

Introduction

1. There is debate as to where chapter 8 fits into the events of 2 Samuel and the life of David
2. Some suggest it fits between chapters 5-6
3. However, it appears to simply be a summary of David's conquests over his reign because it refers to his defeat of the Amalekites (1 Samuel 30), Philistines (2 Samuel 5), Arameans (2 Samuel 10)
4. I fall into the latter camp and believe that the author is summarizing three aspects of aspects of David's life which provides further insight into what made David a man after God's own heart, and a foreshadowing or type of Jesus Christ:
 - a. His victories
 - b. His dedication
 - c. His legacy

A. David's Victories (8:1-6)

1. Six nations are mentioned specifically and these represent the entire region surrounding Israel—
NOTE: Saul fought against these same enemies (1 Samuel 14:47-48):
 - a. The first nation listed were the Philistines (1): **“Now after this it came about that David defeated the Philistines and subdued them; and David took control of the chief city from the hand of the Philistines.”**
 - 1) The events here likely refers to the battle described in 2 Samuel 5
 - 2) The Philistines resided primarily in the west and controlled the territory along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea
 - 3) Verse 1 tells us that David **“defeated [them] and subdued them”** which means that he made them subjects of Israel, including leaving a military presence (garrisons) there and collecting tribute
 - 4) It also says that he **“took control of their chief city”**:
 - a) There were five primary Philistine cities: Azzah, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron and Gath
 - b) According to 1 Chronicles 18, David took control of Gath which was the most important of these cities (also the home of Goliath)
 - b. The second nation listed is the Moabites (2): **“He defeated Moab, and measured them with the line, making them lie down on the ground; and he measured two lines to put to death and one full line to keep alive. And the Moabites became servants to David, bringing tribute.”**
 - 1) The Moabites dominated the area across the Jordan river directly east of the Dead Sea and were sworn enemies of Israel (as mentioned above, Saul also fought against them)
 - 2) However, if you remember, David's great-grandmother, Ruth, was a Moabite which might explain why David entrusted the care of his parents to the King of Moab when he was being chased by Saul (1 Samuel 22:3-4)
 - 3) It's not clear what soured David's relationship with Moab, but it's pretty clear that something happened because he went to war with them, defeated them and made them subjects of Israel just like he did the Philistines
 - 4) Some question David's actions here in putting to death so many of the Moabites:

- a) However, as one commentator suggests, it was likely captured soldiers that David put to death in order to eliminate a military threat
 - b) In addition, killing only two thirds of the men, rather than all of them, would have been considered compassionate by ANE standards because prisoners were normally all killed or sold off as slaves to foreign nations
- c. The third nation we come to is the Arameans (3-6a): **“Then David defeated Hadadezer, the son of Rehob king of Zobah, as he went to restore his rule at the River. 4 David captured from him 1,700 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers; and David hamstringed the chariot horses, but reserved enough of them for 100 chariots. 5 When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer, king of Zobah, David killed 22,000 Arameans. 6 Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of Damascus, and the Arameans became servants to David, bringing tribute.”**
- 1) The Arameans possessed the land to the north of Israel and the events summarized here are covered in more detail in chapter 10
 - 2) Two Aramean armies—one from Zobah and one from Damascus—were hired by the Ammonites, a nation further to the southeast, just northeast of the Dead Sea
 - 3) The Ammonites plan was to attack Israel’s army from the south while the Arameans would attack from the north, thus forcing Israel to defend two fronts
 - 4) However, David’s commander, Joab, split Israel’s army in two and while he commanded the forces in the north his brother, Abishai, commanded the forces in the south
 - 5) Through a series of events, both the Arameans and the Ammonites either fled or were defeated by Israel and made their subjects
- d. Two other nations are mentioned later in verse 12:
- 1) The Ammonites we’ve already mentioned above
 - 2) The Amalekites controlled the area south of Judah and the details of their defeat are recorded in 1 Samuel 30
- e. A sixth nation, the Edomites, is mentioned in v. 14, and they were located southeast of the dead sea
2. Now, you might have noticed that when I read v. 6 I stopped right before the end, and that’s because there is a very important phrase and I wanted to make sure I highlighted it (6b): **“And the LORD helped David wherever he went.”**
- a. This same exact phrase is repeated in v. 14 (READ)
 - b. One of David’s most admirable traits was how often he sought the LORD’s counsel, especially when it came to military matters
 - c. According to my count, there are at least eight times when the author of 1st and 2nd Samuel tells us that David inquired of the LORD—I want to highlight these to emphasize this fact:
 - 1) 1 Samuel 23:1-3—when he asked the LORD whether he should attack the Philistines when they were pillaging the city of Keilah
 - 2) 1 Samuel 23:4-5—when he asked the LORD a second time about defending Keilah
 - 3) 1 Samuel 23:10-14—when he asked the LORD whether to stay in Keilah or flee when Saul was coming to attack
 - 4) 1 Samuel 30:8-9—when David asked whether he should attack the Amalekites after they destroyed Ziklag and took their families captive

- 5) 2 Samuel 2:1-2—when he asked the LORD whether he should go up to Judah after Saul’s death and become king
 - 6) 2 Samuel 5:17-21—when he asked the LORD whether he should attack the Philistines as his first official act of war as king
 - 7) 2 Samuel 5:22-25—when he asked the LORD for military advice on how to attack the Philistines
 - 8) 2 Samuel 21:1—when he consulted the LORD to determine the cause of a three year famine in Israel
- d. David was successful not because he was a brilliant military man but rather because he relied upon the LORD and the LORD helped him (1 Samuel 18:14): **“David was prospering in all his ways for the LORD was with him.”**
 - e. This is directly the opposite of Saul, who despite also being a brilliant military man suffered defeat because he rejected the LORD, and was therefore rejected by the LORD (1 Samuel 18:12): **“Now Saul was afraid of David, for the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul.”**
3. What does this say about our own lives?
 - a. Jesus said, **“...blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”** (Luke 11:28)
 - b. James wrote, **“But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.”** (James 1:25)
 - c. If David received God’s favor and help as a result of his devotion and obedience to, and his reliance upon, God why should we expect anything different?
 - d. Can we really expect God’s blessings and help if we do the opposite?

B. David’s Dedication (READ 8:7-14)

1. These verses highlight the impressive wealth that David amassed for Israel, and it truly is staggering:
 - a. Some of it came from the spoils of war like the **“gold shields”** and **“large amounts of bronze”** from defeating the Aramean king, Hadadezer (7-8)
 - b. Some of it, like the **“articles of silver, of gold and of bronze”** (11), was a gift from King Toi of Hamath after David defeated Hadadezer (who was also King Toi’s enemy)
 - c. Some of it came in the form of regular **“tribute”** payments from nations that Israel had defeated and subjugated, like Edom (2)
 - d. We’re not told the exact amounts here, but the parallel account in 1 Chronicles 22:14 gives us the total that David had amassed for Israel during his 40 year reign:
 - 1) One hundred thousand talents of gold—7.5 million pounds (\$192 billion today)
 - 2) One million talents of silver—75 million pounds (almost \$22 billion today)
 - 3) In addition, he had accumulated **“bronze and iron beyond weight...in great quantity; also timber and stone”**
2. Even more impressive than all this, however, is what David did with the wealth (11): **“King David also dedicated these to the LORD, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nations which he had subdued.”**
 - a. According to Deuteronomy 17:16-17 (READ), there are three things that the Law specifically forbid a king from doing:

- 1) Amassing wealth for himself
 - 2) Multiplying horses
 - 3) Multiplying wives
- b. One of the things we've learned about David is that he loved the LORD and demonstrated this love through obedience to God's Word:
- 1) So, it shouldn't surprise us that rather than make himself wealthy, he dedicated everything to the LORD
 - 2) We see this same obedience to the Law when v. 4 told us that rather than multiply horses, he hamstringed all but 100 of the horses he acquired from the defeated armies
 - 3) Some would argue that David violated the Law regarding the multiplying of wives because he had multiple wives, however, this reference likely refers to the building of harems and taking wives as part of treaty building with other nations, not simply polygamy (compare David's seven wives to Solomon's 700 wives and 300 concubines from
3. Compare this to what the writer of 1 Kings said about Solomon (READ 1 Kings 10:14-11:13):
- a. Solomon amasses wealth for himself
 - b. He multiple horses and chariots
 - c. He multiple wives
 - d. Notice how all of this is contrasted with David by the author (4b, 6b)
4. What can this teach us?
- a. David wasn't interested in amassing wealth or power for himself, but rather committed himself to obeying the Law and dedicated everything to the LORD
 - b. Solomon, on the other hand, fell pray to the wealth and power, enriched himself, and ultimately forsook the LORD and faced God's displeasure
 - c. Jesus warned us that we cannot serve two masters because where our treasure is there our heart will be also (READ Matthew 6:19-24)

C. David's Legacy (READ 8:15-18)

1. This final portion of our text today summarizes and characterizes David's reign as king using two Biblically significant words: "**justice**" and "**righteousness**":
 - a. The Hebrew is literally "**David was doing judgment and righteousness**"
 - b. He Hebrew construct here is what is referred to as hendiadys (hen-DIA-a-dis) which is where a single idea is described by using two words connected with "and" (e.g. nice and warm means nicely warm)
 - c. So, "doing judgment and righteousness" is another way of saying that David "**guaranteed justice for all his people**" (as the NET) or "**did what was just and right for all his people**" (as the NIV)
2. The first thing we notice about these words is that they are chief attributes of God's character:
 - a. Psalm 33:5: The LORD "**loves righteousness and justice**"
 - b. Psalm 36:6 says that the LORD's righteousness is "**like the mountains of God**" and His justice like "**a great deep**"
 - c. Isaiah wrote, "**The LORD of hosts will be exalted in judgment, and the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness**"

- d. The LORD said through Jeremiah, **“but let who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for I delight in these things”** (Jeremiah 9:24)
3. And because they are attributes of God’s character, they are also attributes of those who please the LORD:
 - a. Psalm 106:3: **“How blessed are those who keep justice, Who practice righteousness at all times!”**
 - b. Proverbs 21:3: **“To do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice.”**
4. How much more then would the LORD demand such things from Israel’s kings? When Queen Sheba spoke with Solomon, she reminded him of this (1 Kings 10:9): **“Blessed be the LORD your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the LORD loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness”**
5. One of the things that made David a man after God’s own heart was that he loved the things the LORD loved, including justice and righteousness, and these were hallmarks of his reign as king
6. Should they not be hallmarks of our character as well as Christians?

Conclusion

1. I mentioned at the start of our time that David serves as a foreshadowing or type of Christ and he does so here in these three aspects:
2. Just as David depended on God, so Jesus also relied upon God the Father—one of the most profound examples is when He faced the cross and God the Father sent an angel to strengthen Him (Luke 22:43-44)
3. Just as David refused to seek wealth for himself and dedicated everything to the LORD, Jesus gave up everything for our sake and the glory of His Heavenly Father
4. Just as David served as did justice and righteousness as Israel’s king, Jesus serves as a the Righteous Judge over all mankind