### 1 Chronicles

## Chapter 19

1In time, King NaHash of the sons of AmMon died and his son Hanan became the king in his place.  
  
2So David asked:  
  
 ‘What sort of kind thing can I do for NaHash’s son Hanan? For his father was very kind towards me!’  
  
And thereafter, David sent messengers to comfort him after the death of his father... 3But when David’s servants arrived in the land of the AmMonites and they went to Hanan to comfort him, the AmMonite governors said to [Hanan]:  
  
 ‘Isn’t David really glorifying your father over you by sending these comforters?  
  
 ‘And don’t you think that he might be really sending them to look at your city and to spy in our land!?’  
  
4Well, as a result, Hanan had the servants of David arrested, then he had [their beards] shaved and their clothes cut off halfway to the waist before he sent them away!  
  
5Then when the report of what Hanan had done to his men reached David, he sent people to meet them because they had been so disgraced; and the king told them to stay in JeriCho and not to return until their beards grew back.  
  
6Meanwhile, because the sons of AmMon realized that they had disgraced David’s emissaries, Hanan and his people sent 35 tons (32,000kg) of silver to MesoPotamia and to [King] MoOcha in Syria to hire an army along with chariots and cavalry... 7So King MoOcha brought his army that included 32,000 chariots, and they camped next to MaiDaba.  
  
Also, the AmMonites gathered an army from their own cities as they prepared for war [with IsraEl]. 8And when David heard about this, he told JoAb to gather his entire army to go and fight them.  
  
  
9Well, [the plan was that] the sons of AmMon would fight IsraEl from their city gates, while the kings set up camp out in the fields... 10So when JoAb saw that they were preparing to attack him from both sides, he gathered all the young men in his army to attack the Syrians [in the fields], 11while he put the rest of the army into the hands of his brother AbiShai, who was to attack the sons of AmMon [at the city gates].  
  
12He told [his brother]:  
  
 ‘If the Syrians start to win, you come and help me; but if the AmMonites start to win, I’ll come to help you...  
  
 13‘Let’s fight bravely for our people and for the cities of our God, and we’ll trust that Jehovah will do whatever He finds good in His eyes!’  
  
14So then, JoAb attacked the Syrians and they fled from before him!  
  
15And when the AmMonites saw the Syrians retreating, they turned and ran from AbiShai (JoAb’s brother), fleeing back into their city!  
  
Then JoAb returned to JeruSalem.  
  
  
16But when the Syrians saw that IsraEl had left the field of battle, they sent messengers to the Syrians that had camped on the other side of the river, and SoPha (the commander-in-chief of the army of HadraAzar) marched back. 17And when this was reported to David, he again gathered the whole army of IsraEl and they crossed the JorDan to set up battle lines once more.  
  
So the Syrians came and faced David, and the battle began.  
  
18Well, Syria once again turned and ran from IsraEl, for David’s [men] had killed 40,000 of their infantry, they captured 7,000 of their chariots, and they killed SoPha, the commander-in-chief of their army!  
  
19So when the servants of HadraAzar saw that they’d lost the battle to IsraEl, they signed a treaty with David and started serving him. And thereafter, the Syrians never again came to help the sons of AmMon.