

War is Waged

2 Samuel 10:1-19

Chapters 5-10 – 7 Major Events [Willis]

1. Conquest of Jerusalem – Ch. 5
2. 2 victories over Philistines – Ch. 5
3. Bringing Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem – Ch. 6
4. God’s prophecy that of D’s posterity one would arise to build God a ‘house’ – Ch. 7
5. D’s victories – Ch. 8
6. D’s kindness to the son of Jonathan – Ch. 9
- 7. Victories over Ammonites & Syrians – Ch. 10**

This chapter sets the scene for D’s sin with Bathsheba (Ch. 11).

Psalm 44 and Psalm 60 may have some reference to what is written here.

1. Insulting Treatment – v. 1-5

- 1: not known what kindness is shown; Nahash was a bitter enemy of S, 1S 11:1-11
- 2: Rabbah, capital of the Ammonites, 23mi due E of Jericho
- 3: mistrust founded upon national hatred; D killed 2/3 of the Moabites (kinfolk with Ammonites, descendants of Lot, Gen. 19).
- 4: gross insult to D; double makes it hard to ignore.
- They wore no trousers, this left them exposed in battle.
- Shaving the beard was more serious – stayed in Jerusalem until it regrew.
- Superstition: gaining the hair of the enemy gave the possessor power over them.

2. Prepare for War – v. 6-8

- Rabbah: Philadelphia in NT
- Cost of hiring soldiers: ½ million £ sterling
- 6: Maacah: SW of Mount Hermon
- 7: “mighty men” special group of 600 men that continued when S pursued D; host: great army of Israelites.
- 1 Chr. 19:7: camped at Medeba, 4mi. Straight SW of Rabbah.

3. Great Victory – v. 9-14

- Syrian mercenaries in the rear the greatest threat.
- Abishai, Joab's brother, was not chosen – he was leading the attack at the gates of Rabbah
- Mercenaries had no patriotic interest in defending Rabbah.
- Joab launched all-out attack and his hand-picked veterans destroyed everyone in path
- The war is not over yet!
- 12: fighting to trust the outcome of the battle to the Will of God.

4. Final Rally – v. 15-19

- Helam – location unknown
- Hadadezer stung by defeat of his mercenaries by Joab.
- D established the Euphrates River as the Eastern boundary of Israel.
- Hadadezer finally submits to D's rule.

Lessons:

1. Hanun embarrassed D's men in battle and they had to wait their embarrassment out. In Christ, we have nothing that can embarrass us, Romans 1:16.
2. We would do well to adopt the attitude that Joab had in battle – fighting to accomplish God's Will. When we align our lives to live by God's Will we are pleasing to God.
3. Hadadezer had to finally submit to D as king and become subject to his decrees. Today, we must quit following our desires and submit to the Will of God.

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