

---

2SAMUEL 10: 1 After this, the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place.

---

The king of Ammon being dead, David sends ambassadors to comfort his son Hanun, 2Sam 10:1, 2Sam 10:2. Hanun, misled by his courtiers, treats the messengers of David with great indignity, 2Sam 10:3-5. The Ammonites, justly dreading David's resentment, send, and hire the Syrians to make war upon him, 2Sam 10:6. Joab and Abishai meet them at the city of Medeba, and defeat them, 2Sam 10:7-14. The Syrians collect another army, but are defeated by David with great slaughter, and make with him a separate peace, 2Sam 10:15-19.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 2 David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent by his servants to comfort him concerning his father. David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon.

---

#### Verse 2

I will show kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash - We do not know exactly the nature or extent of the obligation which David was under to the king of the Ammonites; but it is likely that the Nahash here mentioned was the same who had attacked Jabesh-gilead, and whom Saul defeated: as David had taken refuge with the Moabites, (1Sam 22:3), and this was contiguous to the king of the Ammonites, his hatred to Saul might induce him to show particular kindness to David.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 3 But the princes of the children of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think that David honours your father, in that he has sent comforters to you? Hasn't David sent his servants to you to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?"

---

#### Verse 3

Thinkest thou that David doth honor thy father - It has been a matter of just complaint through all the history of mankind, that there is little sincerity in courts. Courtiers, especially, are suspicious of each other, and often mislead their sovereigns. They feel themselves to be insincere, and suspect others to be so too.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 4 So Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off the one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away.

---

#### Verse 4

Shaved off the one half of their beards - The beard is held in high respect in the East: the possessor considers it his greatest ornament; often swears by it; and, in matters of great importance, pledges

it. Nothing can be more secure than a pledge of this kind; its owner will redeem it at the hazard of his life. The beard was never cut off but in mourning, or as a sign of slavery. Cutting off half of the beard and the clothes rendered the men ridiculous, and made them look like slaves: what was done to these men was an accumulation of insult.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 5 When they told it to David, he sent to meet them; for the men were greatly ashamed. The king said, "Wait at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return."

---

#### Verse 5

Tarry at Jericho - This city had not been rebuilt since the time of Joshua; but there were, no doubt, many cottages still remaining, and larger dwellings also, but the walls had not been repaired. As it must have been comparatively a private place, it was proper for these men to tarry in, as they would not be exposed to public notice.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 6 When the children of Ammon saw that they were become odious to David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth Rehob, and the Syrians of Zobah, twenty thousand footmen, and the king of Maacah with one thousand men, and the men of Tob twelve thousand men.

---

#### Verse 6

The children of Ammon saw that they stank - That is, that their conduct rendered them abominable. This is the Hebrew mode of expressing such a feeling. See Gen 34:30.

The Syrians of Bethrehob - This place was situated at the extremity of the valley between Libanus and Anti-libanus. The Syrians of Zoba were subject to Hadadezer. Maacah was in the vicinity of Mount Hermon, beyond Jordan, in the Trachonitis.

Ish-tob - This was probably the same with Tob, to which Jephthah fled from the cruelty of his brethren. It was situated in the land of Gilead.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 7 When David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the army of the mighty men.

---

#### Verse 7

All the host of the mighty - All his worthies, and the flower of his army.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 8 The children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entrance of the gate: and the Syrians of Zobah and of Rehob, and the men of Tob and Maacah, were by themselves in the field.

---

Verse 8

At the entering in of the gate - This was the city of Medeba, as we learn from 1Chr 19:7.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 9 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:

---

Verse 9

Before and behind - It is probable that one of the armies was in the field, and the other in the city, when Joab arrived. When he fronted this army, the other appears to have issued from the city, and to have taken him in the rear; he was therefore obliged to divide his army as here mentioned; one part to face the Syrians commanded by himself, and the other to face the Ammonites commanded by his brother Abishai.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 10 The rest of the people he committed into the hand of Abishai his brother; and he put them in array against the children of Ammon.

2SAMUEL 10: 11 He said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the children of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come and help you.

2SAMUEL 10: 12 Be courageous, and let us be strong for our people, and for the cities of our God; and the LORD do that which seems good to him."

---

Verse 12

Be of good courage - This is a very fine military address, and is equal to any thing in ancient or modern times. Ye fight pro aris et focus; for every good, sacred and civil; for God, for your families, and for your country.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 13 So Joab and the people who were with him drew near to the battle against the Syrians: and they fled before him.

2SAMUEL 10: 14 When the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians had fled, they likewise fled before Abishai, and entered into the city. Then Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem.

---

Verse 14

The Syrians were fled - They betook themselves to their own confines, while the Ammonites escaped into their own city.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 15 When the Syrians saw that they were defeated by Israel, they gathered themselves together.

2SAMUEL 10: 16 Hadadezer sent, and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the River: and they came to Helam, with Shobach the captain of the army of Hadadezer at their head.

---

#### Verse 16

The Syrians that were beyond the river - That is, the Euphrates.

Hadarezer - This is the same that was overthrown by David, 2Sam 8:3 and there called Hadadezer; which is the reading here of about thirty of Kennicott's and De Rossi's MSS. But the ך resh and ך daleth are easily interchanged.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 17 It was told David; and he gathered all Israel together, and passed over the Jordan, and came to Helam. The Syrians set themselves in array against David, and fought with him.

---

#### Verse 17

David - gathered all Israel together - He thought that such a war required his own presence.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 18 The Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed of the Syrians seven hundred charioteers, and forty thousand horsemen, and struck Shobach the captain of their army, so that he died there.

---

#### Verse 18

Seven Hundred chariots - and forty thousand Horsemen - In the parallel place, 1Chr 19:18, it is said, David slew of the Syrians Seven Thousand men, which fought in chariots. It is difficult to ascertain the right number in this and similar places. It is very probable that, in former times, the Jews expressed, as they often do now, their numbers, not by words at full length, but by numeral letters; and, as many of the letters bear a great similarity to each other, mistakes might easily creep in when the numeral letters came to be expressed by words at full length. This alone will account for the many mistakes which we find in the numbers in these books, and renders a mistake here very probable. The letter ך zain, with a dot above, stands for seven thousand, ך nun for seven hundred: the great similarity of these letters might easily cause the one to be mistaken for the other, and so produce an error in this place.

---

2SAMUEL 10: 19 When all the kings who were servants to Hadadezer saw that they were defeated before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Syrians feared to help the children of Ammon any more.

---

## Verse 19

Made peace with Israel - They made this peace separately, and were obliged to pay tribute to the Israelites. Some copies of the Vulgate add here after the word Israel, *Expaverunt et fugerunt quinquaginta et octo millia coram Israel*; "and they were panic-struck, and fled fifty-eight thousand of them before Israel." This reading is nowhere else to be found. "Thus," observes Dr. Delaney, "the arms of David were blessed; and God accomplished the promises which he had made to Abraham, Gen 15:18, and renewed to Joshua, Jos 1:2, Jos 1:4." And thus, in the space of nineteen or twenty years, David had the good fortune to finish gloriously eight wars, all righteously undertaken, and all honourably terminated; viz.

1. The civil war with Ish-bosheth.
2. The war against the Jebusites.
3. The war against the Philistines and their allies.
4. The war against the Philistines alone.
5. The war against the Moabites.
6. The war against Hadadezer.
7. The war against the Idumeans.
8. The war against the Ammonites and Syrians.

This last victory was soon followed by the complete conquest of the kingdom of the Ammonites, abandoned by their allies. What glory to the monarch of Israel, had not the splendor of this illustrious epoch been obscured by a complication of crimes, of which one could never have even suspected him capable!

We have now done with the first part of this book, in which we find David great, glorious, and pious: we come to the second part, in which we shall have the pain to observe him fallen from God, and his horn defiled in the dust by crimes of the most flagitious nature. Let him that most assuredly standeth take heed lest he fall.