

Summary of Successes

2 Samuel 8

Chapters 5-10 – 7 Major Events according to Willis: (Ch. 8 event is in **bold**.)

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**
6. D's kindness to the son of Jonathan
7. Victories over Ammonites & Syrians

Not in chronological order: all parts of his reign. Parallel in 1 Chr. 18.

Note: they counted a different way. Arabs developed our present system.

1. Defeat of the Philistines & Moabites – v. 1-8

- 1: NIV: *in the course of time*: a summary; Methegammah: Philistine city of Gath
- 2: surprising as D at one time had trusted them [his parents stayed w/ Moabite king while D was a refugee]; prevalent way of war
- 3: Hadadezer = Hadarezer in 10:16
- 4: Hamstrung: great damage could be done to a hostile military force
- 6: thought of the whole chapter; not because of army, tactics, or leader, but because of God
- Shields of gold: DeHoff: costly ornaments worn by the Syrian soldiers

2. Domain Extended – v. 9-12

- 9: Hamath: NE bastion of Solomonic Empire, 1K 14:25, descendants of Ham & Canaan, Gen. 10:18
- 10: R.P. Smith: Ps. 18:43-44: D's joyful feelings about this mission
- 11: all the great stores of gold, silver, bronze, and other precious articles were used

3. Defeat of Edomites – v. 13-18

- Great contrast: Valley of Salt: extreme S of Arabah, S from Dead Sea
- 2 centuries later, Amaziah king of Judah defeats 10,000 Edomites & captured Sela

- 13: no contradiction here: 2S8 says D, 1C 18:13 says Abishai, Ps. 60 *heading* & 1K 11:15-16 says Joab
- Willis: “D involved as king, Joab commander of the army, Abishai had charge of that particular battle.” Same as saying President 41 Bush, Secretary of Defense Cheney, and General Schwarzkopf won Desert Storm.
- Wise & efficient applied to 1st half of reign.
- 17: Zadok & Ahimelech high priests: contrary to Law of Moses, 1 by Saul, 1 by D
- Cherethites and Pelethites – bodyguard of foreign mercenaries (1st time)
- 18: D’s sons were priests: no Biblical record of any such thing (performing priestly duties). If they did, it fits the typical nature of D acting as priest. They did not serve in the same way as Abithar and Zadok.

Lessons:

1. The Philistines and Moabites were utterly defeated by D. it is interesting to see how D’s opinion of the Moabites shifted. Let us remember the Moabites started in sin (incest/Lot’s daughter) and it only went downhill from there and they were destroyed.
2. D continued to have success not because he was the best but because God was on his side, Romans 8:31.
3. D greatly expanded his kingdom. Our kingdom today, the church, has no limits and is open to everyone.

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