

# 1 Chronicles

## Chapter 20

### *The Capture of Rabbah*

**In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, Joab led out the army and ravaged the country of the Ammonites and came and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. And Joab struck down Rabbah and overthrew it. 2 And David took the crown of their king from his head. He found that it weighed a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone. And it was placed on David's head. And he brought out the spoil of the city, a very great amount. 3 And he brought out the people who were in it and set them to labor with saws and iron picks and axes. And thus David did to all the cities of the Ammonites. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.**

**20:1** *when kings go off to battle.* Immediately following the spring harvest when there was some relaxation of agricultural labors and armies on the move could live off the land. (CSB)

April, when the harvest is not taking place and the weather is more conducive to fighting. (TLSB)

*Rabbah.* Rabbah is the site of modern Amman, Jordan. (CSB)

Though David had mercy on the Syrians, he did not let up on the rebellious Ammonites. The conclusion of the Ammonite war (vv 1–3) is recorded also in 2Sm 11:1; 12:26–31. (TLSB)

**20:2–3** The Chronicler assumes that the reader is familiar with 2Sa 12:26–29; he does not offer an explanation of how David, who had remained in Jerusalem (v. 1), came to be at Rabbah. (CSB)

**20:1–3** David's conquest of the Ammonites. When people persist in rebellion and sin, the Lord would have you persist in applying God's Law. Do not grow faint in discipline. The Lord disciplines you as a result of His surpassing mercy, loving you as a dear father loves his children. • O Father, turn me from my rebellion to acknowledge Your abundant goodness. Amen. (TLSB)

### *Philistine Giants Killed*

**4 And after this there arose war with the Philistines at Gezer. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down Sippai, who was one of the descendants of the giants, and the Philistines were subdued. 5 And there was again war with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair struck down Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. 6 And there was again war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number, and he also was descended from the giants. 7 And when he taunted Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, struck him down. 8 These were descended from the giants in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.**

**20:4** *Philistines.* Though driven from Israel's borders in two battles (14:8–17), they still challenged David's supremacy. (TLSB)

*Rephaites.* Ancient people known for their large size (see Ge 14:5; Dt 2:11. (CSB)

**20:5** *Goliath the Gittite.* The giant David killed with a slingshot (1Sm 17:41–49). (TLSB)

**20:4–8** David’s army defeats even the most formidable warriors. Fear of such giants had kept Israel from entering the Promised Land, but the Lord strengthened His people for victory. No matter what colossal challenges face you, the Lord will grant you strength and faithful companions with whom to overcome such challenges. • Lord, equip me with all things needful to fulfill Your calling. Grant me the support of dear brothers and sisters who take confidence in Your promises, through Christ, our Lord. Amen. (TLSB)