

**I. Introduction.**

**II. David is forced into war with the Ammonites. 10:1-8**

- A. David seeks to showing lovingkindness to Hanun king of the Ammonities. v. 1-2**
  - 1. According to the law Israel's foreign policy was to wipe out those peoples occupying Canaan but to offer peace to neighboring lands. Dt. 20:10-18**
  - 2. David seeks peace with his neighbor, Hanun of Ammon. Pr. 25:21-22**
  - 3. There are remarkable parallels to the lovingkindness (*hesed*) David sought to show to Mephibosheth. 9:3,7 10:2 I Samuel 11:1ff**
  
- B. The Ammonites reject David's offer of lovingkindness. v. 3-5**
  - 1. King Hanun's advisors are suspicious of David's motives. v. 3 I Co. 13:7**
  - 2. They insult and humiliate David's messengers. v. 4-5 Is. 7:20 15:2 20:4 Jer. 48:37**
  
- C. Two nations prepare for war. v. 6-7**
  - 1. The Ammonites rally their allies. v. 6**
  - 2. David, being forced into war, sends his army. v. 7 Ps. 120:7**
  
- D. General Joab employs both tactics and faith. v. 8-12**
  - 1. The army of Israel is surrounded by numerous enemies. v. 8-9a**
  - 2. Joab divides his forces and plans his strategy for battle. v. 9b-11**
  - 3. Joab calls his men to courage and faith. v. 12 Ps. 20:7 33:16-17 Judg. 7:15-18**
  
- E. God gives Israel a great victory. v. 13-19 12:26-31 Gen. 12:3**
  - 1. The Arameans, who had been allied with the Ammonites, are crushed and make peace with Israel. v. 13-19 Prov. 16:7 Ps. 2:12**
  - 2. The Ammonites are finally conquered after a very long war. 12:26-31 11:1**
  
- F. This passage ends with David at his peak.**
  - 1. He is a man of character who shows God's lovingkindness even to his enemies.**
  - 2. He is a man of honor.**
  - 3. The LORD continues to give David victory. 5:12**
  - 4. David's kingdom is a type of the Kingdom of God which comes through Christ.**

**III. Application.**

- A. Seek to show God's lovingkindness, even to your enemies. v. 2 Mt. 5:43ff Ro. 12:17ff Gal. 6:9-10 I Th. 5:15**
  
- B. In our spiritual battles we are called to employ both strategy and faith. Pr. 21:31**
  - 1. We are responsible to exert effort. v. 12a Eph. 6:10ff Phil. 2:12-13 Ro. 6:12-14 Mt. 28:18ff Acts 1:8**
  - 2. We also should seek to employ wise tactics. Mt. 5:29-30**
  - 3. When we go forth as the King's ambassadors, we should not be surprised when the world rejects and insults us. II Tim. 4:3 3:12**
  - 4. We should be courageous and fear not. Ps. 3:6 Rom. 8:31ff**
  - 5. We trust our sovereign God to do what is best: the outcome belongs to Him. v. 12b Ro. 8:28**

- C. Beware of spiritual presumption. 11:1**
1. David fell when he was at the height of his success.
  2. This great man of God falls into adultery, murder, and deceit.
  3. Even after repenting, the last season of his life was the hardest season.
  4. We may be safer during times of trial than during times of ease. Prov. 30:9a I Tim. 6:9
  5. Just because you have been walking with the LORD for a long time does not mean that you cannot fall. I Co. 10:12 I Pe. 5:8 Gal. 6:9 Heb. 4:11
  6. Continue to be diligent and watchful. II Pe. 1:10 Mt. 26:41 II Th. 3:13
  7. Only Jesus perfectly overcomes temptation.
- D. The Ammonites illustrate what happens to those who reject God's lovingkindness.**
1. They stand in stark contrast to Mephibosheth who illustrates the blessing which comes to those who humbly receive the LORD's lovingkindness. 9:7-8
  2. God offers lovingkindness to His enemies through His Anointed King (Jesus, the Son of David). John 3:16 Luke 5:32 Rom. 5:10 Col. 1:21-22
  3. Many not only reject His offer of lovingkindness, but insult the LORD and His servants. Mt. 21:33-39 22:1-7 Ps. 2:1-3
  4. The result will be judgment: God will go to war against them. Mt. 21:40-41 22:7 Ps. 2:4-6,9 Luke 10:16
  5. Some former enemies finally come to their senses and seek peace with God's King. v. 19 Ps. 2:12 Ro. 5:10
  6. God offers lovingkindness to you. Do homage to His anointed Son before it is too late. Psalm 2:10-12 Mt. 22:5

#### Discussion questions

1. How does David's overture to King Hanun reflect the teaching of God's law?
2. Contrast the response of Hanun to David's kindness with that of Mephibosheth.
3. Why is Joab the one rallying the troops of Israel? Is this a concern? v. 9-12
4. What is the nature of the warfare in which we are engaged?
5. If the battle belongs to the LORD, what place do tactics and effort play in our warfare?
6. Should nations today fight for their honor, as David did for the honor of Israel?
7. How do the Ammonites illustrate what happens to those who reject God's lovingkindness?
8. How specifically can you show lovingkindness to enemies?
9. How could David fall after having walking faithfully with God for so long?  
How could this happen to any one of us (including you)?