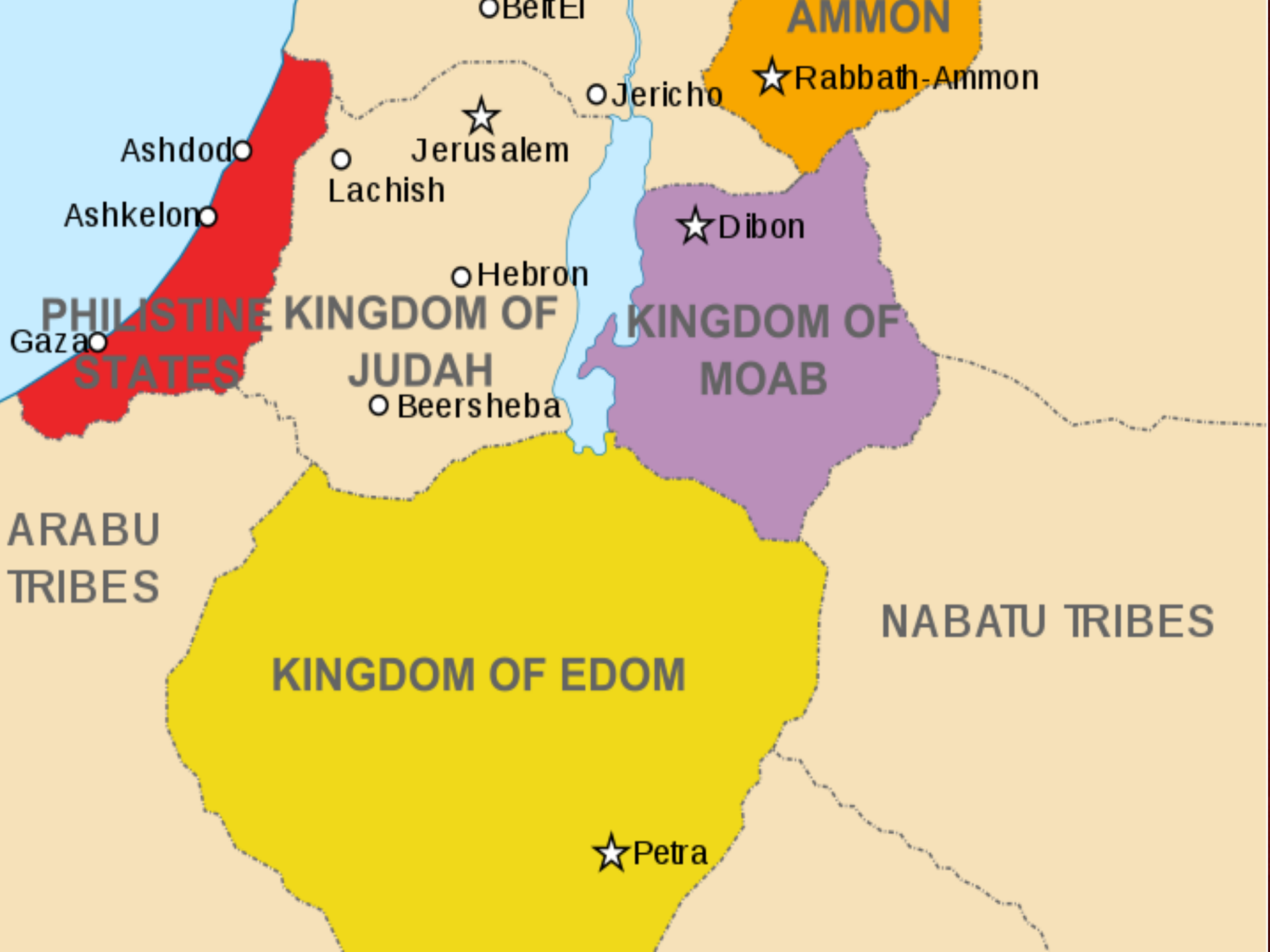
13 So David made a name for himself when he returned from killing 18,000 Arameans in the Valley of Salt. **14** He put garrisons in Edom. In all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became servants to David. And the Lord helped David wherever he went.



More Military Exploits

- 18,000 enemy troops killed
- Samuel states they were Arameans; 1 Chronicles 18:12 indicates they were Edomites
 - Arameans: אַרְמִי
 - Edomites: אֲדָמִי 





○Bethel

AMMON

★Rabbath-Ammon

○Jericho



★Jerusalem



○Lachish



★Dibon



○Hebron



○Beersheba

Ashdod

Ashkelon

PHILISTINE KINGDOM OF STATES

Gaza

KINGDOM OF MOAB

ARABU TRIBES

NABATU TRIBES

KINGDOM OF EDOM

★Petra

And the Author Ends with:

**“And the Lord
helped David
wherever he
went.”**



2 Samuel 8:15-18

15 So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered justice and righteousness for all his people. **16** Joab the son of Zeruah was over the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder. **17** Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests, and Seraiah was secretary. **18** Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief ministers.



David Appoints Leaders

- Joab, David's nephew, led the army
- Jehoshaphat was the “recorder,” in other words, the royal historian
 - Seraiah, the “secretary” (v. 18) probably assisted him



The Priests

- Zadok and Ahimelech were both descendants of Aaron through different families
 - Zadok of Eleazar, and therefore, Phinehas
 - Ahimelech of Ithamar, a son of Aaron, as well as Eli



“Benaiah the son of Jehoiada”

- A military hero of legendary proportions
- Son of a priest (1 Chr. 27:5)
- One of David’s “Mighty Men”
- He “was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites,” non-Israelite soldiers that served as a private militia for the king



David's Sons

- **NASB:** “chief ministers”
- **ESV; NET; NIV:** “priests”
- **KJV:** “chief rulers”
- **CSB:** “chief officials”

Scholars are divided.
Why is this an issue?



כֹּהֵן (kohen)

The word appears 750 times
in OT.

744 times it is translated as
“priest.”



Some Options

1. Taking a cue from 1 Chronicles 18:17, which reads “chiefs,” David’s sons may have been royal consultants or administrators.
2. They are a sort of “lay” priesthood.
3. They are priests, but priests in the order of Melchizedek.



The Big Idea

David's successes are directly attributable to the goodness and the promises of the Lord and David's love for and obedience to the Law.



Next Week: David Shows Mercy



