

# The Christian Arsenal

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## 2 SAMUEL 8:1-10:19

*We have a lot of ground to cover today, so let's get right to it...*

**Chapter 8 of 2 Samuel** is one of those chapters that we look at, especially we women, and say to ourselves, "Let's just skim over this...it's just war, war and more war. It's just bloodshed and warfare..." and war doesn't usually get a woman's attention unless you're like Shirlee Jolly and myself and that's about the only kind of movie we can get our husbands to take us to.

We saw last Sunday that it was David's desire to build God a house. There wasn't anything at all wrong with David's desire. It was, as a matter of fact, a very good desire. The building of God's house was not contrary to the will of God...it was, however, contrary to the will of God that David be the one to build it.

And the reason God said "no" to David was because David was a man of war. David's hands were bloody. And God told David because his hands were stained with blood he could not build Him a house.

And let me say this...

There was nothing wrong with being a man of war. That was the position to which God had called David.

David **had** to be a man of war.

When you think of great men like Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman, what do you think of?

You think of WWII, don't you? Now, I know all of us are much too young to remember that war...we've only read about it and seen it in TV documentaries...

And even though Winston Churchill and FDR and Harry Truman didn't actually fight in WWII, it was their superb leadership and steadfastness that God used to defeat Hitler and Hirohito.

God uses certain men in peacetime and He uses certain men in wartime... **I believe President Bush is God's man for this critical time in our nation's history.**

But why was war so necessary back in David's time?

Way back in Genesis, God had made a promise to Abraham. This promise included several things...

God said, "Abram, I'm going to make you a great nation,  
I'm going to make your name great,  
I'm going to bless you,  
you will be a blessing,  
I'm going to bless those who bless you,  
and I'm going to curse those who curse you..."

**Abram, I'm also going to give your descendants a land."**

Now, there were folks already living on this land. And God wanted all these folks defeated and put off the land. But, the Israelites didn't do this...

not in the days of the judges...

not in the days of the priests...

not in the days of King Saul...

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But, David knew this land belonged to God's people. It had been given to them by God through this covenant...the promise He had made to their father, Abraham so many years before.

**And those of us who know God's Word and believe that it is indeed the inerrant Word of God know that the land of Israel belongs to the Jews! The Abrahamic Covenant was established through the seed of Isaac, not the seed of Ishmael...but that's another lesson!!**

So, that's one reason why **chapter 8** is in our Bible. We're not going to read all this but if we did we'd see that David defeated...

- ...the Philistines to the west, along the Mediterranean Sea
- ...the Moabites to the eastern side of the Dead Sea
- ...the Syrians to the north and the northeast
- and the Edomites who inhabited the territory south and east of the Dead Sea.

This chapter tells us David defeated the Philistines and subdued them.  
This chapter tells us that David killed 2/3 of all the Moabites and the rest became his servants.  
This chapter tells us David 22,000 Syrians one time and 18,000 Syrians another time and the rest became his servants.

This chapter also tells us he took tribute from his enemies...silver and gold and bronze...WHY?  
Because that's what folks do when they win battles...these were the spoils of war!  
And David was gathering materials for God's house to be built,  
remember?

This chapter also tells us David occupied Edom and all Edom became his servants.

**And this pleased God! Verses 6 and 14...**  
**"...the Lord helped David wherever he went."**

David didn't want to settle for less than God had promised. So, I want to ask you today...is there an area in your own life that is being defeated because you are willing to settle for less than God has promised?

Let's just think just a few minutes about these enemies David defeated...

- 1) **Philistines**...these were heathen folks who time and time and time and time again came against the people of God. The people of God would have victory over them and they'd regroup and come back against them another day.
- 2) **Moabites**...If we had time we'd tell the whole story of Balaam... but the bottom line is Balaam was a prophet for hire and he had been hired by the king of Moab to curse the children of God. Well, he did his best to curse the people of God, but God kept turning his cursings into blessings.

However, Balaam told the Moabites there was another way to defeat the children of God and that was to get them to sin so that God would take vengeance against them.

So, the Moabites invited the Israelites to the sacrifice of their gods and the people ate and bowed down to their gods and the Bible says "they joined themselves to Baal of Peor" and "they played the harlot with daughters of Moab."

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And guess what? God **did** take vengeance against them. He killed all the leaders of the Israelites. What the king of Moab could not achieve through the hired prophet, Balaam, he achieved through the immorality of the children of God.

- 3) **Syrians**...these were heathen people who had all kinds of gods. They had led many children of God astray into idolatry.
- 4) **Edomites**...these folks were descendants of Esau...and they were just like him. Esau cared nothing about his God-given birth-right. He traded it for a bowl of soup. He only cared about satisfying his hungry stomach. And that's exactly what his descendants did. They were interested only in the things that satisfied their flesh...not the things of God.

## **So, I said all that to say this...**

We need to defeat the **Philistines** in our lives...those old habits, those old sins that keep coming back time and time and time again. Maybe it's the sin of gossip or resentment or unforgiveness. Those are enemies that need to be defeated in our lives.

We need to defeat the **Moabites** in our lives. If there is anything of any illicit sexual nature going on in your life...any lusts, any movies, any magazines, any books, anything...those enemies need to be defeated.

We need to defeat the **Syrians** in our lives. I believe we would all quickly want to say, "Oh, I don't have any gods...I don't have any idols in my life..." But, you know, it just may be that this is the enemy we are most plagued with.

**What is an idol? Anyone or anything that comes before the Lord in your life is an idol. And that person may be your children or your husband or your grandchildren or your job or your hobbies. That thing may be a "good thing."**

But, if you've allowed anyone or anything to come between you and God, then you have an idol in your life. And that enemy or those enemies need to be defeated.

Lastly, we need to defeat the **Edomites** in our lives. Do the things that satisfy your flesh mean more to you than the things of God? If they do...they need to be defeated.

I want to have all God wants me to have.

I want to be all God wants me to be.

Therefore, I must defeat the enemies in my life...not in my own strength...but like David, I need God with me wherever I go!!

David had learned through trial and error that he couldn't defeat his enemies his own way in his own strength. He had grown spiritually to the place we find him in **chapter 8**...and God wants us to learn from his example!

Let's look at **chapter 9**...

***This chapter has been described by some as "David's finest hour." All his enemies to the north, south, east and west had been defeated.***

God had given David a time of rest. And as he was resting, he began to think of Saul and Jonathan. Some of these memories must have brought David great pain but some brought him great joy.

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Ron Dunn used to say that good and bad sometimes run on parallel tracks and they usually arrive about the same time. **David had bad memories of Saul... but he had good memories of Jonathan...**

## **Verses 1-13...**

This story is such a beautiful picture of the love that Jesus has for you and me. Such a beautiful picture of God's amazing grace!

We were introduced to Mephibosheth in **chapter 4...4:4...**

Why would his nurse grab Mephibosheth up and leave in such a hurry? Well, she must have known how his granddaddy had treated David. She was afraid of the new king. In that culture, when a new king came on the scene, it was not unusual for him to kill all the family of the old king.

So, with this in mind, she picked the little five-year-old up and ran and as she did he fell and became lame.

Years have passed and this little boy has become a man.  
But, he's an outsider. His family is no longer on the  
Throne. He might have been in hiding all these years...

And the king sent a messenger to Mephibosheth to tell him to come to the king's house. When Mephibosheth got there, he fell on his face before him but King David told him not to fear...that because of his covenant with his father Jonathan he would have all the land that once belonged to his grandfather, but not only that, he would eat from the king's table regularly.

Now, as I've said before, this is one of the greatest pictures in the Old Testament of the grace of God!

Because there was a day when you and I were lost. We  
were away from God. We didn't have anything to do  
with God. We were outside His presence.

And somebody brought us a message. Maybe it was a parent, or a friend, or a Sunday School teacher, or a neighbor or a preacher...

But at some time someone came to us and said,

***"There is a God who wants you to come to Him. Accept His invitation. Come before Him. Fall on your face before Him. Confess your unworthiness and He will give you all His blessings of grace...not because of you, but because of the blood of His dear Son."***

Paul tells us in **Ephesians 4:32...**

***"God for Christ's sake has forgiven you."***

The only way we who are spiritually cripple, spiritually separated and apart from God...the only way we could ever come and have fellowship with the King and become part of His family and have a home in Heaven and eat at the King's table is because of God's goodness and grace...we certainly don't deserve it!

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I love the song “Were It Not For Grace”. Were it not for the grace of King David, Mephibosheth would have never been brought into the king’s palace, and were it not for the grace of God, we would never be brought into His heaven.

“By grace you have been saved through faith...”  
Amazing, marvelous, infinite, matchless grace!

**How grateful we should be for the grace of God!**

***Well, let’s quickly and I mean quickly look at*** chapter 10...

Verses 1-7...

Way back when David was being chased by Saul, Nahash, the king of the Ammonites had befriended David...probably less because of his affection for David than for his hatred of Saul. He probably thought since Saul was chasing David... ***“any enemy of Saul is a friend of mine.”***

**We don’t know what Nahash did for David. We don’t know if he gave him food, or shelter, or weapons, or what.**

But, years have passed...Saul is dead. David is king. And Nahash has died. His son, Hanun, became king of Ammon.

And David hears about this and he sends some of his servants to console him, but Hanun’s folks took these servants of David and shaved off their beards...cut off their garments in the middle as far as their hips (“buttocks” – KJV) and sent them away. This was done to humiliate David’s men **and** David.

Of course, when David heard about this, he was furious and he sent Joab and all the army against the Ammonites.

The bottom line is that the Ammonites were defeated as were the Syrian mercenary soldiers who were helping them fight against Israel.

**Verse 19...**

Let me just give a couple of quick applications...

We need to know that God had already told the Israelites not to fraternize with the Ammonites... In fact God had told them among other things that...

**Deuteronomy 23:6:** “You shall never seek their peace or their prosperity all your days.”

Generally, there’s nothing wrong with a believer ministering to an unbeliever in a time of grief or mourning. Usually that’s a very good time to show them the love of God.

But when we deal with unbelievers and try to establish friendships with them, we need to be very careful. I’m not saying we shouldn’t do it, I’m just saying we need to be very careful.

**Jude** tells us “...have mercy on some, who are doubting;

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*save others, snatching them out of the fire;  
and on some have mercy with fear, hating  
even the garment polluted by the flesh."*

What does it mean to hate even "the garment polluted by the flesh"? Well, I'm glad you asked.

According to Dr. Gray Allison in his little commentary on the **Book of Jude**, there are three different groups of unbelievers mentioned in these two verses. The first group are the **"doubters."** The **"doubters"** are those folks who just don't know...perhaps they're searching, but they haven't yet found the truth, they don't have a background in Bible study. **We're to go to these folks and share the truth of the Gospel with them.**

The second group are those whom we are to **"snatch out of the fire..."**

These are folks who are on the very brink of eternity...perhaps they have a terminal illness. I believe when the Holy Spirit allowed my husband to witness to a friend, and he accepted the Lord Jesus, he was literally **"snatched out of the fire."** Dr. Gray says we're to be bold with these folks...**there is little time to cultivate them...we must be blunt with them.**

Then there are those whose **"garments are polluted by the flesh."** Dr. Gray says these folks who are in danger of slipping out of this life into eternal hell, but they also present a danger to the folks who would witness to them.

So, **Jude** is saying be very careful how you deal with some folks. We're to beware lest we be infected with the sin that infects them. We're not to go just anywhere to take the Gospel. We're not to engage in just any activity to share the Gospel. WHY? Because our garments might become polluted like theirs.

So, the first principle in dealing with unbelievers is...**we mustn't allow them to pull us down to their level spiritually...**

But the second principle in dealing with unbelievers is...and I believe we see this very strongly in this passage of Scripture...

**We mustn't be shocked if our motive in reaching out to them is questioned.**

I don't know if David should have sent his servants or not...I tend to believe he shouldn't have in light of what **Deuteronomy** tells us...but whether he should have or not...**I do believe David's motives were pure!**

However, many unbelievers are very suspicious of believers just as we see here. And some of this is justifiable. Many times folks aren't what they profess to be.

So, when we deal with unbelievers we must

- 1) not get pulled down to their level
- 2) not be surprised if they question our motives

And finally, when we must do battle against unbelievers we must exercise wisdom by trusting in the Person of God.

Verse 9-12...

**The story is told of "Black Jack" Pershing in WWI.**

One of his men came to him and said,

"General, we're surrounded. The Germans are to

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the north of us. The Germans are to the south of us. The Germans are to the west of us and the Germans are to the east of us.”

To that General Pershing replied...

“The situation is excellent. We shall attack.”

That’s what Joab said,

“They’re before us and they’re behind us! The situation is excellent.

Abishai, you take that bunch of Ammonites. I’ll take that bunch of Syrians and if the Ammonites prove to be too much for you, I’ll come help you and if the Syrians prove to be too much for me, you come help me...

But, the will of God be done! ‘May the Lord do what is good in His sight.’”

Sometimes, God’s people have battles to fight. But, when we do, we must do it God’s way and in God’s wisdom!

Well, I pray I haven’t confused you today with these applications. I know there was a “stretch” for some of them.

I pray that God will seal these passages of Scripture to our hearts to help us in the days ahead.

I also pray that He will give us the strength to defeat all the **Philistines** and **Moabites** and **Syrians** and **Edomites** in our lives in the days ahead.

I also pray that He will give us His grace to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with someone in the days ahead...and may our motives not be misunderstood!

May we go to the doubters...

May we go snatch someone from the fire...

May our garments not be polluted in sharing the Gospel...