

In Judges Chapter 6 we read of the people of Israel cowering in caves as the nomadic Midianites and Amalekites overrun their land and devour their crops. Only the pity of the Lord for His people prevents their complete extermination.

What a contrast here. This chapter is not necessarily chronological with the rest of 2 Samuel, some battles probably occurring before Chapter 7 and others later, but it relates the rise of Israel as a regional power able to challenge Syria or Egypt. David's victories are literally encompassing as he indeed strikes toward all points of the compass:

In the **west** are the Philistines. David takes Metheg-ammah ("Bridle of the capital"), possibly another name for Gath (1 Chron. 18:1).

To the **north** David subjugates the Syrians and their ally the king of Zobah. He then accepts tribute from the king of Hamath. Zobah and Hamath would be in the far north, beyond Damascus. The "he" of verse 3 probably refers to Hadadezer, as David's realm would not yet extend to the Euphrates.

In the **east** are the Moabites. David defeats them but spares a third to pay him tribute. (Compare Rev. 9:15, 20 where the spared survivors do *not* give God his due).

To the **south** past the Arabah (Valley of Salt) below the Dead Sea are the Edomites, hated because of Esau and because they blocked Israel's passage on the journey from Egypt (Num. 20:21). Obadiah 18 prophesies their complete destruction before the judgment of the end times.

Psalm 60 also celebrates these conquests. "You have set up a banner for those who fear you, that they may flee to it from the bow. That your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by your right hand and answer us!" And what is that banner? "And in that day there shall be a



root of Jesse, standing as a banner of the peoples: the nations shall seek it; and his resting-place shall be glory" (Isa. 11:10 DBY). The root of Jesse is the banner — first David, then Christ.

Questions for study and discussion:

(Sorry, some of these questions are rather speculative, but hopefully thought provoking.)

1. How is David a type of Christ when he subdues the Philistines?

2. Why would David hamstring most of the chariot horses in verse 4?
3. Some of the gold and bronze acquired by David will be used in the temple (1 Chron. 17:7-8, 2 Kings 11:10). Saul had been rebuked for keeping a portion of the spoils of victory to give to the Lord. What is different here?
4. How does this chapter foreshadow the nation of Israel in the millennium?
5. What do we learn here about David as an administrator, rather than just a conqueror?