

1 Chronicles 18

King James Version (KJV)

David's battles to retake the Promised Land and unite the country;
God blessed him because he loved and obeyed God and His laws)

18 Now after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them, and took Gath and her towns out of the hand of the Philistines. (Gath was the capital of one of 5 major regions of the Philistines. Goliath had been the champion from Gath)

²And he smote Moab; and the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts. (Fulfilling Numbers-24:17)

Also see 2Samuel-8:2(God had judged the Moabites in Numbers-25)

³And David smote Hadarezer king of Zobah unto Hamath, as he went to stablish his dominion by the river Euphrates. (unto Hamath = near Hamath - a city of the Kenites) (stablish = to recover, to take back – he<Hadarezer> had lost much territory in prior battles to an enemy)

⁴And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: David also houghed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them an hundred chariots. (houghed = to hamstring a horse so it cannot pull a chariot) (2Samuel-8:4 says 800 horsemen; this is probably the right number)

⁵And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadarezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men.

⁶Then David put garrisons in Syria-damascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, and brought gifts. Thus the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went. (Because David stayed loyal to the LORD and never fell to idol worship; or to the other perversions of the heathen)

(These garrisons were outposts for the military, to keep the subdued nations in line. They were also the first line of defense in case of invasion)

⁷And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadarezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. (They may have been adorned in gold. Gold is too soft for a shield. They may only have been used for show at ceremonies)

⁸ Likewise from Tibhath, and from Chun, cities of Hadarezer, brought David very much brass, wherewith Solomon made the brasen sea, and the pillars, and the vessels of brass. (David stockpiled materials that would later be used by Solomon to build the temple in Jerusalem)

⁹ Now when Tou king of Hamath heard how David had smitten all the host of Hadarezer king of Zobah; Amos-6:14 (Hamath was a Kenite city)

¹⁰ He sent Hadoram his son to king David, to enquire of his welfare, and to congratulate him, because he had fought against Hadarezer, and smitten him; (for Hadarezer had war with Tou;) and with him all manner of vessels of gold and silver and brass. 2Samuel-8:10 (Hadoram is called Joram <A Hebrew name>; his real name was Hadoram – a Kenite. The Kenites have always been about greed, money and commerce, even as they are today)

(Tou hated and had fought Hadarezer for many years. He was securing peace with his new powerful neighbor. This is still standard M.O. for Kenites. They'll lie to you and use you until they can get the upper hand, and then betray you. They lied to Joshua about who they were until they got him to vow that he would be ally to them. Joshua only found out who they really were when it was too late)

¹¹ Then also king David dedicated unto the LORD, with the silver and the gold that he brought from all these nations; from Edom, and from Moab, and from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines, and from Amalek. (David is gathering materials, for Solomon, who will later build the temple) (Amalek was the grandson of Esau. The Amalekites attacked Israel when they were leaving Egypt – in Exodus. God judged them for it)

¹² Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruiah slew of the Edomites in the valley of salt eighteen thousand. (Zeruiah was David's sister)

¹³ And he put garrisons in Edom; and all the Edomites became David's servants. Thus the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went. (Conquering the land of the Edomites gave Israel access to the Sea of Acaba. From there, Solomon launched ships to bring back gold and precious woods from Ophir) (Garrisons were put in to prevent rebellion)

¹⁴ So David reigned over all Israel, and executed judgment and justice among all his people. (David was fair to his people. He is remembered as one of the best kings of Israel)

¹⁵ And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, recorder. (recorder = historian, also a recorder of agreements with other countries)

¹⁶ And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Abimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests; and Shavsha was scribe; (temporarily 2 high priests; Zadok will become the one high priest eventually) (scribe – more like a secretary of state, today)

¹⁷ And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and the sons of David were chief about the king. (David's sons were counselors & advisers) (Cherethites = executioner; they were law enforcers for the king) (Pelethites were messengers)

(Chapters 18-19-20 occurred before chapter 17. They are still having wars in these 3 chapters)