
1CHRONICLES 19: 1 After this, Nahash the king of the children of Ammon died, and his son reigned in his place.

David sends a congratulatory message to Hanun, king of Ammon, 1Chr 19:1, 1Chr 19:2. He treats the messengers with great incivility, 1Chr 19:3, 1Chr 19:4. David is exasperated, but condoles with the degraded messengers, 1Chr 19:5. The Ammonites prepare for war, and hire thirty-two thousand chariots, and besiege Medeba, 1Chr 19:6, 1Chr 19:7. David sends Joab to attack them; he defeats the Syrians and Ammonites, 1Chr 19:8-15. The discomfited Syrians recruit their army, and invade David's territories beyond Jordan; he attacks them, kills Shophach their general, seven thousand charioteers, and forty thousand of their infantry, 1Chr 19:16-18. The Syrians abandon the Ammonites and make a separate peace with David, 1Chr 19:19.

Verse 1

Now it came to pass - See the same history, 2Sam 10:1 (note), etc., and the notes there.

1CHRONICLES 19: 2 David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me."

So David sent messengers to comfort him concerning his father. David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon to Hanun, to comfort him.

1CHRONICLES 19: 3 But the princes of the children of Ammon said to Hanun, "Do you think that David honours your father, in that he has sent comforters to you? Haven't his servants come to you to search, to overthrow, and to spy out the land?"

1CHRONICLES 19: 4 So Hanun took David's servants, and shaved them, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away.

Verse 4

And cut off their garments in the midst - *Usque ad eorum, pudenda*. So the Targum, Jarchi, and others; leaving exposed what nature and decency require to be concealed. See on 2Sam 10:4 (note).

1CHRONICLES 19: 5 Then there went certain persons, and told David how the men were served. He sent to meet them; for the men were greatly ashamed. The king said, "Stay at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return."

1CHRONICLES 19: 6 When the children of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the children of Ammon sent one thousand talents of silver to hire them chariots and horsemen out of Mesopotamia, and out of Arammaacah, and out of Zobah.

Verse 6

Chariots and horsemen out of Mesopotamia - These are not mentioned in the parallel place in Samuel; probably they did not arrive till the Ammonites and their other allies were defeated by the Israelites in the first battle.

1CHRONICLES 19: 7 So they hired for themselves thirty-two thousand chariots, and the king of Maacah and his people, who came and encamped before Medeba. The children of Ammon gathered themselves together from their cities, and came to battle.

Verse 7

Thirty and two thousand - The whole number mentioned in Samuel is, Syrians, of Beth-rehob, and of Zoba, twenty thousand; of King Maacah, one thousand; of Ish-tob, twelve thousand; in all thirty-three thousand. Of chariots or cavalry there is no mention. These could not have been the whole army.

1CHRONICLES 19: 8 When David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the army of the mighty men.

1CHRONICLES 19: 9 The children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the gate of the city: and the kings who had come were by themselves in the field.

1CHRONICLES 19: 10 Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice men of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians.

1CHRONICLES 19: 11 The rest of the people he committed into the hand of Abishai his brother; and they put themselves in array against the children of Ammon.

1CHRONICLES 19: 12 He said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you are to help me; but if the children of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will help you.

1CHRONICLES 19: 13 Be courageous, and let us be strong for our people, and for the cities of our God. May the LORD do that which seems good to him."

Verse 13

Be of good courage - See the note on 2Sam 10:12.

1CHRONICLES 19: 14 So Joab and the people who were with him drew near before the Syrians to the battle; and they fled before him.

1CHRONICLES 19: 15 When the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians had fled, they likewise fled before Abishai his brother, and entered into the city. Then Joab came to Jerusalem.

1CHRONICLES 19: 16 When the Syrians saw that they were defeated by Israel, they sent messengers, and drew out the Syrians who were beyond the River, with Shophach the captain of the army of Hadadezer at their head.

1CHRONICLES 19: 17 It was told David; and he gathered all Israel together, and passed over the Jordan, and came on 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.

1CHRONICLES 19: 18 The Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed of the Syrians the men of seven thousand chariots, and forty thousand footmen, and killed Shophach the captain of the army.

Verse 18

Forty thousand footmen - See this number accounted for in the note on 2Sam 10:18 (note).

1CHRONICLES 19: 19 When the servants of Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with David, and served him: neither would the Syrians help the children of Ammon any more.

Verse 19

They made peace with David, and became his servants - See on 2Sam 10:19 (note), and the concluding note in that place; and see for omissions in Chronicles, the preface to these books.