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1CHRONICLES 20: 1 At the time of the return of the year, at the time when kings go out, Joab led out the army, and wasted the country of the children of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. Joab struck Rabbah, and overthrew it.

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Joab smites the city of Rabbah; and David puts the crown of its king upon his own head, and treats the people of the city with great rigour, 1Chr 20:1-3. First battle with the Philistines, 1Chr 20:4. Second battle with the Philistines, 1Chr 20:5. Third battle with the Philistines, 1Chr 20:6, 1Chr 20:7. In these battles three giants are slain, 1Chr 20:8.

Verse 1

After the year was expired, at the time that kings go out to battle - About the spring of the year; see the note on 2Sam 11:1.

After this verse the parallel place in Samuel relates the whole story of David and Bath-sheba, and the murder of Uriah, which the compiler of these books passes over as he designedly does almost every thing prejudicial to the character of David. All he states is, but David tarried at Jerusalem; and, while he thus tarried, and Joab conducted the war against the Ammonites, the awful transactions above referred to took place.

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1CHRONICLES 20: 2 David took the crown of their king from off his head, and found it to weigh a talent of gold, and there were precious stones in it; and it was set on David's head: and he brought out the plunder of the city, exceeding much.

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Verse 2

David took the crown of their king - off his head - See 2Sam 12:30.

Precious stones in it - The Targum says, "And there was set in it a precious stone, worth a talent of gold; this was that magnetic stone that supported the woven gold in the air." What does he mean?

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1CHRONICLES 20: 3 He brought out the people who were therein, and cut them with saws, and with iron picks, and with axes. David did so to all the cities of the children of Ammon. David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

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Verse 3

He brought out the people - See this transaction particularly explained in the notes on the parallel places, 2Sam 12:30-31 (note).

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1CHRONICLES 20: 4 After this, there arose war at Gezer with the Philistines: then Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Sippai, of the sons of the giant; and they were subdued.

1CHRONICLES 20: 5 There was again war with the Philistines; and Elhanan the son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

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Verse 5

Elhanan the son of Jair - See the note on 2Sam 21:19. The Targum says, "David, the son of Jesse, a pious man, who rose at midnight to sing praises to God, slew Lachmi, the brother of Goliath, the same day on which he slew Goliath the Gittite, whose spear-staff was like a weaver's beam."

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1CHRONICLES 20: 6 There was again war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, whose fingers and toes were twenty-four, six on each hand, and six on each foot; and he also was born to the giant.

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Verse 6

Fingers and toes were four and twenty - See the note on 2Sam 21:20.

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1CHRONICLES 20: 7 When he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea David's brother killed him.

1CHRONICLES 20: 8 These were born to the giant in Gath; and they fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

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Verse 8

These were born unto the giant in Gath - "These were born להרפא leharapha, to that Rapha in Gath, or to Arapha." So the Vulgate, Septuagint, and Chaldee.

The compiler of these books passes by also the incest of Amnon with his sister Tamar, and the rebellion of Absalom, and the awful consequences of all these. These should have preceded the fourth verse. These facts could not be unknown to him, for they were notorious to all; but he saw that they were already amply detailed in books which were accredited among the people, and the relations were such as no friend to piety and humanity could delight to repeat. On these grounds the reader will give him credit for the omission. See on 1Chr 20:1 (note).