

1 Chronicles 19

King James Version (KJV)

19 Now it came to pass after this, that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon died, and his son reigned in his stead. (Nahash means snake. This is the guy that wanted to pluck out the right eye of all the men of Jabeshgilliad <a Jewish city >; and then enslave them. Saul came to their rescue and defended the city against Nahash)

²And David said, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father shewed kindness to me. And David sent messengers to comfort him concerning his father. So the servants of David came into the land of the children of Ammon to Hanun, to comfort him. (Nahash showed kindness to David, probably when Saul was trying to kill David – the enemy of my enemy is my friend)

³But the princes of the children of Ammon said to Hanun, Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? are not his servants come unto thee for to search, and to overthrow, and to spy out the land? (They think that David sent spies)

(Ammon and Moab were brothers – sons of Lot. The Ammonites knew what David just did to the Moabites, so they were suspicious of David's intent)

⁴Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved them, and cut off their garments in the midst hard by their buttocks, and sent them away. 2Samuel-10:4 (This was an act of insult and disrespect to Israel and to King David)

⁵Then there went certain, and told David how the men were served. And he sent to meet them: for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return. (In those days, a man's beard was an ornament of his manhood. It also protected a man's face from the harsh sun)

⁶And when the children of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the children of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire them chariots and horsemen out of Mesopotamia, and out of Syriamaachah, and out of Zobah. (They know that they started trouble against David; so now they have to pay a huge amount of silver to mercenaries to protect themselves. Hanun is already proving to be a bad king)

(He should have thanked David for his act of kindness and treated his representatives well. Bad advice from “advisers” has caused the ruin of many countries)

⁷So they hired thirty and two thousand chariots, and the king of Maachah and his people; who came and pitched before Medeba. And the children of Ammon gathered themselves together from their cities, and came to battle. (Medeba is on the east side of the Jordan)

NOTE: (These hired chariots are just mercenaries. They have no loyalties. They only fight for money; therefore, they usually prove to be unreliable)

⁸And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men. (Joab, nephew of David, was commander of the army)

⁹And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array before the gate of the city: and the kings that were come were by themselves in the field. (The city is Rabbah – the capital of the Ammonites)

NOTE: The Ammonites and the Syrian mercenaries are taking up separate positions before the battle. That will force Israel to fight on two different fronts)

¹⁰Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him before and behind, he chose out of all the choice of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians. (The Syrians are the superior force. Joab had to fight on 2 fronts – the Syrians in the field and the Ammonites before the city)

¹¹And the rest of the people he delivered unto the hand of Abishai his brother, and they set themselves in array against the children of Ammon. (Ammon was the weaker of the two opponents)

¹²And 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 help thee. (This is a good strategy. They have no choice but to fight on both fronts)

NOTE: (If either Joab or Abishai start to lose, the other will send reinforcement to help his brother. Joab is using sound strategy, considering the cards that he’s been dealt. Two fronts are always a disadvantage, but he trusts in God to lead his army)

¹³ Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the LORD do that which is good in his sight. (Joab trusts God. HE will give Joab the victory)

¹⁴ So Joab and the people that were with him drew nigh before the Syrians unto the battle; and they fled before him. (Mercenaries have no loyalty. They'll retreat to save themselves if the battle turns against them)

¹⁵ And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, they likewise fled before Abishai his brother, and entered into the city. Then Joab came to Jerusalem. (Winter was coming. A siege army doesn't do well in bad weather. Joab will return in the spring to lay siege against the city)

NOTE: (The Ammonites are in big trouble. They wasted their money on the Syrian mercenaries. Now, when spring comes, they will face the entire Israelite army alone)

¹⁶ And when the Syrians saw that they were put to the worse before Israel, they sent messengers, and drew forth the Syrians that were beyond the river: and Shophach the captain of the host of Hadarezer went before them. (The river is the Euphrates. At this time, Syrians were a collection of many groups, each having their own king. They were not one united country)

¹⁷ And it was told David; and he gathered all Israel, and passed over Jordan, and came upon them, and set the battle in array against them. So when David had put the battle in array against the Syrians, they fought with him. 2Samuel-10:17 (This battle happened at Helam. Helam means a stronghold)

¹⁸ But the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew of the Syrians seven thousand men which fought in chariots, and forty thousand footmen, and killed Shophach the captain of the host.

¹⁹ And when the servants of Hadarezer saw that they were put to the worse before Israel, they made peace with David, and became his servants: neither would the Syrians help the children of Ammon any more. (The Syrians surrendered to David. He subdued them and made them servants of Israel)

NOTES: (God gave David victory after victory because David lived by God's laws and was loyal to God in all his ways. As the leader goes, so goes the nation)

(We can do the same today. Put God as the center of your life and He will bless you and give your peace of mind and happiness in your daily life)