

# **Bible Study July 3, 2024**

## **2 SAMUEL 8 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)**

### **David's Victories**

***<sup>1</sup> In the course of time, David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and he took Metheg Ammah from the control of the Philistines.***

***<sup>2</sup> David also defeated the Moabites. He made them lie down on the ground and measured them off with a length of cord. Every two lengths of them were put to death, and the third length was allowed to live. So the Moabites became subject to David and brought him tribute.***

***<sup>3</sup> Moreover, David defeated Hadadezer son of Rehob, king of Zobah, when he went to restore his monument at the Euphrates River. <sup>4</sup> David captured a thousand of his chariots, seven thousand charioteers and twenty thousand foot soldiers. He hamstringed all but a hundred of the chariot horses.***

***<sup>5</sup> When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David struck down twenty-two thousand of them.***

Part of God's covenant with David included the promise that the Israelites' enemies would be defeated and would no longer oppress them (7:10-11). God fulfilled this promise by helping David defeat the opposing nations. Several enemies are listed in this chapter: (1) The Moabites, who were the descendants of Lot living east of the Dead Sea who posed a constant military and religious threat to Israel (Numbers 25:1-3; Judges 3:12-30; 1 Samuel 14:47). David seemed to have had a good relationship with the Moabites at one time; he had sent his parents there for protection from King Saul (1 Samuel 22:3-4), and his great-grandmother Ruth had been from Moab. (2) King Hadadezer of Zobah, whose defeat at David's hands fulfilled God's promise to Abraham that Israel would control the land as far north as the Euphrates River (Genesis 15:18). (3) The Edomites, who were descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:1) and were also archenemies of Israel (see 2 Kings 8:20; Jeremiah 49:7-22; Ezekiel 25:12-14).

***<sup>6</sup> He put garrisons in the Aramean kingdom of Damascus, and the Arameans became subject to him and brought tribute. The LORD gave David victory wherever he went.***

This tribute money was the tax levied on conquered nations. The tax helped support Israel's government and demonstrated that the conquered nations were under Israel's control.

***<sup>7</sup> David took the gold shields that belonged to the officers of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem. <sup>8</sup> From Tebah and Berothai, towns that belonged to Hadadezer, King David took a great quantity of bronze.***

***<sup>9</sup> When Tou king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the entire army of Hadadezer, <sup>10</sup> he sent his son Joram to King David to greet him and congratulate him on his victory in***

***battle over Hadadezer, who had been at war with Tou. Joram brought with him articles of silver, of gold and of bronze.***

***<sup>11</sup> King David dedicated these articles to the LORD, as he had done with the silver and gold from all the nations he had subdued: <sup>12</sup> Edom and Moab, the Ammonites and the Philistines, and Amalek. He also dedicated the plunder taken from Hadadezer son of Rehob, king of Zobah.***

***<sup>13</sup> And David became famous after he returned from striking down eighteen thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.***

***<sup>14</sup> He put garrisons throughout Edom, and all the Edomites became subject to David. The LORD gave David victory wherever he went.***

### **David's Officials**

***<sup>15</sup> David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people.***

David pleased the people (3:36), not because he set out to please them, but because he tried to please God. Often those who try the hardest to become popular never make it. But the praise of people is not that important. Don't spend your time devising ways to become accepted in the public eye. Instead, strive to do what is right, and both God and his people will respect your convictions.

King David's reign was characterized by justice, which means he interpreted the law fairly, administered punishment with mercy, respected the people's rights, and recognized the people's duty toward God. Is it any wonder that almost everyone trusted and followed David? Why was it good for David to pursue justice? (1) It was God's command (Deuteronomy 16:18-20) and in keeping with his character (Deuteronomy 32:4). God's laws were meant to establish a just society. (2) It was in the nation's best interest, because times would arise when each individual would need justice. Justice should characterize the way you relate to people. Make sure you stand up for the just treatment of everyone, especially the poor, prisoners, the unborn, victims of abuse, the oppressed, and the disenfranchised, both in your community and around the world.

***<sup>16</sup> Joab son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was recorder;***

***<sup>17</sup> Zadok son of Ahitub and Ahimelek son of Abiathar were priests; Seraiah was secretary;***

***<sup>18</sup> Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the Kerethites and Pelethites; and David's sons were priests.***