

## Read the Bible in A Year: Chronological

### Readings for April 19-25, 2020

1 Samuel 30, 31; 2 Samuel 1-10; 23:8-39

1 Chronicles 3:1-4; 6:16-48, 50-53; 9:40-44; 10:1-14; 11:4-47; 12:20-40; 13:1-14;

14:1-2, 8-17; 15:1-29; 16:1-43; 17:1-27; 18:1-17; 19:1-19

Psalm 60

**At this point in Israel's history, many accounts are recorded both in 1 and 2 Samuel, and in 1 and 2 Chronicles. In this packet, passages from 1 or 2 Samuel will be in regular type and those from 1 or 2 Chronicles will be in italic type. You will see the repeated stories and accounts and how they work together to give a more complete history...**



Three days later, David and his soldiers reached Ziklag (the town given to David by the Philistines). The Amalekites had raided the arid southern plain and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it down, taking the women and everyone in the city prisoner, whether young or old. They hadn't killed anyone but carried them off and went on their way. When David and his soldiers got to the town and found it burned down, and their wives, their sons, and their daughters taken prisoner, David and the troops with him broke into tears and cried until they could cry no more. David's two wives had been captured as well: Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail, Nabal's widow from Carmel.

David was in deep trouble because the troops were talking about stoning him. Each of the soldiers was deeply distressed about their sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God. David said to the priest Abiathar, Ahimelech's son, "Bring the priestly vest to me." So Abiathar brought it to David. Then David asked the LORD, "Should I go after this raiding party? Will I catch them?" "Yes, go after them!" God answered. "You will definitely catch them and will succeed in the rescue!"

So David set off with six hundred men. They came to the Besor ravine, where some stayed behind. David and four hundred men continued the pursuit, while two hundred men stayed there, too exhausted to cross the Besor ravine. They found an Egyptian in the countryside and brought him to David. They gave him bread, and he ate, and they gave him water to drink. They also gave him a piece of fig cake and two raisin cakes. He ate and regained his strength because he hadn't eaten any food or drunk any water for three days and nights. Then David asked him, "Whose slave are you? Where do you come from?" "I'm an Egyptian servant boy," he said, "and the slave of an Amalekite. My master abandoned me when I got sick three days ago. We had raided the arid southern plain belonging to the Cherethites, the territory belonging to Judah, and the southern plain of Caleb. We also burned Ziklag down." "Can you guide me to this raiding party?" David asked him. "Make a pledge to me by God that you won't kill me or hand me over to my master," the boy said, "and I will guide you to the raiding party."

So the boy led David to them, and he found them scattered all over the countryside, eating, drinking, and celebrating over the large amount of plunder they had taken from Philistine and Judean territory. David attacked them from twilight until evening of the next day. He killed them all. No one escaped except four hundred young men who got on camels and fled. David rescued everything that the Amalekites had taken, including his own two wives. Nothing was missing from the plunder or anything that they had taken, neither old nor young, son nor daughter. David brought everything back. David also captured all the sheep and cattle, which were driven in front of the other livestock. The troops said, "This is David's plunder!"

David reached the two hundred men who were too exhausted to follow him and had stayed behind at the Besor ravine. They came out to greet him and the troops who were with him. When David approached them, he asked how they were doing. But then all the evil and despicable individuals who had accompanied David said, "We won't share any of the plunder we rescued with them because they didn't go with us. Each of them can take his wife and children and go—but that's it." "Brothers!" David said. "Don't act that way with the things the LORD has given us. He has protected us and

handed over to us the raiding party that had attacked us. How could anyone agree with you on this plan? The share of those who went into battle and the share of those who stayed with the supplies will be divided equally.” So from that day forward, David made that a regulation and a law in Israel, which remains in place even now. When David returned to Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to the elders of Judah and to his friends. “Here is a gift for you from the plunder of the LORD’s enemies,” he said. It went to those in Bethel, Ramoth of the arid southern plain, Jattir, Aroer, Siphmoth, Eshtemoa, Racal, the towns of the Jerahmeelites, the towns of the Kenites, Hormah, Bor-ashan, Athach, Hebron, and all the places where David and his soldiers had spent time.

*When David went to Ziklag some joined him from Manasseh: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediahel, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, leaders of units of a thousand in Manasseh. They helped David against the raiding bands because they were all warriors and officers in the army. Reinforcements came to David daily until there was an army as mighty as God’s army.*



When the Philistines attacked the Israelites, the Israelites ran away from the Philistines, and many fell dead on Mount Gilboa. The Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua. The battle was fierce around Saul. When the archers located him, they wounded him badly. Saul said to his armor-bearer, “Draw your sword and kill me with it! Otherwise, these uncircumcised men will come and kill me or torture me.” But his armor-bearer refused because he was terrified. So Saul took the sword and impaled himself on it. When the armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also impaled himself on his sword and died with Saul. So Saul, his three sons, his armor-bearer, and all his soldiers died together that day.

When the Israelites across the valley and across the Jordan learned that the Israelite army had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their towns and fled. So the Philistines came and occupied the towns. The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his three sons lying dead on Mount Gilboa. They cut off Saul’s head and stripped off his armor, and then sent word throughout Philistine territory, carrying the good news to their gods’ temples and to their people. They put Saul’s armor in the temple of Astarte, and hung his body on the wall of Beth-shan. But when all the people of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, the bravest of their men set out, traveled all night long, and took the bodies of Saul and his sons off the wall of Beth-shan. Then they went back to Jabesh, where they burned them. Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted seven days.

*When the Philistines attacked the Israelites, the Israelites ran away from the Philistines, and many fell dead on Mount Gilboa. The Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua. The battle was fierce around Saul, and when the archers located him, he trembled in fear. Saul said to his armor-bearer, “Draw your sword and kill me with it! Otherwise, these uncircumcised men will come and kill me or torture me.” But his armor-bearer refused because he was terrified. So Saul took the sword and impaled himself on it. When the armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also impaled himself on his sword and died with Saul. So Saul and his three sons died; his whole household died together. When all the Israelites who were in the valley saw that the army had run away and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their towns and fled. So the Philistines came to live in them. The next day when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his sons lying dead on Mount Gilboa. They stripped him, carried off his head and armor, and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to spread the news to their idols and to the people. They placed his armor in their god’s temple and displayed his skull on a pole in the temple of Dagon. When all the people of Jabesh-gilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul, all their warriors arose and recovered the corpses of Saul and his sons. They brought them back to Jabesh, buried their bones under the oak in Jabesh, and fasted for seven days. Saul died because he was unfaithful to the LORD and hadn’t followed the LORD’s word. He even consulted a medium for guidance. He didn’t consult the LORD, so the LORD killed him and gave the kingdom to David, Jesse’s son.*

*Jonathan's son was Merib-baal, and Merib-baal was the father of Micah. Micah's family were Pithon, Melech, Tahrea, and Ahaz. Ahaz was the father of Jarah; and Jarah of Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri. Zimri was the father of Moza. Moza was the father of Binea; Rephaiah was his son, Eleasah was his son, and Azel was his son. Azel had six sons whose names were Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. This was Azel's family. (1 Chronicles 9:40-44)*

Now Saul's son Jonathan had a boy whose feet were crippled. He was only 5 years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and so his nurse snatched him up and fled. But as she hurried to get away, he fell and was injured. His name was Mephibosheth.

After Saul's death, when David had returned from defeating the Amalekites, he stayed in Ziklag two days. On the third day, a man showed up from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. When he reached David, he fell to the ground, bowing low out of respect. "Where have you come from?" David asked him. "I've escaped from the Israelite army!" he answered. "What's the report?" David asked him. "Tell me!" The man answered, "The troops fled from the battle! Many of the soldiers have fallen and died. What's more, Saul and his son Jonathan have also died!" "How do you know," David asked the young man who brought the news, "that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" The young man who brought the news replied, "I just happened to be on Mount Gilboa and Saul was there, leaning on his spear, with chariots and horsemen closing in on him. He turned around and saw me, then he called to me. 'Yes, sir,' I answered. 'Who are you?' he asked, and I told him, 'I'm an Amalekite.' He said to me, 'Please come over here and kill me, because convulsions have come over me but I'm still alive.' So I went over to him and killed him, because I knew he couldn't survive after being wounded like that. I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet that was on his arm, and I've brought them here to you, my master."

Then David grabbed his clothes and ripped them—and all his soldiers did the same. They mourned and cried and fasted until evening for Saul, his son Jonathan, the LORD's army, and the whole house of Israel, because they had died by the sword. "Where are you from?" David asked the young man who brought him the news. "I'm the son of an immigrant," he answered. "An Amalekite." Then David said to him, "How is it that you weren't afraid to raise your hand and destroy the LORD's anointed?" Then David called for one of the young servants. "Come here!" he said. "Strike him down!" So the servant struck the Amalekite down, and he died. "Your blood is on your own head," David said to the Amalekite, "because your own mouth testified against you when you admitted, 'I killed the LORD's anointed.'" Then David sang this funeral song for Saul and his son Jonathan. David ordered everyone in Judah to learn the Song of the Bow. (In fact, it is written in the scroll from Jashar.)

Oh, no, Israel! Your prince lies dead on your heights.  
Look how the mighty warriors have fallen!  
Don't talk about it in Gath;  
don't bring news of it to Ashkelon's streets,  
or else the Philistines' daughters will rejoice;  
the daughters of the uncircumcised will celebrate.  
You hills of Gilboa!  
Let there be no dew or rain on you,  
and no fields yielding grain offerings.  
Because it was there that the mighty warrior's shield was defiled—  
the shield of Saul!—never again anointed with oil.

Jonathan's bow never wavered from the blood of the slain,  
from the gore of the warriors.  
Never did Saul's sword return empty.  
Saul and Jonathan! So well loved, so dearly cherished!  
In their lives and in their deaths they were never separated.  
They were faster than eagles,  
stronger than lions!

Daughters of Israel, weep over Saul!  
 He dressed you in crimson with jewels;  
 he decorated your clothes with gold jewelry.  
 Look how the mighty warriors have fallen in the midst of battle!  
 Jonathan lies dead on your heights.  
 I grieve for you, my brother Jonathan!  
 You were so dear to me!  
 Your love was more amazing to me than the love of women.  
 Look how the mighty warriors have fallen!  
 Look how the weapons of war have been destroyed!

Some time later, David questioned the LORD, “Should I go to one of the towns in Judah?” “Yes, go,” the LORD told him. “Which one should I go to?” David asked. “To Hebron,” the LORD replied. So David went there, along with his two wives: Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail, Nabal’s widow, from Carmel. David also took the soldiers who were with him, each with his family, and they lived in the towns around Hebron. Then the people of Judah came to Hebron and anointed David king over the house of Judah.

When David was informed that it was the people of Jabesh-gilead who had buried Saul, he sent messengers to the people of Jabesh-gilead. “The LORD bless you,” he said to them, “for doing this loyal deed for your master Saul by burying him. May the LORD now show you loyal love and faithfulness. I myself will also reward you because you did this. So now take courage and be brave—yes, your master Saul is dead, but the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.”



**During this time, the lands that the Israelites had settled composed two kingdoms, Judah (in the south) and Israel (in the north). David was crowned king of Judah, but not of Israel...**

Israel’s King Ishbosheth: Meanwhile, Abner, Ner’s son, the commander of Saul’s army, had taken Ishbosheth, Saul’s son, and brought him over to Mahanaim. There he made him king over Gilead, the Geshurites, Jezreel, Ephraim, and Benjamin—over all Israel. Saul’s son Ishbosheth was 40 years old when he became king over Israel, and he ruled for two years.

The house of Judah, however, followed David. The amount of time David ruled in Hebron over the house of Judah totaled seven and a half years.

**Conflict between Judah and Israel:** Abner, Ner’s son, along with the soldiers of Ishbosheth, Saul’s son, left Mahanaim to go to Gibeon. Joab, Zeruiah’s son, and David’s soldiers also came out and confronted them at the pool of Gibeon. One group sat on one side of the pool; the other sat on the opposite side of the pool. Abner said to Joab, “Let’s have the young men fight in a contest before us.” “All right,” Joab said, “let’s do it.” So the men came forward and were counted as they passed by: twelve for Benjamin and Ishbosheth, Saul’s son; and twelve of David’s soldiers. Each man grabbed his opponent by the head and stuck his sword into his opponent’s side so that they both fell dead together. That’s why that place is called The Field of Daggers, which is located in Gibeon. A fierce battle took place that day, and Abner and the Israelite troops were defeated by David’s soldiers.

Now Zeruiah’s (JUDAH) three sons were present at the battle: Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. Asahel (JUDAH) was as fast as a gazelle in an open field. Asahel went after Abner (ISRAEL), staying completely focused in his pursuit of Abner. Abner looked behind him and said, “Is that you, Asahel?” “Yes, it’s me,” Asahel answered. “Break off your pursuit!” Abner told him. “Fight one of the young warriors and take his gear for yourself!” But Asahel wouldn’t stop chasing him. So Abner repeated himself to Asahel: “Stop chasing me. Why should I kill you? How could I look your brother Joab in the face?” But Asahel wouldn’t turn back, so Abner hit him in the stomach with the back end of his spear. But the spear went through Asahel’s back. He fell down and died right there. Everyone who came to the place where Asahel had fallen

and died just stood there, but Joab and Abishai (Asahel's brothers) went after Abner. The sun was setting when they came to the hill of Ammah, which faces Giah on the road to the Gibeon wilderness. The Benjaminites rallied behind Abner, forming a single unit. Then they took their positions on the top of a hill. Abner yelled down to Joab, "Must the sword keep killing forever? Don't you realize that this will end bitterly? How long before you order the troops to stop chasing their brothers?" "As surely as God lives," Joab replied, "if you hadn't just said that, the soldiers would have continued after their brothers until morning." Joab blew the trumpet, and all the soldiers stopped. They didn't pursue Israel anymore, nor did they continue to fight.

Abner and his men then marched all night through the wilderness, crossing the Jordan River and marching all morning until they got to Mahanaim. Joab, meanwhile, returned from pursuing Abner and assembled the troops. Nineteen of David's soldiers were counted missing in addition to Asahel. But David's soldiers had defeated the Benjaminites, killing three hundred sixty of Abner's soldiers. They took Asahel and buried him in his father's tomb in Bethlehem. Then Joab and his men marched all night. When daylight came, they were in Hebron. The war between Saul's house (ISRAEL) and David's house (JUDAH) was long and drawn out. David kept getting stronger, while Saul's house kept getting weaker.

**David's family:** David's sons were born in Hebron. His oldest son was Amnon, by Ahinoam from Jezreel; the second was Chileab, by Abigail, Nabal's widow from Carmel; the third was Absalom, by Maacah, who was the daughter of Geshur's King Talmai; the fourth was Adonijah, by Haggith; the fifth was Shephatiah, by Abital; and the sixth was Ithream, by David's wife Eglah. These are David's sons that were born in Hebron.

*This is David's family born to him in Hebron: the oldest Amnon, with Ahinoam the Jezreelite; the second Daniel, with Abigail the Carmelite; the third Absalom son of Maacah, the daughter of Geshur's King Talmai; the fourth Adonijah, Haggith's son; the fifth Shephatiah, with Abital; the sixth Ithream, with his wife Eglah. Six were born to him in Hebron, where he reigned for seven and a half years. He also reigned in Jerusalem for thirty-three years.*

**David's Warriors:** These are the names of David's warriors: Jeshbaal from Hachmon was chief of the Three. He raised his spear against eight hundred, killing them on a single occasion. Next in command was Eleazar, Dodo's son and Ahohi's grandson. He was among the three warriors with David when they insulted the Philistines who had gathered there for battle. The Israelites retreated, but he stood his ground and fought the Philistines until his hand was weary and stuck to the sword. But the LORD accomplished a great victory that day. The troops then returned to Eleazar, but only to plunder the dead. Next in command was Agee's son Shammah, who was from Harar. The Philistines had gathered at Lehi, where there was a plot of land full of lentils. The troops fled from the Philistines, but Shammah took a position in the middle of the plot, defended it, and struck down the Philistines. The LORD accomplished a great victory.

At harvesttime, three of the thirty chiefs went down and joined David at the fortress of Adullam, while a force of Philistines were camped in the Rephaim Valley. At that time, David was in the fortress, and a Philistine fort was in Bethlehem. David had a craving and said, "If only someone could give me a drink of water from the well by the gate in Bethlehem." So the three warriors broke through the Philistine camp and drew water from the well by the gate in Bethlehem and brought it back to David. But he refused to drink it and poured it out to the LORD. "The LORD forbid that I should do that," he said. "Isn't this the blood of men who risked their lives?" So he refused to drink it.

**A similar account is told in 1 Chronicles...** *These are the commanders of David's warriors who continued to support him while he was king. Together with all Israel, they made him king, as the LORD had promised Israel. This is the list of David's warriors: Jashobeam, a Hacmonite, was commander of the Thirty. He raised his spear against eight hundred, killing them on a single occasion. Next in command came Eleazar, Dodo's son the Ahohite, who was one of the three warriors. He was with David at Pas-dammim. The Philistines were gathered there for battle, where part of a field was full of barley. When the people ran away from the Philistines, he and David stood in the middle of the field, held their ground, and defeated the Philistines. So the LORD achieved a great victory. Three of the thirty commanders went down from the rock to David at the fortress of Adullam, while the army of the Philistines camped in the Rephaim Valley. At that time David was in the fortress, and a Philistine fort was in Bethlehem. David had a craving and said, "If only someone could give me a drink of water from the well by the gate in Bethlehem." So the three warriors broke through the Philistine camp and drew water from the well by the gate in Bethlehem and brought it back to David. But he refused to drink it and poured it out to*

the LORD. "God forbid that I should do that," he said. "Isn't this the blood of men who risked their lives?" So he refused to drink it. Since they had brought it at the risk of their lives, David refused to drink it.

These were the kinds of things the three warriors did. Now Zeruiah's son Abishai, the brother of Joab, was chief of the Thirty. He raised his spear against three hundred men, killed them, and made a name for himself along with the Three. He was the most famous of the Thirty. He became their commander, but he wasn't among the Three. Jehoiada's son Benaiah was a hero from Kabzeel who performed great deeds. He killed the two sons of Ariel from Moab. He once went down into a pit and killed a lion on a snowy day. He also killed a giant Egyptian who had a spear in his hand. Benaiah went against him armed with a staff. He grabbed the spear out of the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear. These were the kinds of things Jehoiada's son Benaiah did. He made a name for himself along with the three warriors. He was famous among the Thirty, but he didn't become one of the Three. David placed him in command of his own bodyguard.

Among the Thirty were: Asahel, Joab's brother; Elhanan, Dodo's son from Bethlehem; Shammah from Harod; Erika from Harod; Helez from Pelet; Ira, Ikkesh's son from Tekoa; Abiezer from Anathoth; Mebunnai the Hushathite; Zalmon from Ahoh; Maharai from Netophah; Heleb, Baanah's son from Netophah; Ittai, Ribai's son from Gibeah in Benjamin; Benaiah from Pirathon; Hiddai from the Gaash ravines; Abi-albon from the desert plain; Azmaveth from Bahurim; Eliahba from Shaalbon; Jashen the Gizonite; Jonathan, Shammah's son from Harar; Ahiam, Sharar's son from Harar; Eliphelet, Ahasbai's son from Maacah; Eliam, Ahithophel's son from Giloh; Hezro from Carmel; Paarai from Erab; Igal, Nathan's son from Zobah; Bani the Gadite; Zelek the Ammonite; Naharai from Beeroth, and the armor-bearer for Zeruiah's son Joab; Ira from Ither; Gaeb from Ither; and Uriah the Hittite—thirty-seven in all. **(note: remember Uriah the Hittite, he comes up later in an important event in David's life)**

*These were the kinds of things the three warriors did. Abishai, Joab's brother, was chief of the Thirty. He raised his spear against the three hundred men he had slain, but he wasn't considered one of the Three. He was the most famous of the Thirty. He became their commander, but he wasn't among the Three. Benaiah, Jehoiada's son from Kabzeel, was a hero who performed great deeds. He killed two of Moab's leaders, and on a snowy day went down into a pit where he killed a lion. He also killed an Egyptian seven and a half feet tall, who was holding a spear like a weaver's beam. Benaiah went down to him with a club, grabbed the spear from the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with it. These were the exploits of Benaiah, Jehoiada's son; he wasn't considered one of the three warriors. He was famous among the Thirty, but didn't become one of the Three. David placed him in command of his own bodyguard.*

*The mighty warriors: Asahel, Joab's brother; Elhanan, Dodo's son from Bethlehem; Shammoth from Haror; Helez from Pelon; Ira, Ikkesh's son from Tekoa; Abiezer from Anathoth; Sibbecai the Hushathite; Ilai from Ahoh; Maharai from Netophah; Heled, Baanah's son from Netophah; Ithai, Ribai's son from Gibeah of the Benjaminites; Benaiah from Pirathon; Hurai from the Gaash ravines; Abiel the Arbathite; Azmaveth from Baharum; Eliahba from Shaalbon; Hashem the Gizonite; Jonathan, Shagee's son from Harar; Ahiam, Sachar's son from Harar; Eliphal, Ur's son; Hopher the Mecherathite; Ahijah the Pelonite; Hezro from Carmel; Naarai, Ezbai's son; Joel, Nathan's brother; Mibhar, Hagri's son; Zelek the Ammonite; Naharai from Beeroth, Zeruiah's son and the armor-bearer for Joab; Ira from Ither; Gareb from Ither; Uriah the Hittite; Zabad, Ahlai's son; Adina son of Shiza the Reubenite, a leader of the Reubenites, and thirty with him; Hanan, Maacah's son; Joshaphat the Mithnite; Uzzia the Ashterathite; Shama and Jeiel the sons of Hotham the Aroerite; Jediael, Shimri's son, and his brother Joha the Tizite; Eliel the Mahavite; Jeribai and Joshaviah, Elnaam's sons; Ithmah the Moabite; Eliel, Obed, and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.*



Throughout the war between Saul's house and David's house, Abner was gaining power in Saul's house. Now Saul had a secondary wife named Rizpah, Aiah's daughter. Ishbosheth said to Abner, "Why have you had sex with my father's secondary wife?" Abner got very angry over what Ishbosheth had said. "Am I some sort of dog's head?" Abner asked. "I've been nothing but loyal to the house of your father Saul and to his brothers and his friends. I haven't handed you over to David, but today you accuse me of doing something wrong with this woman. May God deal harshly with me, Abner, and worse still if I don't do for David exactly what the LORD swore to him— removing the kingdom from Saul's house and securing David's throne over Israel and over Judah, from Dan all the way to Beer-sheba!"

Ishbosheth couldn't say a single word in reply to Abner because he was afraid of him. Abner sent messengers to represent him to David and to say, "Who will own the land? Make a covenant with me, then I'll help bring all Israel over to your side." "Good!" David replied. "I will make a covenant with you, but on one condition: don't show yourself in my presence unless you bring Saul's daughter Michal when you come to see me." Then David sent messengers to Saul's son Ishbosheth. "Give me my wife Michal," he demanded. "I became engaged to her at the cost of one hundred Philistine foreskins." Ishbosheth then sent for Michal and took her from her husband Paltiel, Laish's son. Her husband went with her all the way to Bahurim, crying as he followed her. "Go home!" Abner told him. So he went home.

Abner then sent word to Israel's elders. "You've wanted David to be your king for some time now," he said. "It's time to act because the LORD has said about David: I will rescue my people Israel from the power of the Philistines and all their enemies through my servant David." Abner also spoke directly to the Benjaminites. He then went to inform David in person at Hebron regarding everything that all Israel and the house of Benjamin were willing to do.

When Abner, along with twenty others, reached David at Hebron, David threw a celebration for Abner and his men. Then Abner said to David, "Please let me get going so I can assemble all Israel for my master the king. Then they can make a covenant with you, and you will rule over everything your heart desires." At that, David sent Abner off in peace.

Right then, David's soldiers and Joab returned from a raid, bringing a great deal of loot with them. Abner was no longer with David in Hebron because David had sent him off in peace. When Joab and all the troops with him returned, Joab was told that Abner, Ner's son, had come to the king and that David had sent him off in peace. Joab went to the king and asked, "What have you done? Abner came to you here! Why did you send him off? Now he's gotten away! Don't you know the evil ways of Abner, Ner's son? He came to trick you, to find out where you come and go, and to learn everything you do!"

Joab left David and sent messengers after Abner. They brought him back from the well at Sirah, but David didn't know anything of this. When Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside next to the gate to speak with him in private. But instead Joab stabbed Abner in the stomach, and he died for shedding the blood of Asahel, Joab's brother. When David heard about this later, he said, "I and my kingdom are forever innocent before the LORD concerning the shedding of the blood of Abner, Ner's son. May it fall upon the head of Joab and his entire family tree! May Joab's family never be without someone with a discharge or a skin disease, someone who uses a crutch, someone who dies by the sword, or someone who is hungry!" So that is how Joab and his brother Abishai murdered Abner, because he killed their brother Asahel in the battle at Gibeon.

Then David ordered Joab and all the troops who were with him, "Tear your clothes and put on funeral clothes! Mourn for Abner!" King David himself walked behind the body. They buried Abner in Hebron. The king wept loudly at Abner's grave. All the troops cried too. Then the king sang this funeral song for Abner: "Should Abner have died like a fool dies? Your hands weren't bound, your feet weren't chained, but you have fallen like someone falls before the wicked." Then the troops cried over Abner again.

Then all the soldiers came to urge David to eat something while it was still day, but David swore, "May God deal harshly with me and worse still if I eat bread or anything else before the sun goes down." All the troops took notice of this and were pleased by it. Indeed, everything that the king did pleased them. So on that day all the troops and all Israel knew that it wasn't the king's idea to kill Abner, Ner's son. The king told his soldiers, "Don't you know that a prince and a great man in Israel has fallen today? And today, though I am the anointed king, I am weak. These men, Zeruiah's sons, are too strong for me. May the LORD repay the one who does evil according to the evil they did!"

**Ishbosheth murdered:** When Ishbosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost his courage, and all Israel was alarmed. Saul's son had two men who led the raiding parties—one was named Baanah and the other Rechab. Both were sons of Rimmon, a Benjaminite from Beeroth. (Beeroth was considered part of Benjamin. The people of Beeroth had fled to Gittaim and even now live there as immigrants.)

Now Saul's son Jonathan had a boy whose feet were crippled. He was only 5 years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and so his nurse snatched him up and fled. But as she hurried to get away, he fell and was injured. His name was Mephibosheth.

Rechab and Baanah, the sons of Rimmon from Beeroth, set out and reached Ishbosheth's house at the heat of the day, right when he was lying down, taking an afternoon rest. They went straight into his house, as if getting wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and his brother Baanah escaped. They had entered the house while Ishbosheth was lying on the bed in his bedroom. After they stabbed him and killed him, they cut off his head, took it, and traveled all night through the wilderness. They brought Ishbosheth's head to David at Hebron. "Here is the head of Ishbosheth," they told the king, "the son of Saul your enemy, who wanted you dead. Today the LORD has avenged our master the king on Saul and his descendants." David answered Rechab and his brother Baanah, the sons of Rimmon from Beeroth, "As surely as the LORD lives, who has rescued me from all kinds of trouble," he told them, "when someone told me Saul was dead back in Ziklag, thinking he was bringing good news, I grabbed him and killed him. That was the reward I gave him for his news! What do you think I'll do when evil people kill a righteous person in his own house on his own bed? Why shouldn't I demand his blood from your hands and rid the earth of you both?" So David gave the order to his servants, and they killed Rechab and Baanah, cutting off their hands and feet and hanging them up by the pool at Hebron. But they took Ishbosheth's head and buried it in the grave of Abner at Hebron.

**David becomes king of Israel and Judah:** All the Israelite tribes came to David at Hebron and said, "Listen: We are your very own flesh and bone. In the past, when Saul ruled over us, you were the one who led Israel out to war and back. What's more, the LORD told you, You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will be Israel's leader. So all the Israelite elders came to the king at Hebron. King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was 30 years old when he became king, and he ruled for forty years. He ruled over Judah for seven and a half years in Hebron. He ruled thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah in Jerusalem.

*All the Israelites gathered around David at Hebron. "We're your own flesh and blood," they said. "In the past, even when Saul ruled over us, you were the one who led Israel. The LORD your God told you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become a leader over my people Israel.'" So all of Israel's elders came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them before the LORD. They anointed David to make him king over Israel, just as the LORD had promised through Samuel.*

*These are the numbers of the commanders of those armed for battle who came to David in Hebron to make sure he took over Saul's kingdom, according to the LORD's word:*

- *from Judah, carrying shield and spear, 6,800 troops armed for battle*
- *from Simeon, mighty warriors, 7,100*
- *from Levi, 4,600*
- *also Jehoiada, leader of Aaron's line, and with him 3,700*
- *and Zadok, a young man, a mighty warrior, and 22 officers from his household*
- *from Benjamin, Saul's relatives, 3,000, most of whom had been loyal to Saul's household*
- *from Ephraim, 20,800, mighty warriors, famous in their households*
- *from half the tribe of Manasseh, 18,000, designated by name to come and make David king*
- *from Issachar, those who understood the times and what Israel should do, 200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command*
- *from Zebulun, 50,000 experienced troops, armed for battle with all the weapons of war, to help with undivided loyalty*
- *from Naphtali, 1,000 officers, as well as 37,000 armed with shield and spear*
- *from Dan, 28,600 armed for battle*



- *from Asher, 40,000 experienced troops armed for battle*
- *from the other side of the Jordan, the Reubenites, Gadites, and the other half of the tribe of Manasseh, 120,000 armed with all the weapons of war.*

*All these men of war, armed for battle, came to Hebron determined to make David king over all Israel, and all the rest of Israel were fully agreed to make David king. They were there with David for three days, eating and drinking, while their relatives provided food for them. Even their neighbors from as far away as Issachar, Zebulun, and Naphtali were bringing food by donkeys, camels, mules, and oxen. There was an abundance of flour, fig cakes, clusters of raisins, wine, oil, oxen, and sheep, because Israel was joyful.*

**David defeats the Philistines:** When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they all marched up to find him, but David heard of it and went down to the fortress. The Philistines arrived and spread out over the Rephaim Valley. David asked the LORD, “Should I attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?” “Attack them,” the LORD replied, “because I will definitely hand the Philistines over to you.” So David arrived at Baal-perazim and defeated the Philistines there. He said, “The LORD has burst out against my enemies, the way water bursts out!” That is why that place is called Baal-perazim. The Philistines left their divine images behind, and David and his men carried them off.

Once again the Philistines came up and spread out across the Rephaim Valley. When David asked the LORD, God replied, “Don’t attack them directly. Circle around behind them and come at them from in front of the balsam trees. As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the trees, then attack, for God has attacked in front of you to defeat the Philistine army.” David followed God’s orders exactly, and they defeated the Philistine army from Gibeon all the way to Gezer.

*When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, they all marched up to find him. David heard this and went out to confront them. The Philistines had invaded and were plundering the Rephaim Valley. David asked God for advice: “Should I attack the Philistines, and will you hand them over to me?” The LORD answered, “Attack them, and I’ll definitely hand them over to you.” So they marched up to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. “By my strength,” David exclaimed, “God has burst out against my enemies, the way water bursts out.” That’s why the place is called Baal-perazim. The Philistines left their divine images behind, and David ordered them burned.*

*When the Philistines plundered the valley a second time, David again asked God’s advice, but God answered, “Don’t attack them directly. Circle around behind them and come at them from in front of the balsam trees. As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the trees, then attack, for God has attacked in front of you to defeat the Philistine army.” David followed God’s orders exactly, and they defeated the Philistine army from Gibeon all the way to Gezer. David’s fame spread throughout all lands, and the LORD made all the nations fear him.*

**Jerusalem is captured and becomes “The City of David”** The king and his troops marched on Jerusalem against the Jebusites, who inhabited the territory. The Jebusites said to David, “You’ll never get us in here! Even the blind and the lame will beat you back!” “David will never enter here,” they said to each other. But David did capture the fortress of Zion—which became David’s City. “On that day,” David said, “whoever attacks the Jebusites should strike the windpipe because David hates the lame and the blind.” That is why people say, “The blind and the lame will not enter the temple.” David occupied the fortress, so it was renamed David’s City. David built a city around it from the earthen terraces inward. David grew increasingly powerful, and the LORD of heavenly forces was with him.

*Then David and all Israel marched to Jerusalem, that is, Jebus, where the Jebusites lived. The people who lived in Jebus told David, “You’ll never get in here!” But David captured the mountain fortress of Zion, which became David’s City. David had said, “The first one to kill a Jebusite will become commander in chief!” Joab, Zeruiah’s son, was the first to attack and so became commander in chief. David occupied the fortress, so it was renamed David’s City. He also built up*

*the city on all sides, including its own foundations and the surrounding areas, while Joab restored the rest of the city. David grew increasingly powerful, and the LORD of heavenly forces was with him.*

*Six children were born to David in Hebron, where he reigned for seven and a half years. He also reigned in Jerusalem for thirty-three years. (1 Chronicles 3:4)*

After he left Hebron, David married more secondary wives in Jerusalem and fathered more sons and daughters.

David was 30 years old when he became king, and he ruled for forty years. He ruled over Judah for seven and a half years in Hebron. He ruled thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah in Jerusalem.

Tyre's King Hiram sent messengers to David with cedar logs, bricklayers, and carpenters to build David a palace. Then David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that his kingship was held in great honor for the sake of his people Israel.

*Tyre's King Hiram sent messengers to David with cedar logs, bricklayers, and carpenters to build David a palace. Then David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that his kingship was held in great honor for the sake of his people Israel.*



### **Bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (the City of David)**

*After consulting with the captains of the units of a thousand and a hundred, in fact with every leader, David said to the entire Israelite assembly: "If you approve, and if the LORD our God agrees, let's spread the word to the rest of our relatives in all the regions of Israel, including the priests and Levites in their cities with pasturelands. Let's ask them to join us so that we may bring the chest of our God back to us, because we didn't look for it in Saul's days." The whole assembly agreed to do so,*

*because all the people thought it was the right thing to do. So David assembled all Israel, from the border of Egypt to Lebo-hamath in order to bring up God's chest from Kiriath-jearim.*

David assembled the select warriors of Israel, thirty thousand strong. David and all the troops who were with him set out for Baalah, which is Kiriath-jearim of Judah, to bring God's chest up from there—the chest that is called by the name of the LORD of heavenly forces, who sits enthroned on the winged creatures. They loaded God's chest on a new cart and carried it from Abinadab's house, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadab's sons, were driving the new cart. Uzzah was beside God's chest while Ahio was walking in front of it. Meanwhile, David and the entire house of Israel celebrated in the LORD's presence with all their strength, with songs, zithers, harps, tambourines, rattles, and cymbals.

When they approached Nacon's threshing floor, Uzzah reached out to God's chest and grabbed it because the oxen had stumbled. The LORD became angry at Uzzah, and God struck him there because of his mistake, and he died there next to God's chest. Then David got angry because the LORD's anger lashed out against Uzzah, and so that place is called Perez-uzzah today. David was frightened by the LORD that day. "How will I ever bring the LORD's chest to me?" he asked. So David didn't take the chest away with him to David's City. Instead, he had it put in the house of Obed-edom, who was from Gath. The LORD's chest stayed with Obed-edom's household in Gath for three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-edom's household and all that he had.

*Then David and all Israel went up toward Baalah, to Kiriath-jearim, which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the chest of God, the LORD, who sits enthroned on the winged creatures, where he is called by name. They moved God's chest on a new cart from Abinadab's house. Uzzah and Ahio were guiding the cart, while David and all Israel celebrated in God's presence with all their strength, accompanied by songs, zithers, harps, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets. When they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzzah reached out to the chest and grabbed it because the oxen had stumbled. But the LORD became angry with Uzzah and struck him because he had placed his hand on the chest. He died right there before God. David was angry that the LORD lashed out at Uzzah; and so that place is still called Perez-uzzah today. David was frightened by God that day. "How will I ever bring God's chest home to me?" he asked. So David didn't take the chest away with him to David's City. Instead, he had it put in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. God's chest stayed with Obed-edom's household for three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-edom's household and all that he had.*

King David was told, "The LORD has blessed Obed-edom's family and everything he has because of God's chest being there." So David went and brought God's chest up from Obed-edom's house to David's City with celebration.

*After he had built houses for himself in David's City, David prepared a place for God's chest and pitched a tent for it. David said, "Only the Levites may carry God's chest, because the LORD has chosen them to carry the LORD's chest and to minister to him forever." David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring the LORD's chest to the place he had prepared for it. David also gathered Aaron's family and the Levites: Uriel, the leader of Kohath's family, and 120 of his relatives; Asaiah, the leader of Merari's family, and 220 of his relatives; Joel, the leader of Gershon's family, and 130 of his relatives; Shemaiah, the leader of Elizaphan's family, and 200 of his relatives; Eliel, the leader of Hebron's family, and 80 of his relatives; and Amminadab, the leader of Uzziel's family, and 112 of his relatives.*

*David called for the priests Zadok and Abiathar, and the Levites Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. He said to them, "You are the household heads of the Levites. Make yourselves holy, you and your brothers, and then bring the chest of the LORD, Israel's God, to the place I've prepared for it. When you weren't with us the first time, the LORD our God burst out against us because we didn't ask his advice properly." So the priests and the Levites made themselves holy to bring up the chest of the LORD, Israel's God. The Levites carried God's chest with poles on their shoulders, just as Moses had commanded according to the LORD's word. Then David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint some of their relatives as singers to raise their voices joyfully, accompanied by musical instruments, including harps, lyres, and cymbals.*

*So the Levites appointed Heman, Joel's son; and from his relatives, Asaph, Berechiah's son; and from their Merarite relatives, Ethan, Kushaiah's son; and second in rank with them their relatives: Zechariah, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, and Obed-edom and Jeiel the gatekeepers.*

*The singers Heman, Asaph, and Ethan were to make music with bronze cymbals. Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah were to play harps tuned to the Alamoth. Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah were to lead with lyres tuned to the Sheminith. Chenaniah was leader of the Levites who provided transportation, because he was skilled at it. Berechiah and Elkanah were gatekeepers for the chest. The priests Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer were to blow the trumpets before God's chest. Obed-edom and Jehiah also were to be gatekeepers for the chest.*

*Then David, along with Israel's elders and the captains of the thousands, went with rejoicing to bring up the chest containing the LORD's covenant from Obed-edom's house. Since God had helped the Levites who were carrying the chest containing the LORD's covenant, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams. David wore a fine-linen robe, as did the singers, all the Levites who were carrying the chest, and Chenaniah, the leader of transportation. David also wore a linen priestly vest. So all Israel brought up the chest containing the LORD's covenant with shouts of joy, accompanied by the blast of the ram's horn, by trumpets and cymbals, and playing on harps and lyres. As the chest containing the LORD's covenant entered David's City, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked out the window. When she saw King David leaping and dancing, she lost all respect for him.*

**This is also summarized in 2 Samuel...** King David was told, "The LORD has blessed Obed-edom's family and everything he has because of God's chest being there." So David went and brought God's chest up from Obed-edom's house to David's City with celebration. Whenever those bearing the chest advanced six steps, David sacrificed an ox and a fattling calf. David, dressed in a linen priestly vest, danced with all his strength before the LORD. This is how David and the entire house of Israel brought up the LORD's chest with shouts and trumpet blasts. As the LORD's chest entered David's City, Saul's daughter Michal was watching from a window. She saw King David jumping and dancing before the LORD, and she lost all respect for him.

The LORD's chest was brought in and put in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it. Then David offered entirely burned offerings in the LORD's presence in addition to well-being sacrifices. When David finished offering the entirely burned offerings and the well-being sacrifices, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of heavenly

forces. He distributed food among all the people of Israel—to the whole crowd, male and female—each receiving a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake. Then all the people went back to their homes.

*They brought in God's chest and placed it inside the tent David had pitched for it. Then they brought entirely burned offerings and well-being sacrifices before God. When David had finished offering the entirely burned offerings and the well-being sacrifices, he blessed the people in the LORD's name and distributed a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a raisin cake to every Israelite man and woman. David appointed some of the Levites to serve before the LORD's chest in order to remember, to give thanks, and to praise the LORD, Israel's God: Asaph was the leader, and Zechariah his assistant; also Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom, and Jeiel with harps and lyres; Asaph sounding the cymbals; and the priests Benaiah and Jahaziel blowing trumpets regularly before the chest containing God's covenant. On the same day, for the first time, David ordered Asaph and his relatives to give thanks to the LORD.*

David sang this song of praise:

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;  
make his deeds known to all people!  
Sing to God, sing praises to him;  
dwell on all his wondrous works!  
Give praise to God's holy name!  
Let the hearts of all those seeking the LORD rejoice!  
Pursue the LORD and his strength;  
seek his face always!  
Remember the wondrous works he has done,  
all his marvelous works,  
and the justice he declared—  
you who are the offspring of Israel, his servant,  
and the children of Jacob, his chosen ones.  
The LORD—he is our God.  
His justice is everywhere throughout the whole world.  
God remembers his covenant forever,  
the word he commanded to a thousand generations,  
which he made with Abraham,  
the solemn pledge he swore to Isaac.  
God set it up as binding law for Jacob,  
as an eternal covenant for Israel,  
promising, "I hereby give you the land of Canaan  
as your allotted inheritance."  
When they were few in number—  
insignificant, just immigrants—  
wandering from nation to nation,  
from one kingdom to the next,  
God didn't let anyone oppress them.  
God punished kings for their sake:  
"Don't touch my anointed ones;  
don't harm my prophets!"  
Sing to the LORD, all the earth!  
Share the news of his saving work every single day!  
Declare God's glory among the nations;  
declare his wondrous works among all people  
because the LORD is great and so worthy of praise.  
He is awesome beyond all other gods  
because all the gods of the nations are just idols,  
but it is the LORD who created heaven!

Greatness and grandeur are in front of him;  
 strength and joy are in his place.  
 Give to the LORD, all families of the nations—  
 give to the LORD glory and power!  
 Give to the LORD the glory due his name!  
 Bring gifts! Enter his presence!  
 Bow down to the LORD  
 in his holy splendor!  
 Tremble before him, all the earth!  
 Yes, he set the world firmly in place;  
 it won't be shaken.  
 Let heaven celebrate!  
 Let the earth rejoice!  
 Let the nations say, "The LORD rules!"

Let the sea and everything in it roar!  
 Let the countryside and everything in it celebrate!  
 Then the trees of the forest will shout out joyfully  
 before the LORD, because he is coming  
 to establish justice on earth!  
 Give thanks to the LORD because he is good,  
 because his faithful love endures forever.  
 Say: "Save us, God, our savior!  
 Gather us! Deliver us from among the nations  
 so we can give thanks to your holy name  
 and rejoice in your praise."  
 Bless the LORD, Israel's God,  
 from forever in the past to forever always.  
 And let all the people say, "Amen!"  
 Praise the LORD!

Then David placed Asaph and his relatives, together with Obed-edom and sixty-eight of his relatives, to minister there continually before the chest containing the LORD's covenant, following the routines required on each day. Obed-edom, Jeduthun's son, and Hosah served as gatekeepers. David also placed the priest Zadok and his other priestly relatives at the LORD's dwelling at the shrine in Gibeon. They were to offer continually, both morning and evening, entirely burned offerings to the LORD on the altar for entirely burned offerings, following the written requirements in the LORD's Instruction, which he had given Israel. With them were Heman and Jeduthun and the rest of those chosen by name to give thanks to the LORD, because his faithful love lasts forever. With them were also the trumpets and the cymbals for the musicians and the instruments for God's songs. Jeduthun's family was at the gate. Then all of the people left for their homes. And David returned to bless his household.



**David now has all of Judah and Israel under his reign. He has a palace in Jerusalem; he has brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and reestablished worship of the Lord according to God's law.**

When the king was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "Look! I'm living in a cedar palace, but God's chest is housed in a tent!" Nathan said to the king, "Go ahead and do whatever you are thinking, because the LORD is with you."

But that very night the LORD's word came to Nathan: Go to my servant David and tell him:

This is what the LORD says: You are not the one to build the temple for me to live in. In fact, I haven't lived in a temple from the day I brought Israel out of Egypt until now. Instead, I have been traveling around in a

tent and in a dwelling. Throughout my traveling around with the Israelites, did I ever ask any of Israel's tribal leaders I appointed to shepherd my people: Why haven't you built me a cedar temple? So then, say this to my servant David: This is what the LORD of heavenly forces says: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be leader over my people Israel. I've been with you wherever you've gone, and I've eliminated all your enemies before you. Now I will make your name great—like the name of the greatest people on earth. I'm going to provide a place for my people Israel, and plant them so that they may live there and no longer be disturbed. Cruel people will no longer trouble them, as they had been earlier, when I appointed leaders over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. And the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make a dynasty for you. When the time comes for you to die and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your descendant—one of your very own children—to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. He will build a temple for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever. I will be a father to him, and he will be a son to me. Whenever he does wrong, I will discipline him with a human rod, with blows from human beings. But I will never take my faithful love away from him like I took it away from Saul, whom I set aside in favor of you. Your dynasty and your kingdom will be secured forever before me. Your throne will be established forever. **(THIS IS THE COVENANT GOD MADE WITH DAVID- IT IS VERY IMPORTANT!!)**

Nathan reported all of these words and this entire vision to David.

*When David was settled into his palace, he said to the prophet Nathan, "I'm living in a cedar palace while the chest containing the LORD's covenant is under curtains." Nathan replied, "Go ahead and do whatever you are thinking, because God is with you."*

*But that very night God's word came to Nathan: Go to my servant David and tell him, This is what the LORD says: You are not the one to build the temple for me to live in. In fact, I haven't lived in a temple from the day I brought Israel out until this very day. I've been traveling from tent to tent and from dwelling to dwelling. Throughout my traveling with the Israelites, did I ever ask one of Israel's tribal leaders, whom I appointed to shepherd my people, Why haven't you built me a cedar temple? So then, say this to my servant David: This is what the LORD of heavenly forces says: I myself took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be leader over my people Israel. I've been with you wherever you've gone. I've eliminated all your enemies before you. Now I will make your name great—like the name of the greatest people on earth. I'm going to provide a place for my people Israel, and plant them so that they may live there and no longer be disturbed. Cruel people will no longer trouble them as they did earlier, when I appointed judges over my people Israel. I'll subdue all your enemies and make you great. As for a dynasty, the LORD will build one for you! When the time comes for you to die, I will raise up a descendant of yours after you, one of your own sons, to succeed you, and I will establish his kingship. He is the one who will build me a temple, and I will establish his throne forever. I will become his father and he will become my son, and I'll never withdraw my faithful love from him as I did from the one before you. I'll install him in my house and in my kingdom forever, and his throne will be established forever. **(THIS IS THE COVENANT GOD MADE WITH DAVID- IT IS VERY IMPORTANT!!)***

*Nathan faithfully reported all that he had seen and heard to David.*

Then King David went and sat in the LORD's presence. He asked: Who am I, LORD God, and of what significance is my family that you have brought me this far? But even this was too small in your eyes, LORD God! Now you have also spoken about your servant's dynasty in the future and the generation to come, LORD God! What more can David say to you? You know your servant, LORD God. <sup>21</sup> For the sake of your word and according to your own will, you have done this great thing so that your servant would know it. That is why you are so great, LORD God! No one can compare to you, no god except you, just as we have always heard with our own ears. And who can compare to your people Israel? They are the one nation on earth that God redeemed as his own people, establishing his name by doing great and awesome things for them, by driving out nations and their gods before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt. You established your people Israel as your own people forever, and you, LORD, became their God. Now, LORD God, confirm forever the promise you have made about your servant and his dynasty. Do just as you have promised so that your name will be great forever when people say, "The LORD of heavenly forces is Israel's God!" May your servant David's household be established before you, because you, LORD of heavenly forces, Israel's God, have revealed to your servant that you will build a dynasty for him. That is why your servant has found the courage to pray this prayer to you. LORD God, you are truly God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. So now willingly bless your servant's dynasty so that it might continue forever before you, because you, LORD God, have promised. Let your servant's dynasty be blessed forever by your blessing.

*Then King David went and sat in the LORD's presence. He asked: Who am I, LORD God, and of what significance is my family that you have brought me this far? But even this was too small in your eyes, God. You have spoken about the future of your servant's dynasty and have chosen me as an important person, LORD God. What more can I say to you for honoring your servant? You yourself know your servant. LORD, for your servant's sake and according to your will, you have done this great thing in order to make all these great things known. LORD, no one can compare to you, no God except you, just as we have heard with our own ears. Who is like your people Israel, a unique nation on the earth, that God redeemed as his own people, establishing a name for yourself by doing great and awesome things, by driving out nations before your people whom you saved from Egypt? You established your people Israel as your own people forever, and you, LORD, became their God. Now, LORD, confirm forever the promise you have made about your servant and his dynasty. Do as you have promised so that it may be established and so that your name may be made great forever when people say, "The LORD of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, is Israel's God." May your servant David's household be established before you. You, my God, have revealed to your servant that you will build him a dynasty. That is why your servant has found the courage to pray this prayer to you. LORD, you are truly God, and you promised this good thing to your servant. So now willingly bless your servant's dynasty so that it might continue forever before you, because you, LORD God, have promised. Let your servant's dynasty be blessed forever by your blessing.*



### **Both 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles recount David's military successes...**

Some time later, David defeated the Philistines and subdued them. David captured Metheg-ammah from Philistine control. David also defeated the Moabites and made them lie on the ground, measuring them with a rope. He measured two rope lengths for those who were to be killed and one rope length for those who were to be spared. The Moabites became David's subjects and brought him tribute. Next David defeated Zobah's King Hadadezer, Rehob's son, as Hadadezer was on his way to put his monument along the Euphrates River. David captured one thousand chariots, seven hundred charioteers, and twenty thousand foot soldiers. He cut

the hamstrings of all but one hundred of the chariot horses. When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Zobah's King Hadadezer, David killed twenty-two thousand of them. David set up forts among the Arameans of Damascus. And the Arameans became David's subjects and brought him tribute. The LORD gave David victory wherever he went. David took the gold shields carried by Hadadezer's servants and brought them to Jerusalem. King David also took a large amount of bronze from Tebah and Berothai, towns that belonged to Hadadezer. When Hamath's King Toi heard that David had defeated the entire army of Hadadezer, he sent his son Joram to King David to wish him well and congratulate him on his battle and defeat of Hadadezer, because Toi was an enemy of Hadadezer. Joram brought silver, gold, and bronze objects with him. King David dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold he had dedicated from all the nations that he had subdued: Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, the Philistines, and Amalek, including the plunder of Zobah's King Hadadezer, Rehob's son. So David made a name for himself. When he returned, he killed eighteen thousand Edomites in the Salt Valley. He set up forts in Edom, and all the Edomites became David's subjects. The LORD gave David victory wherever he went. David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people. Joab son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was recorder; Zadok son of Ahitub and Ahimelek son of Abiathar were priests; Seraiah was secretary; Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the Kerethites and Pelethites; and David's sons were priests.

*Some time later, David defeated the Philistines, subdued them, and took Gath and its villages from Philistine control. He also defeated Moab, enslaving them and requiring payment. David defeated Zobah's King Hadadezer at Hamath, as he continued to establish his control along the Euphrates River. David captured one thousand chariots from him, seven thousand cavalry, and twenty thousand foot soldiers. Then David cut the hamstrings of all but one hundred of the chariot horses. When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Zobah's King Hadadezer, David killed twenty-two thousand of the Arameans. David stationed soldiers in Aram of Damascus, enslaved them, and required payment. The LORD gave David victory wherever he went. David took the gold shields carried by Hadadezer's servants and brought them to Jerusalem. From Tibhath and Cun, Hadadezer's cities, David took large amounts of bronze, with which Solomon made the bronze basin, the pillars, and the bronze equipment. When Hamath's King Tou heard that David had defeated the entire army of Zobah's King Hadadezer, he sent his son Hadoram to King David to wish him well and to congratulate him over his battle and defeat of Hadadezer, because Tou was an enemy of Hadadezer. Hadoram brought with him all kinds of gold, silver, and bronze objects. King David dedicated these to the LORD along with the silver and the gold he had taken from all these*

*nations: Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, the Philistines, and Amalek. Abishai, Zeruiah's son, struck down eighteen thousand Edomites in the Salt Valley. He stationed soldiers in Edom, and all the Edomites became David's slaves. The LORD gave David victory wherever he went. David ruled over all Israel and maintained justice and righteousness for all his people. Zeruiah's son Joab was in command of the army; Ahilud's son Jehoshaphat was recorder; Ahitub's son Zadok and Abiathar's son Ahimelech were priests; Shavsha was secretary; Jehoiada's son Benaiah was in command of the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were the king's chief personal advisors.*

## **Psalm 60**

### **A psalm of David after military victories**

You have rejected us, God, and burst upon us;  
you have been angry—now restore us!  
You have shaken the land and torn it open;  
mend its fractures, for it is quaking.

You have shown your people desperate times;  
you have given us wine that makes us stagger.  
But for those who fear you, you have raised a banner  
to be unfurled against the bow.

Save us and help us with your right hand,  
that those you love may be delivered.  
God has spoken from his sanctuary:  
“In triumph I will parcel out Shechem  
and measure off the Valley of Sukkoth.  
Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine;  
Ephraim is my helmet,  
Judah is my scepter.

Moab is my washbasin,  
on Edom I toss my sandal;  
over Philistia I shout in triumph.”

Who will bring me to the fortified city?  
Who will lead me to Edom?  
Is it not you, God, you who have now rejected us  
and no longer go out with our armies?  
Give us aid against the enemy,  
for human help is worthless.  
With God we will gain the victory,  
and he will trample down our enemies.





*The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari.*

*These are the names of the sons of Gershon: Libni and Shimei.*

*The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.*

*The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi.*

*These are the clans of the Levites listed according to their fathers:*

- *Of Gershon: Libni his son, Jahath his son, Zimmah his son, Joah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, and Jeatherai his son.*
- *The descendants of Kohath: Amminadab his son, Korah his son, Assir his son, Elkanah his son, Ebiasaph his son, Assir his son, Tahath his son, Uriel his son, Uzziyah his son and Shaul his son.*
- *The descendants of Elkanah: Amasai, Ahimoth, Elkanah his son, Zophai his son, Nahath his son, Eliab his son, Jeroham his son, Elkanah his son, and Samuel his son.*
- *The sons of Samuel: Joel the firstborn and Abijah the second son.*
- *The descendants of Merari: Mahli, Libni his son, Shimei his son, Uzzah his son, Shimea his son, Haggiah his son and Asaiah his son.*

*These were the descendants of Aaron: Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son, Abishua his son, Bukki his son, Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son, Meraioth his son, Amariah his son, Ahitub his son, Zadok his son, and Ahimaaz his son.*



*These are the men David put in charge of the music in the house of the LORD after the ark came to rest there. They ministered with music before the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, until Solomon built the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem. They performed their duties according to the regulations laid down for them. Here are the men who served, together with their sons:*

*From the Kohathites:*

- *Heman, the musician, the son of Joel, the son of Samuel, the son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Eliel, the son of Toah, the son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah, the son of Mahath, the son of Amasai, the son of Elkanah, the son of Joel, the son of Azariah, the son of Zephaniah, the son of Tahath, the son of Assir, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel.*
- *Heman's associate Asaph, who served at his right hand: Asaph son of Berekiah, the son of Shimea, the son of Michael, the son of Baaseiah, the son of Malkijah, the son of Ethni, the son of Zerah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Ethan, the son of Zimmah, the son of Shimei, the son of Jahath, the son of Gershon, the son of Levi.*

*From their associates, the Merarites, at his left hand:*

- *Ethan son of Kishi, the son of Abdi, the son of Malluk, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Amaziah, the son of Hilkiah, the son of Amzi, the son of Bani, the son of Shemer, the son of Mahli, the son of Mushi, the son of Merari, the son of Levi.*

*Their fellow Levites were assigned to all the other duties of the tabernacle, the house of God.*



## David and Mephibosheth

David asked, “Is there anyone from Saul’s family still alive that I could show faithful love for Jonathan’s sake?” There was a servant from Saul’s household named Ziba, and he was summoned before David. “Are you Ziba?” the king asked him. “At your service!” he answered. The king asked, “Is there anyone left from Saul’s family that I could show God’s kindness to?” “Yes,” Ziba said to the king, “one of Jonathan’s sons, whose feet are crippled.” “Where is he?” the king asked. “He is at the house of Ammiel’s son Machir at Lo-debar,” Ziba told the king.

So King David had him brought from the house of Ammiel’s son Machir at Lo-debar. Mephibosheth, Jonathan’s son and Saul’s grandson, came to David, and he fell to the ground, bowing low out of respect. “Mephibosheth?” David said. “Yes,” he replied. “I am at your service!” “Don’t be afraid,” David told him, “because I will certainly show you faithful love for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the fields of your grandfather Saul, and you will eat at my table always.” Mephibosheth bowed low out of respect and said, “Who am I, your servant, that you should care about a dead dog like me?”

Then David summoned Saul’s servant Ziba and said to him, “I have given your master’s grandson everything belonging to Saul and his family. You will work the land for him—you, your sons, and your servants—and you will bring food into your master’s house for them to eat. But Mephibosheth, your master’s grandson, will always be at my table.” (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.) Then Ziba said to the king, “Your servant will do whatever my master the king commands.” So Mephibosheth ate at David’s table, like one of the king’s own sons. Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica. All who lived in Ziba’s household became Mephibosheth’s servants. Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king’s table. He was crippled in both feet.

## Both 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles tell the history of Israel’s war with the Ammonites and Arameans under David’s rule...

Some time later, the king of the Ammonites died, and his son Hanun succeeded him as king. David said, “I’ll be loyal to Nahash’s son Hanun, just as his father was loyal to me.” So David sent his servants with condolences concerning Hanun’s father. But when David’s servants arrived in Ammonite territory, the Ammonite officials asked their master Hanun, “Do you really believe David is honoring your father because he has sent you condolences? Of course not! David has sent his servants to you to search the city, spy it out, and overthrow it.” So Hanun seized David’s servants and shaved off their beards, cut off half their garments, from their buttocks down, and sent them off. When this was reported to David, he sent men to meet them because they were completely ashamed. The king said, “Stay in Jericho until your beards have grown. Then you can come back.”

When the Ammonites realized that they had offended David, they sent for and hired the Arameans of Beth-rehob and the Arameans of Zobah, totaling twenty thousand foot soldiers; the king of Maacah with one thousand soldiers; and twelve thousand soldiers from Tob. When David heard this, he sent Joab with the entire army of warriors. The Ammonites marched out and formed a battle line at the entrance to the city. The Arameans of Zobah and Rehob and the soldiers from Tob and Maacah remained in the countryside. When Joab saw that the battle would be fought on two fronts, he chose some of Israel’s finest warriors and deployed them to meet the Arameans. The rest of the army Joab placed under the command of his brother Abishai. When they took up their positions to meet the Ammonites, Joab said, “If the Arameans prove too strong for me, you must help me, and if the Ammonites prove too strong for you, I’ll help you. Be brave! We must be courageous for the sake of our people and the cities of our God. The LORD will do what is good in his eyes.”

When Joab and the troops who were with him advanced into battle against the Arameans, they fled from him. When the Ammonites saw that the Arameans had fled, they also fled from Abishai and retreated to the city. Then Joab returned from fighting the Ammonites and went to Jerusalem.

The Arameans saw that they had been defeated by Israel, so they regrouped. Hadadezer sent for Arameans from beyond the Euphrates River. They came to Helam with Shobach leading them as commander of Hadadezer’s

army. When this was reported to David he gathered all Israel, crossed the Jordan, and went to Helam. The Arameans formed battle lines against David and fought with him. But the Arameans fled before Israel, and David destroyed seven hundred of their chariots and forty thousand horsemen. David wounded their army commander Shobach, and he died there. When all the kings who served Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and became their subjects. Never again would the Arameans come to the aid of the Ammonites.

*Some time later, the Ammonite King Nahash died, and his son succeeded him as king. "I'll be loyal to Nahash's son Hanun," David said, "because his father was loyal to me." So David sent messengers with condolences about his father's death.*

*But when David's servants arrived in the Ammonite territory to express his sympathy to Hanun, <sup>3</sup> the Ammonite leaders asked Hanun, "Do you really believe David is honoring your father because he has sent you condolences? Of course not! His servants have come to search the city, spy it out, and overthrow it!" So Hanun took David's servants, shaved them, cut off half their garments from their buttocks down, and sent them off. When this was reported to David, he sent messengers to the men because they were completely ashamed. The king said, "Stay in Jericho until your beards have grown. Then you can come back."*

*When the Ammonites realized that they had offended David, Hanun and the Ammonites sent one thousand kikkars of silver to hire chariots and cavalry for themselves from Aram-naharaim, Aram-maacah, and Zobah. They hired thirty-two thousand chariots, as well as King Maacah and his army, who came and camped in front of Medeba, while the Ammonites left their cities and came together ready for battle. When David heard this, he sent Joab and the entire army of warriors. The Ammonites marched out and formed a battle line at the entrance to the city, while the kings who had come remained in the countryside. When Joab saw that the battle would be fought on two fronts, he chose some of Israel's finest warriors and deployed them to meet the Arameans. The rest of the army Joab placed under the command of his brother Abishai. When they took up their positions to meet the Arameans, Joab said, "If the Arameans prove too strong for me, you must help me, and if the Ammonites prove too strong for you, I'll help you. Be brave! We must be courageous for the sake of our people and the cities of our God. The LORD will do what is good in his eyes."*

*When Joab and the troops who were with him advanced into battle against the Arameans, they fled from him. When the Ammonites saw that the Arameans had fled, they also fled from his brother Abishai and retreated into the city. So Joab returned to Jerusalem.*

*The Arameans saw that they had been defeated by Israel. They sent out messengers to bring Aramean reinforcements from the other side of the river, with Shophach the commander of Hadadezer's army at their head. Upon hearing this, David gathered all Israel and crossed the Jordan. David advanced and took up positions against the Arameans to meet them in battle. After initiating the battle, the Arameans fled before Israel, and David killed seven thousand Aramean chariot drivers and forty thousand foot soldiers. Shophach the commander of their army was killed too. When the servants of Hadadezer saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with David and served him. Never again would the Arameans come to the aid of the Ammonites.*