

Hanun of Ammon Provokes a War (c. 997 BC)

2 Samuel 10:1–6

1 Chronicles 19:1–7

1 Now it happened afterwards that the king of the Ammonites died, and Hanun his son became king in his place.

2 Then David said, “I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, just as his father showed kindness to me.” So David sent some of his servants to console him concerning his father. But when David’s servants came to the land of the Ammonites,

3 the princes of the Ammonites said to Hanun their lord, “Do you think that David is honoring your father because he has sent consolers to you? Has David not sent his servants to you in order to search the city, to spy it out and overthrow it?”

4 So Hanun took David’s servants and shaved off half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle as far as their hips, and sent them away.

5 When they told *it* to David, he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly humiliated. And the king said, “Stay at Jericho until your beards grow, and *then* return.”

6 Now when the sons of Ammon saw that they had become odious to David, the sons of Ammon sent and hired the Arameans of Beth-rehob and the Arameans of Zobah, 20,000 foot soldiers, and the king of Maacah with 1,000 men, and the men of Tob with 12,000 men.

1 Now it came about after this, that Nahash the king of the sons of Ammon died, and his son became king in his place.

2 Then David said, “I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me.” So David sent messengers to console him concerning his father. And David’s servants came into the land of the sons of Ammon to Hanun to console him.

3 But the princes of the sons of Ammon said to Hanun, “Do you think that David is honoring your father, in that he has sent comforters to you? Have not his servants come to you to search and to overthrow and to spy out the land?”

4 So Hanun took David’s servants and shaved them and cut off their garments in the middle as far as their hips, and sent them away.

5 Then *certain persons* went and told David about the men. And he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly humiliated. And the king said, “Stay at Jericho until your beards grow, and *then* return.”

6 When the sons of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the sons of Ammon sent 1,000 talents of silver to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia, from Aram-maacah and from Zobah.

7 So they hired for themselves 32,000 chariots, and the king of Maacah and his people, who came and camped before Medeba. And the sons of Ammon gathered together from their cities and came to battle.

The LORD Is in His Holy Temple (c. 997 BC)

Psalm 11

For the choir director.

A Psalm of David.

- 1 In the LORD I take refuge;
How can you say to my soul, “Flee *as* a bird to your mountain;
- 2 For, behold, the wicked bend the bow,
They make ready their arrow upon the string

To shoot in darkness at the upright in heart.

3 If the foundations are destroyed,
What can the righteous do?"

4 The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven;
His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

5 The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked,
And the one who loves violence His soul hates.

6 Upon the wicked He will rain snares;
Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup.

7 For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness;
The upright will behold His face.

David Sends Joab to Fight the Ammonite Coalition (c. 997 BC)

2 Samuel 10:7–8

1 Chronicles 19:8–9

7 When David heard *of it*, he sent Joab and all the army, the mighty men.

8 The sons of Ammon came out and drew up in battle array at the entrance of the city, while the Arameans of Zobah and of Rehob and the men of Tob and Maacah *were* by themselves in the field.

8 When David heard *of it*, he sent Joab and all the army, the mighty men.

9 The sons of Ammon came out and drew up in battle array at the entrance of the city, and the kings who had come *were* by themselves in the field.

I Will Recount Your Wonderful Deeds (c. 997 BC)

Psalm 9

For the choir director; on Muth-labben.

A psalm of David.

1 I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart;
I will tell of all Your wonders.

2 I will be glad and exult in You;
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

3 When my enemies turn back,
They stumble and perish before You.

4 For You have maintained my just cause;
You have sat on the throne judging righteously.

5 You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked;
You have blotted out their name forever and ever.

6 The enemy has come to an end in perpetual ruins,
And You have uprooted the cities;
The very memory of them has perished.

7 But the LORD abides forever;
He has established His throne for judgment,

8 And He will judge the world in righteousness;
He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.

9 The LORD also will be a stronghold for the oppressed,
A stronghold in times of trouble;

10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You,
For You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

- 11 Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion;
Declare among the peoples His deeds.
- 12 For He who requires blood remembers them;
He does not forget the cry of the afflicted.
- 13 Be gracious to me, O LORD;
See my affliction from those who hate me,
You who lift me up from the gates of death,
- 14 That I may tell of all Your praises,
That in the gates of the daughter of Zion
I may rejoice in Your salvation.
- 15 The nations have sunk down in the pit which they have made;
In the net which they hid, their own foot has been caught.
- 16 The LORD has made Himself known;
He has executed judgment.
In the work of his own hands the wicked is snared. *Higgaion Selah.*
- 17 The wicked will return to Sheol,
Even all the nations who forget God.
- 18 For the needy will not always be forgotten,
Nor the hope of the afflicted perish forever.
- 19 Arise, O LORD, do not let man prevail;
Let the nations be judged before You.
- 20 Put them in fear, O LORD;
Let the nations know that they are but men. *Selah.*

God Helps David Defeat the Ammonite Coalition (c. 997 BC)

2 Samuel 10:9–19

9 Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him in front and in the rear, he selected from all the choice men of Israel, and arrayed *them* against the Arameans.

10 But the remainder of the people he placed in the hand of Abishai his brother, and he arrayed *them* against the sons of Ammon.

11 He said, "If the Arameans are too strong for me, then you shall help me, but if the sons of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come to help you.

12 Be strong, and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and for the cities of our God; and may the LORD do what is good in His sight."

13 So Joab and the people who were with him drew near to the battle against the Arameans, and they fled before him.

14 When the sons of Ammon saw that the Arameans fled, they *also* fled before Abishai and entered the city.

Then Joab returned from *fighting* against the sons of Ammon

1 Chronicles 19:10–19

10 Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him in front and in the rear, he selected from all the choice men of Israel and they arrayed themselves against the Arameans.

11 But the remainder of the people he placed in the hand of Abshai his brother; and they arrayed themselves against the sons of Ammon.

12 He said, "If the Arameans are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the sons of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will help you.

13 Be strong, and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and for the cities of our God; and may the LORD do what is good in His sight."

14 So Joab and the people who were with him drew near to the battle against the Arameans, and they fled before him.

15 When the sons of Ammon saw that the Arameans fled, they also fled before Abshai his brother and entered the city.

Then Joab

and came to Jerusalem.
 15 When the Arameans saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered themselves together.
 16 And Hadadezer sent and brought out the Arameans who were beyond the River, and they came to Helam; and Shobach the commander of the army of Hadadezer led them.
 17 Now when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan, and came to Helam.

And the Arameans arrayed themselves to meet David and fought against him.
 18 But the Arameans fled before Israel, and David killed 700 charioteers of the Arameans and 40,000 horsemen and struck down Shobach the commander of their army, and he died there.
 19 When all the kings, servants of Hadadezer, saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Arameans feared to help the sons of Ammon anymore.

came to Jerusalem.
 16 When the Arameans saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they sent messengers and brought out the Arameans who were beyond the River, with Shophach the commander of the army of Hadadezer leading them.
 17 When it was told David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan, and came upon them and drew up in formation against them. And when David drew up in battle array against the Arameans, they fought against him.
 18 The Arameans fled before Israel, and David killed of the Arameans 7,000 charioteers and 40,000 foot soldiers, and put to death Shophach the commander of the army.
 19 So when the servants of Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with David and served him. Thus the Arameans were not willing to help the sons of Ammon anymore.

The Steadfast Love of the LORD (c. 997 BC)

Psalm 33

- 1 Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright.
- 2 Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings.
- 3 Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.
- 4 For the word of the LORD is upright, And all His work is *done* in faithfulness.
- 5 He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD.
- 6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.
- 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses.
- 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.
- 9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.
- 10 The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples.

- 11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
The plans of His heart from generation to generation.
- 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.
- 13 The LORD looks from heaven;
He sees all the sons of men;
- 14 From His dwelling place He looks out
On all the inhabitants of the earth,
- 15 He who fashions the hearts of them all,
He who understands all their works.
- 16 The king is not saved by a mighty army;
A warrior is not delivered by great strength.
- 17 A horse is a false hope for victory;
Nor does it deliver anyone by its great strength.
- 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,
On those who hope for His lovingkindness,
- 19 To deliver their soul from death
And to keep them alive in famine.
- 20 Our soul waits for the LORD;
He is our help and our shield.
- 21 For our heart rejoices in Him,
Because we trust in His holy name.
- 22 Let Your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
According as we have hoped in You.

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Chronological Notes

- 1) I have placed 2 Samuel 9–12 prior to 2 Samuel 8 (and 2 Samuel 7, cf. 7:1). This is due to the fact that Hanun’s disrespect to David’s ambassadors make the most sense when placed early in David’s reign—prior to him defeating the surrounding nations and becoming powerful (2 Sam 8).¹ In addition, Hanun was the son of Nahash who attacked Jabesh Gilead at the beginning of Saul’s reign. If Hanun’s disrespect to David occurred in the chronological sequence given in 2 Samuel 5–24, then Nahash would have had to reign for almost 80 years.² Youngblood comments, “It is probably best, however, to understand 8:3–12 as a record of battles that occurred after the campaigns reported in chapters 10–12.”³ Anderson comments, “If anything, David’s defeat of Hadadezer and its sequel in 8:3–12 may have been the final episode in a more prolonged hostilities, and therefore after the events narrated in 10:6–19.”⁴

¹ Andrew E. Steinmann, *From Abraham to Paul*, 117–118; cf. also Eugene H. Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests*, 244.

² Note that this perspective on Nahash’s reign assumes that Hiram of Tyre built David’s palace at the end of David’s reign (2 Sam 5). Most scholars (but not all; cf. Alberto R. Green’s article “David’s Relations with Hiram”) view Hiram’s interaction with David as having to take place late in David’s reign due to the Tyrian king list (Josephus, *Against Apion* 1.116–26; cf. Merrill’s 1989 article “The ‘Accession Year’ and Davidic Chronology”).

³ Ronald F. Youngblood, “1, 2 Samuel,” *EBC*, Rev. Ed., 402.

⁴ A. A. Anderson, “2 Samuel,” *WBC*, 130–31.