

2 Samuel Chapter 10

And it came to pass after this, that the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead. ² Then said David, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father shewed kindness unto me. And David sent to comfort him by the hand of his servants for his father. And David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon.

Verse 1 – Hanun =gracious, becomes king of Ammon after his father dies.

Verse 2 – David decided to be kind to Hanun because his father had been kind to David. He sends servants to comfort him during the loss of his father. They have to go to Ammon to show this kindness.

³ And the princes of the children of Ammon said unto Hanun their lord, Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? hath not David rather sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?

⁴ Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off the one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away. ⁵ When they told it unto David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed: and the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return.

Verse 3 – The princes tell the new king, David is playing you...he didn't send the servants to comfort but instead to spy on the land so he could later overtake it.

Verse 4 – King Hanun believes these princes and he abuses the servants of David by cutting half their beards and cutting up their clothes.

Verse 5 – His servants were ashamed so David comforts them and tells them to take a break until their hair grows back. David meets with them because of what they just went through.

John Courson (one of my favorite Bible study teachers) – points out a comparison between Saul's son (Mephibosheth) and Hanun. David reaches out to both men. One is humble and receives a reward and the other proud and rejects David's offer. David sends his people out to be comforters.

John Courson – it will grow back. People will offend you or persecute you...but when you serve the King, he will comfort you, give you a break, and help you to get back what was lost.

Application -- As the King's servants we may be sent to Mephibosheth or Hanun. As Christians, we may extend the good news to those who receive the message of Christ or those who reject Him. When we go to minister, it must be done in kindness. Romans 2 – goodness of God leads men to repentance. Don't be surprised though if we are persecuted for righteousness....for if that happens, there is a special reward because God sees it. Be prepared for the worst, 2 Tim 3 – all who live godly will suffer



persecution. Some folks will clown on you. But remember, you don't have to defend yourself...the King will avenge you. Your defender is coming.

Notice after you get offended, you may need some time in isolation.

6 And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Bethrehab and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ishtob twelve thousand men. 7 And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men. 8 And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate: and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ishtob, and Maacah, were by themselves in the field.

9 When Joab saw that the front of the battle was against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice men of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians: 10 And the rest of the people he delivered into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put them in array against the children of Ammon.

Verse 6 – The Children of Ammon realize David is not happy with them for their abuse of his servants so they get some help. Hire four others to help; Syrians and others.

Verse 7 – David hears that there is an alliance so he sends Joab with the army of mighty men to deal with them.

Verse 8 – Ammon is defending the city, their allies are in the field.

Verse 9 – Battle is not going well for Joab. He calls on the mighty men and puts them in position against the Syrians.

Verse 10 – The rest of the troops he gives to his brother to attack Ammon.

11 And 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 come and help thee. 12 Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good. 13 And Joab drew nigh, and the people that were with him, unto the battle against the Syrians: and they fled before him. 14 And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, then fled they also before Abishai, and entered into the city. So Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem.

15 And when the Syrians saw that they were smitten before Israel, they gathered themselves together.

Verse 11 – Plan is if the enemy is too strong for one of them, that they will get help from the other. John Courson – we should be one...helping each other in the battle against the enemy.

Verse 12 – Tells him to have good courage and use the men to fight for their people, cities, God, and ask that God's will be done as He sees fit.

Verse 13 – When Joab draws near...the enemy runs from him.

Verse 14 – When Ammon sees that their allies are running, they in turn run away and run into the city. So Joab returns to Jerusalem.

Verse 15 – So after they see they were beaten, the Syrians regroup. They will try to strengthen themselves to try again. This is a waste of self-effort as they are fighting against God's plans. They have no chance but don't realize it.

16 And Hadarezer sent, and brought out the Syrians that were beyond the river: and they came to Helam; and Shobach the captain of the host of Hadarezer went before them.

17 And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together, and passed over Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in array against David, and fought with him.

18 And the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew the men of seven hundred chariots of the Syrians, and forty thousand horsemen, and smote Shobach the captain of their host, who died there.

19 And when all the kings that were servants to Hadarezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Syrians feared to help the children of Ammon any more.

Verse 16 – Hadarezar calls for back up from beyond the river and they come to his aid.

Verse 17 – David finds out what's going on so he gets his army together. He crosses Jordan and the enemy sets themselves against him.

Verse 18 – Syrians lose again and run from before David. Over 40K killed and the captain of the host dies.

Verse 19 – All of the kings who were Hadarezer's servants see that he was defeated by Israel, they then make peace with Israel and start serving them. They were afraid to help Ammon any more.

People who reject grace may often:

- Abuse His servants
- Listen to bad counsel
- Not trust in the King
- Reject grace
- Rely on and hook up with the wrong people; waste time and money on a solution that God will come against
- Will lose God's favor and your beat down through Him is on the way



Servants may experience:

- Rejection and shame
- Everyone might not receive your message
- He will meet you and give you recovery instructions
- Restoration is promised
- He will take care of the haters for you
- Vengeance is mine says the Lord (Romans 12:19)