

Lesson 14 27 January 2013

David Expands the Kingdom

Lesson Scope: [2 Samuel 8 and 10](#)

Lesson Focus

The previous lesson elaborated on God's promise to establish David's kingdom. "Thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever" (2 Samuel 7:16). Chapter 8 gives a brief summary of the victories that God gave David as he fought to defend Israel's borders. The account does not necessarily follow chronological order.

Chapter 10 gives background for the events of the next chapter. Joab's victory in 2 Samuel 10:13-14 left the Ammonites unscathed. David had not yet settled his account with them for insulting his men (10:1-5). Chapter I opens with Joab campaigning against the Ammonites and besieging Rabbah, their main city. In that war, Uriah, the husband of Bath-sheba, was killed according to David's plan.

God's people are surrounded by enemies on every side. By God's help, however, they can courageously subdue these enemies and advance the cause of the kingdom.

Spiritually we are either moving forward or backward; there is no standing still. Take special note that David again needed to deal with the Philistines (a type of the flesh). Unless we are putting forth effort to succeed, spiritual failure is certain. On the other hand, spiritual victory would be impossible without the Lord. "He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:31).

Lesson Aim: To identify imperatives for God's people to succeed in spiritual conquests.

Theme Verses: [2 Corinthians 10:4-5](#). (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

Lesson Text

Subjugation

2 Samuel 8:1-6 ¹ And after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them: and David took Methegammah out of the hand of the Philistines. ² And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And *so* the Moabites became David's servants, *and* brought gifts. ³ David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates. ⁴ And David took from him a thousand *chariots*, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and David houghed all the chariot *horses*, but reserved of them *for* an hundred chariots. ⁵ And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succour Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men. ⁶ Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and the Syrians became servants to David, *and* brought gifts. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

Dedication

2 Samuel 8:7-11 ⁷ And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. ⁸ And from Bethah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, king David took exceeding much brass. ⁹ When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had smitten all the host of Hadadezer, ¹⁰ Then Toi sent Joram his son unto king David, to salute him, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer, and smitten him: for Hadadezer had wars with Toi. And *Joram* brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass: ¹¹ Which also king David did dedicate unto the LORD, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated of all nations which he subdued;

Justice

2 Samuel 8:15 ¹⁵ And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people.

Vision

2 Samuel 10:8-14 ⁸ And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate: and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ishtob, and Maacah, *were* by themselves in the field. ⁹ When Joab saw that the front of the battle was against him before and

behind, he chose of all the choice *men* of Israel, and put *them* in array against the Syrians: ¹⁰ And the rest of the people he delivered into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put *them* in array against the children of Ammon. ¹¹ And he said, If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me: but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee. ¹² Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good. ¹³ And Joab drew nigh, and the people that *were* with him, unto the battle against the Syrians: and they fled before him. ¹⁴ And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, then fled they also before Abishai, and entered into the city. So Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem.

Questions for Study

Subjugation

1. Define subjugation. Discuss David's methods of conquest.
2. What spiritual parallels can we draw from David's methods of subjugation?

Dedication

3. How did David avoid the pitfalls associated with victory (2 Samuel 8:10-11)? How should we?

Justice

4. Define justice and judgment. Discuss the relationship these have to the success of spiritual conquest.

Vision

5. What valuable lessons for spiritual conquest can we learn from Joab's leadership?
6. Why is it imperative in spiritual conquest to keep our focus on the advancement of Christ's kingdom?

Analyzing the Passage

As we noticed in prior lessons, the Philistines (a type of the flesh) continually threatened the peace. Metheg-ammah, (8:1) meaning "the bridle of the principle city," referred to the Philistine city of Gath. David knew the Philistines quite well from past experience and thus removed their strategic stronghold.

"Measured them with a line" (2 Samuel 8:2) was a way of determining who would live and who would die.

Houghed the chariot horses (2 Samuel 8:4) meant that he cut the tendons on their hind legs to render them useless for battle. God had directly commanded Joshua to do this to the enemies' horses (Joshua 11:6). He desired Israel to understand that they were to trust in Him rather than in the strength of horses (Psalm 33:17).

"Let us play the men" (2 Samuel 10:12) was Joab's encouragement to Abishai, his brother, to handle their army of men skillfully in strategic positions of offense and defense. These brothers were veterans in warfare and knew the value of teamwork. They were convinced that God would do what seemed good to Him. This vision enabled them to fight valiantly for the cause—"for our people, and for the cities of our God" (2 Samuel 10:12).

Principles and Applications

Subjugation

1. Aggressive action is essential for success (2 Samuel 8:1-5). Passiveness and indifference offer no line of defense against the flesh. A status quo position is insufficient, even at best. We must press on with vigor. The Word of God and prayer are our offensive weapons. We must crucify the flesh, cast down every wrong imagination, guard the borders of our heart, and be "mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." Like Daniel of old, we need a definite purpose to remain undefiled.

2. It is imperative to take advantage of the opportunities for spiritual advancement (2 Samuel 8:3-5). Now is the time! We all have Bibles. Are we reading them? Daily devotional time with God, midweek prayer meetings, Sunday worship services, yearly winter Bible schools, and more offer opportunities for spiritual advancement. Each opportunity must be seized as it arises "lest any man fail of the grace of God" (Hebrews 12:15).

3. It is imperative to proceed under the Lord's protection (2 Samuel 8:6). In previous battles David testified that the Lord went before him (2 Samuel 5:20). Moses said, "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence" (Exodus 33:15). In Psalm 121:7, 8, David testifies, "He shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy

coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

God's protection is not for reckless behavior (Matthew 4:5-7). His armor of defense for spiritual battles will protect the Christian soldier who puts it on (Ephesians 6:10-18). Having done all to stand, we rest in the Lord's protection and move forward.

Dedication

4. It is imperative to realize that success is of the Lord (2 Samuel 8:11). This holds true before and after victory. "In thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to ... give strength unto all" (1 Chronicles 29:12). We have our part to do, but without the Lord, success would be impossible. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us" (2 Corinthians 4:7).

Justice

5. Broader conquest can be achieved only as we are diligent at our present responsibilities (2 Samuel 8:15). New things hold special appeal. Natural man tends to reach for greater things and higher esteem. But God is looking for diligence in little things, in the common everyday duties, and in obscure areas of service. What God requires is "to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God" (Micah 6:8).

Vision

6. Following the direction of God-appointed leaders is essential for successful conquest (2 Samuel 10:9). God appointed David. David appointed Joab. Joab set "choice men" in strategic positions. These men respected Joab, knowing him as a qualified general, and they followed his direction. God wrought the victory.

The same principle of following God's delegated authority applies to the church. We can follow with confidence when we "know them which labour among [us]." "Whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation" (Hebrews 13:7). Why would we follow a stranger or one who has proven unfaithful?

7. Cooperation aids greatly in successful conquest (2 Samuel 10:11). What a beautiful type of brotherhood assistance! We all are fighting for our lives against a vicious enemy, and we need each others' encouragement, prayers, and advice. The "play it alone" spirit hinders success in the battle and increases one's vulnerability. When each keeps his assigned place and serves God in sincerity, contending for the faith, the blessings of love and unity can be experienced by all.

8. It is imperative to realize we are in a battle for the advancement of the kingdom (2 Samuel 10:12). Joab had this vision. God worked through Israel in Joab's day to show the world truth and right. Today God works through the church to declare to the world His kingdom principles: "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17). As members in particular, we must not let personal preference or agenda cloud our contribution to His cause. Our motivation must be "For Christ and the church." Jesus said, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

9. Understanding what is at stake gives incentive to exert our best effort (2 Samuel 10:12). Approximately three thousand years ago, Joab said, "Be of good courage ... for our people, and for the cities of our God." Some six hundred years later, Nehemiah said, "Remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.... The work is great and large" (Nehemiah 4:14, 19). And for us the same things still are at stake; our spiritual life, our church life, and our families are at risk of being eternally lost. Do we realize what time it is? Will we be "battling for the right" when Jesus comes?

Important Teachings

1. Aggressive action is essential for success (2 Samuel 8:1-5).
2. It is imperative to take advantage of the opportunities for spiritual advancement (2 Samuel 8:3-5).
3. It is imperative to proceed under the Lord's protection (2 Samuel 8:6).
4. It is imperative to realize that success is of the Lord (2 Samuel 8:11).
5. Broader conquest can be achieved only as we are diligent at our present responsibilities (2 Samuel 8:15).
6. Following the direction of God-appointed leaders is essential for successful conquest (2 Samuel 10:9).
7. Cooperation aids greatly in successful conquest (2 Samuel 10:11).
8. It is imperative to realize we are in a battle for the advancement of the kingdom (2 Samuel 10:12).

9. Understanding what is at stake gives incentive to exert our best effort (2 Samuel 10:12).

Answers to Questions

1. *Define subjugation. Discuss David's methods of conquest.*

The meaning of *subjugation* is "the act of bringing under control and governance as a subject; something conquered; the act of making submissive or of subduing."

David smote and subdued the Philistines, confiscating Methegammah (Gath), one of their principle cities and main strongholds for offensive battle. He smote Moab, and casting judgment on war prisoners with a policy of line measuring, he brought the nation to servitude and tribute. He smote Hadadezer, king of Zobah, taking many of his chariots and horseman, and houghing the majority of his horses. David slew many of the Syrians of Damascus who came to help Hadadezer. He also set up garrisons in Damascus, bringing the nation into servitude and tribute.

2. *What spiritual parallels can we draw from David's methods of subjugation?*

Aggressive action is essential for success. Passiveness and indifference offer no line of defense against the flesh (Philistines). We must press on with vigor every day. We must keep the flesh crucified, cast down every wrong imagination, guard the borders of our heart, and be "mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds."

It is imperative to take advantage of the opportunities for spiritual advancement by reading our Bibles and treasuring each opportunity for personal and corporate worship. (David took advantage of Hadadezer as he went to recover his border). Seize opportunities *now!*

It is imperative to proceed only under the Lord's protection. God's protection is not for reckless behavior (Matthew 4:5-7). His armor for spiritual battle will protect the Christian soldier who puts it on. Having done all to stand, we rest in the manner and method God chooses to protect us, and move forward.

3. *How did David avoid the pitfalls associated with victory (2 Samuel 8:10-11)? How should we?*

Rather than hoard the silver and gold, he declared that it belonged to the Lord. The brass was laid up in store for Solomon to use (1 Chronicles 18:8).

It is imperative to realize that success is of the Lord. This holds true before and after victory. Spiritual success cannot be ours without divine power. We have the treasure of salvation in earthen vessels. We must realize that the excellency of the power is always of God and not of us. When souls are won for God through our witness, we must not exalt self. Our boast must always be in God!

4. *Define justice and judgment. Discuss the relationship these have to the success of spiritual conquest.*

Justice is the maintenance or administration of what is right. Judgment is a formal decision or sentence given by an authoritative person or body. One example of David's judgment is as follows: "as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike" (1 Samuel 30:24). His justice is seen in that this rule of impartiality became a statute and ordinance for Israel.

Impartiality, purity, honesty, consistency, and more must be the rule for parents, leaders, and all in authority. "Actions speak louder than words." "Judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24). "O consistency, thou jewel!" Broader conquest can be achieved only as we are diligent in our present responsibilities.

5. *What valuable lessons for spiritual conquest can we learn from Joab's leadership?*

We must appreciate God-appointed leaders (10:7) and their vision of what the serious dangers that threaten spiritual conquest are (10:9). We must follow the direction of sound spiritual brethren whom we *know*. We must each keep our assigned place in the battle, not "playing it alone" or forsaking one another, but standing together on every front. We must understand that our spiritual life, our church life, and our families are at risk of being eternally lost. We move ahead in the spiritual battle before us, resigning ourselves to God's manner and method of doing what He sees is good.

6. *Why is it imperative in spiritual conquest to keep our focus on the advancement of Christ's kingdom?*

Today God works through the church to declare to the world His kingdom principles of "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17). As members in particular, we must not let personal preference or agenda cloud our contribution to His cause. Our mission statement must be "for Christ and the church." Jesus said, "I will build

my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Christ's kingdom will stand forever. We lose our place if we stop "battling for the right."

Research Guide

1. Study the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 18 and 19. Use a Bible dictionary to study the expansion of David's kingdom, noting the history of some of the cities he conquered

Summarizing the Lesson

I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining ev'ry day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where these abound,
My prayer, my aim is higher ground.
—Johnson Oatman, Jr.