***1 Chronicles***

***Chapter 18***

***David’s Victories***

**In the course of time, David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and he took Gath and its surrounding villages from the control of the Philistines. 2 David also defeated the Moabites, and they became subject to him and brought tribute. 3 Moreover, David fought Hadadezer king of Zobah, as far as Hamath, when he went to establish his control along the Euphrates River. 4 David captured a thousand of his chariots, seven thousand charioteers and twenty thousand foot soldiers. He hamstrung all but a hundred of the chariot horses. 5 When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David struck down twenty-two thousand of them. 6 He put garrisons in the Aramean kingdom of Damascus, and the Arameans became subject to him and brought tribute. The Lord gave David victory everywhere he went. 7 David took the gold shields carried by the officers of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem. 8 From Tebah and Cun, towns that belonged to Hadadezer, David took a great quantity of bronze, which Solomon used to make the bronze Sea, the pillars and various bronze articles. 9 When Tou king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the entire army of Hadadezer king of Zobah, 10 he sent his son Hadoram to King David to greet him and congratulate him on his victory in battle over Hadadezer, who had been at war with Tou. Hadoram brought all kinds of articles of gold and silver and bronze. 11 King David dedicated these articles to the Lord, as he had done with the silver and gold he had taken from all these nations: Edom and Moab, the Ammonites and the Philistines, and Amalek. 12 Abishai son of Zeruiah struck down eighteen thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt. 13 He put garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites became subject to David. The Lord gave David victory everywhere he went.**

**18:1–20:8** The accounts of David’s wars serve to show the blessing of God on his reign; God keeps his promise to subdue David’s enemies (17:10). These accounts are also particularly relevant to a theme developed in the postexilic prophets: that the silver and gold of the nations would flow to Jerusalem; the tribute of enemy peoples builds the temple of God (18:7–8, 11; 22:2–5, 14–15; cf. Hag 2:1–9, 20–23; Zec 2:7–13; 6:9–15; 14:12–14). While this passage of Chronicles portrays God’s blessing on David, it simultaneously explains the Chronicler’s report later (22:6–8; 28:3) that David could not build the temple because he was a man of war. The material in these chapters essentially follows the Chronicler’s source in 2 Samuel. The major differences are not changes the Chronicler introduces into the text, but items he chooses not to deal with—in particular 2Sa 9; 11:2–12:25, where accounts not compatible with his portrait of David occur. (CSB)

**18:1–13** See 2Sa 8:1–14 and notes. (CSB)

**18:2** The Chronicler omits the harsh treatment of the Moabites recorded in 2Sa 8:2, perhaps so that no unnecessary cruelty or brutality would tarnish his portrait of David. (CSB)

**18:5** *Arameans.* Mentioned also among the enemies of Saul (1Sa 14:47, “Zobah”). By the time of David they were united north (Zobah) and south (Beth Rehob, 2Sa 10:6) under Hadadezer. They persisted as a foe of Israel for two centuries until they fell to Assyria shortly before the northern kingdom likewise fell (2Ki 16:7–9). (CSB)

**18:8** *Tebah and Cun.* Located in the valley between the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon mountain ranges. (CSB)

*which Solomon used to make … various bronze articles.* See 2Ch 4:2–5, 18. (CSB)

**18:12** *Abishai.* 2Sa 8:13 speaks only of David (see 1Ki 11:15–16; Ps 60 title). (CSB)

***David’s Officials***

**14 David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people. 15 Joab son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was recorder; 16 Zadok son of Ahitub and Ahimelech son of Abiathar were priests; Shavsha was secretary; 17 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the Kerethites and Pelethites; and David’s sons were chief officials at the king’s side.**

**18:15–17** The titles and duties of these officers at David’s court appear to be modeled on the organization of Egyptian functionaries serving Pharaoh. (CSB)

**18:15** For the account of how Joab attained his position over the army see 11:4–6; 2Sa 5:6–8. (CSB)

**18:16** *Zadok … Ahimelech son of Abiathar.* See notes on 6:8; 16:39; 2Sa 8:17. (CSB)

**18:17** *Kerethites and Pelethites.* Apparently a group of foreign mercenaries who constituted part of the royal bodyguard (2Sa 8:18; 20:23; see note on 1Sa 30:14). They remained loyal to David at the time of the rebellions of Absalom (2Sa 15:18) and Sheba (2Sa 20:7) and supported the succession of Solomon against his rival Adonijah (1Ki 1:38, 44). (CSB)

*chief officials.* The earlier narrative at this point uses the Hebrew term ordinarily translated “priests” (see note on 2Sa 8:18). The Chronicler has used a term for civil service instead of sacral service. Two approaches to this passage are ordinarily followed: 1. Some scholars see here an attempt by the Chronicler to keep the priesthood restricted to the Levitical line as part of his larger concern with legitimacy of cultic institutions in his own day. 2. Others argue that the Hebrew term used in 2Sa 8:18 could earlier have had a broader meaning than “priest” and could be used of some other types of officials (cf. 2Sa 20:26; 1Ki 4:5). The Chronicler used an equivalent term, since by his day the Hebrew term for “priest” was restricted to cultic functionaries. The Septuagint, Targum, Old Latin and Josephus all translate the term in Samuel by some word other than “priest.” (CSB)