

~ Have you ever considered why there are so many wars in the world? Well, there are many theories and hypothesis; some of which are rational, and some are irrational. The great wonder of Scripture is, with the Word of God, we don't have to guess at these profound questions. Scripture tells us clearly why there are wars; but war isn't limited to fighting between flesh and blood. Right now, as I type and you read, there is a spiritual battle raging. This report from *God's viewpoint* — called the Book of first and second Chronicles — is going to tell us all about the wars King David fought in his day; and we'll see the spiritual application that his battles have for us. Some people will have a *very* difficult time understanding how war fits into God's viewpoint. So, for those of you who seem to think you have no use for the Old Testament, let's listen to what James had to say; James asked, "*.... from whence come wars and fighting amongst you?*" It's a practical question that James asks — and answered himself; and the answer James gave is:

**James 4:** <sup>1</sup> *....come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?* <sup>2</sup> *Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.* <sup>3</sup> *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.* <sup>4</sup> *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God ~*

See, friends, the background for any war is the sinful heart of man. You can argue that all day long — won't change a thing. When sin came into the world — so did war. The problem is one of sin — not war in and of itself. It's easy to protest war, as we all know; but protests just don't happen to end wars. Even if you were to end war with a protest, you're only going to start another one. Until the heart of man is right, war will rage continually — as we see all over this earth in this present hour.

You and I live in a world of which the Lord Jesus said, “... *a strong man armed keepeth his house.*” Why did Jesus say that? - Because we have enemies, friends. We are not living in some ideal situation today. The millennial kingdom hasn’t arrived, and man will never produce it of his own accord. Only the Prince of Peace will bring peace to this earth. Until that happens, we’ll do well to remain armed. We have an atom bomb – and it may be time to drop a few again. I *KNOW* that is not popular – you can disagree with the Lord Jesus if you want to – but I am going to agree with God. There are enemies who have so much hatred in their hearts in this world that they will stop at nothing – as we all well know.

Interestingly, the moment man sinned, God immediately said to Satan, “*I will put enmity between thee and the woman; between her seed and your seed.*” Friends, you cannot remove that – irrespective of your protests, dissatisfaction — or even by rejection of Christ. Jesus said, “*I didn’t come to bring peace; I came to bring a sword of division.*” Until sin and wickedness are removed from this world, there are going to be wars – you can just write that down. The disease is sin; and it is the *WHOLE* problem.

Well, God faces up to that problem; and He makes no apologies for our sins in His creations. At the time in which we are studying, David is becoming a man that God has blessed. As a result, David is seeing many enemies emerge around him. When David was a petty tribal king, the world paid no attention to him. At this time in Chronicles, God lets David know that because Israel was great in this world, there is — and will be — war.

I am utterly amused that people do not want to use chemical or atomic warfare in a foreign country, but they feel the Molotov cocktail is alright in this country. What fools and hypocrites they are; and they attempt to explain it all away by saying they just don’t understand how those people “*over there*” feel. I hate to tell you this; but, I *DO* understand how those people feel – because we’re all sinners. They feel just like we do; and that’s the entire problem — and all of this truth is contained in the little word “*sin!*” ~

## XVIII

***<sup>1</sup> Now after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them, and took Gath and her towns out of the hand of the Philistines.***

***<sup>2</sup> And he smote Moab; and the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts.***

***<sup>3</sup> And David smote Hadarezer king of Zobah unto Hamath, as he went to stablish his dominion by the river Euphrates.***

***<sup>4</sup> And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: David also killed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them an hundred chariots.***

~ David may not have multiplied horses; but, he *DID* multiply wives – and God had commanded the kings of Israel to multiply neither horses nor wives. Solomon multiplied *BOTH*! One would think Solomon would have been smarter than that in all his wisdom; but, he wasn't. The most prominent feature in the ruins of Megiddo are those forty thousand some-odd stables that were Solomon's. In fact, Solomon had stables all over Israel. See, it doesn't matter how zealous we are to obey God, friends; we're *STILL* sinners. David made some very real mistakes because he was in this very real world....

***<sup>5</sup> And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadarezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men.***

***<sup>6</sup> Then David put garrisons in Syriadamascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, and brought gifts. Thus the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.***

***7 And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadarezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.***

***8 Likewise from Tibhath, and from Chun, cities of Hadarezer, brought David very much brass, wherewith Solomon made the brasen sea, and the pillars, and the vessels of brass.***

***9 Now when Tou king of Hamath heard how David had smitten all the host of Hadarezer king of Zobah;***

***10 He sent Hadoram his son to king David, to enquire of his welfare, and to congratulate him, because he had fought against Hadarezer, and smitten him; (for Hadarezer had war with Tou;) and with him all manner of vessels of gold and silver and brass.***

***11 Them also king David dedicated unto the LORD, with the silver and the gold that he brought from all these nations; from Edom, and from Moab, and from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines, and from Amalek.***

***12 Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruiah slew of the Edomites in the valley of salt eighteen thousand.***

***13 And he put garrisons in Edom; and all the Edomites became David's servants. Thus the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.***

***14 So David reigned over all Israel, and executed judgment and justice among all his people.***

***15 And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, recorder.***

***16 And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Abimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests; and Shavsha was scribe;***

***17 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and the sons of David were chief about the king.***

~ So, we are told David had accumulated a lot of stuff from the spoils of war. All of these materials were used later on; particularly in the building of the temple. My feeling is that by the time David died, Israel had completely cornered the gold market of the world. Now, every nation listed in this chapter is confirmed by secular history to have been an enemy of Israel, and they all fought against them. Well, David was given the victory over all of them.

In order for David to become the king, there were enemies that had to be driven out. Today, the child of God has enemies, too. If we didn't have enemies, we wouldn't be told to put on the whole armor of God and stand against the enemy! Of course, our enemy today is not flesh and blood; it is a spiritual enemy. That is the situation you and I are in in this world right now, friends.

The notion that a Christian can compromise with the world and “*love, love, love*” everything and everyone that comes along is woefully gullible and naïve. You are entirely wrong about that. You're going to have to *stand* for something or you will fall for anything – and you aren't saved with that sloppy agape belief, either, my beloved. We need more Christians who actually stand for something. We have too many who are doing absolutely nothing for God. Actually, they hinder the cause of Christ with their sickening “*love*” theory – which no one believes – because they are usually the meanest people around. They never seem to like me. They sit in the front pew every single Sunday; and, frighteningly, they are usually an officer in the church, too. We have enemies and those enemies *MUST* be withstood!

Alright, moving on, we come to an incident in chapter nineteen that, while it is truly a tragedy, it reveals – at least to me – that God has a great sense of humor; but it is also an incident that reveals David to be short-tempered. See, David was very much a normal human being. This incident which God

records in this passage shows us David was very much unsuccessful in some of the things he did. Today, no good deed goes unpunished. I find it extremely interesting. I think it also reveals David was a man with a kind and loving heart, too....

## **XIX**

***<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass after this, that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon died, and his son reigned in his stead.***

~ Ammon was always an enemy of Israel; but they were a peaceful enemy, so to speak; and David didn't want to make war with a new king. David was put on the defence by what happens here; as he was most of the time in his life when war was being waged against Israel. If you are God's man, you will find yourself on the defense many, many times – and *MOST* of the time.

When we are told to put on the armor of God, we aren't given any marching orders; no, friends, we're told to *stand* – that's all! The tragedy of this hour regarding witnessing is that people want to attack – not stand as they have been commanded. Well, David had this enemy, and it seems as if he wanted to try to clear that up and be a friend to the son of Nahash. You may remember from David's history that Nahash had been friendly and helpful to David when David was on the run from Saul....

***<sup>2</sup> And David said, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father shewed kindness to me. And David sent messengers to comfort him concerning his father. So the servants of David came into the land of the children of Ammon to Hanun, to comfort him.***

***<sup>3</sup> But the princes of the children of Ammon said to Hanun, Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? are not his servants come unto thee for to search, and to overthrow, and to spy out the land?***

***4 Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved them, and cut off their garments in the midst hard by their buttocks, and sent them away.***

***5 Then there went certain, and told David how the men were served. And he sent to meet them: for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return.***

***6 And when the children of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the children of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire them chariots and horsemen out of Mesopotamia, and out of Syriamaachah, and out of Zobah.***

~ Apparently, Hanun knew how David would react to disgracing these men – and they were certainly ashamed. People didn't run around naked in the day in which we are studying, and these men were embarrassed beyond belief. Well, Hanun realized he had received bad advice from his new advisors – probably young men – so, he quickly hired these other nations to help him out; and I think Hanun stubbornly dug in his heels and decided he was going to go all the way fighting David and taking Israel captive. I think it may have been much easier to simply apologize – but that was, apparently, out of the questions for Hanun. Hanun likely wanted to demonstrate and establish his dominance in the world, as he had just taken over reign of the Ammonites, and this looked like the opportunity to just that....

***7 So they hired thirty and two thousand chariots, and the king of Maachah and his people; who came and pitched before Medeba. And the children of Ammon gathered themselves together from their cities, and came to battle.***

***8 And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men.***

***9 And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array before the gate of the city: and the kings that were come were by themselves in the field.***

***10 Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him before and behind, he chose out of all the choice of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians.***

***11 And the rest of the people he delivered unto the hand of Abishai his brother, and they set themselves in array against the children of Ammon.***

***12 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 help thee.***

***13 Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the LORD do that which is good in his sight.***

***14 So Joab and the people that were with him drew nigh before the Syrians unto the battle; and they fled before him.***

***15 And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, they likewise fled before Abishai his brother, and entered into the city. Then Joab came to Jerusalem.***

***16 And when the Syrians saw that they were put to the worse before Israel, they sent messengers, and drew forth the Syrians that were beyond the river: and Shophach the captain of the host of Hadarezer went before them.***

***17 And it was told David; and he gathered all Israel, and passed over Jordan, and came upon them, and set the battle in array against them. So when David had put the battle in array against the Syrians, they fought with him.***



***18 But the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew of the Syrians seven thousand men which fought in chariots, and forty thousand footmen, and killed Shophach the captain of the host.***

***19 And when the servants of Hadarezer saw that they were put to the worse before Israel, they made peace with David, and became his servants: neither would the Syrians help the children of Ammon any more.***

~ Making war with David was never a good idea. David and his men were extremely capable and experienced from all those years defending themselves against Saul. The strategy David used is still used in modern warfare; that is, dividing the fight into multiple battlegrounds. Joab was a true army man and he fought to win at all costs.

It is important to remember that David did not pick this fight; and, here, we have a tremendous spiritual lesson from God's viewpoint. David had made a gesture of peace to this man who turned and attacked him and insulted Israel. However, when David saw an army gathering against him, he wasn't going to run and hide. Once David was provoked, this war was "on."

It is a tragedy for any nation to act as America acts today – and has acted for the last sixty years – by fighting wars that we have no intention of winning. We still do it. Friends, we shouldn't fight in wars just to have something to do – that's absurd – but that's what we do. MacArthur said, "*I fight to win!*" Disregarding that fact *alone* has led America into tragedy after tragedy around the world. Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iraq again – all fought in a half-hearted way that cost thousands more lives *ON BOTH SIDES* that were senselessly and shamefully lost.

Many people disagree with me. They blame God and say "*He's bloody; how can he be a good God and allow all this to happen?*" Well, as we saw in the beginning of this report, God isn't the problem. God knows the way to save human life; He provided the way for us in the first place! War is in man's heart. The way to save human life is to win the wars we fight as a country.

There's no other way. We live in a very bad, brutal, *mean* world that just doesn't happen to be a Sunday school picnic with an arts and crafts show.

Browning said, "... *God is in Heaven, and all is right with the world!*" Well, God is in Heaven – but all is not right in the world. What an absolute idiot that man truly was. If you want to agree with Browning, you are going to be directly disagreeing with Scripture, friends. It will prove you have no capacity for God's point of view. This is, without a doubt, one of those great sections of the Word of God that is *COMPLETELY* ignored - and even disputed - by many very well-meaning Christians. Of course, the problem is: they simply don't believe God – even though they say they do. When Scripture contradicts you, but you refuse to listen to that still, small voice, then you're not believing God, friends.

This modern day is one of permissiveness and foul-mouthed dishonesty; where personal integrity and honor are all but as extinct as the Pterodactyl. Human insincerity has made this country – and, indeed, the world – anemic and sick unto death. See, the problem is individual, and it is extremely personal. That's because we're in a world of *S-I-N!* The problem is *SIN!* We live in a world where laws are not enforced against criminals – modern laws are only designed to hurt law abiding men and women. Criminals aren't even punished anymore – we try to correct them. Of course, war is the only reasonable outcome of a world that has totally and completely turned their backs on God.

Until we learn and obey the Word of God it will get worse and worse – and we haven't seen *ANYTHING* yet, my friends – you can just write that down. There isn't going to be any peace – you can forget about peace in our current climate and condition. The world isn't an ideal place and God never said it was or was going to be. Jesus said, "*a strong man armed keeps his house!*" That's God's viewpoint, and I find it extremely interesting. Maybe you don't agree with God; maybe you don't like His way. My beloved – God says to you – *TOO BAD!*

Alright, we're going to leave it at that in this report; and in our next report, we're going to see the greatest sin David ever committed – and it has nothing to do with Uriah, Bathsheba, murder or adultery – it has to do with simply disobeying God in a matter that seemed benign in the big picture. Of course our “*big picture*” is as narrow and darkly sighted as man can possibly see in — but we'll get to that. Many people simply will not see why numbering the people was such a great sin for David. Well, this is the sin God recorded in *His viewpoint* because it occurred on the spiritual level. It won't affect David's salvation, but it sure will affect him personally and the nation Israel in a very big way. That “*big way*” is that it hurts and hinders the collective nations' personal relationships with God Almighty! I hope you can travel along with us in this Spiritual Safari. If you do, pray *NOW* for wisdom, judgment and discernment ~

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