

¹And it came to pass after this, that the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead.²Then said David, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father shewed kindness unto me. And David sent to comfort him by the hand of his servants for his father. And David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon.³And the princes of the children of Ammon said unto Hanun their lord, Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? hath not David rather sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?⁴Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off the one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away.⁵When they told it unto David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed: and the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return.⁶And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Bethrehab, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ishtob twelve thousand men.⁷And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men.⁸And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate: and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ishtob, and Maacah, were by themselves in the field.⁹When Joab saw that the front of the

¹وَكَانَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ أَنَّ مَلِكَ بَنِي عَمُّونَ مَاتَ، وَمَلَكَ خَائُونُ ابْنُهُ عِوَصًا عَنْهُ.²فَقَالَ دَاوُدُ، أَصْنَعُ مَعْرُوفًا مَعَ خَائُونِ بْنِ تَاخَاشَ كَمَا صَنَعَ أَبُوهُ مَعِيَ مَعْرُوفًا. فَأَرْسَلَ دَاوُدُ بَنِي عَمِيدِهِ يُعْزِيهِ عَنْ أَبِيهِ. فَجَاءَ عَمِيدُ دَاوُدَ إِلَى أَرْضِ بَنِي عَمُّونَ.³فَقَالَ رُؤَسَاءُ بَنِي عَمُّونَ لِخَائُونِ سَيِّدِهِمْ، هَلْ يُكْرِمُ دَاوُدُ أَبَاكَ فِي عَيْثِكَ حَتَّى أَرْسَلَ إِلَيْكَ مُعْزِينَ. أَلَيْسَ لِأَجْلِ قَحْصِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَتَجَسُّسِهَا وَقَلْبِهَا أَرْسَلَ دَاوُدُ عَمِيدَهُ إِلَيْكَ.⁴فَأَخَذَ خَائُونُ عَمِيدَ دَاوُدَ وَخَلَقَ أَنْصَافَ لِحَاهِمُ، وَقَصَّ ثِيَابَهُمْ مِنَ الْوَسْطِ إِلَى أَسْتَاهِمُ، ثُمَّ أَطْلَقَهُمْ.⁵وَلَمَّا أُخْبِرُوا دَاوُدَ أَرْسَلَ لِلِقَائِهِمْ لِأَنَّ الرِّجَالَ كَانُوا حَاجِلِينَ جِدًّا. وَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ، أَقِيمُوا فِي أَرِيحَا حَتَّى تَنْتَبِ لِحَاكُمُ ثُمَّ ارْجِعُوا. وَلَمَّا رَأَى بَنُو عَمُّونَ أَنَّهُمْ قَدْ أَتَوْا عِنْدَ دَاوُدَ أَرْسَلَ بَنُو عَمُّونَ وَاسْتَأْجَرُوا أَرَامَ بَنِي رَحُوبَ وَأَرَامَ صُوبَا، عِشْرِينَ أَلْفَ رَاجِلٍ، وَمِنْ مَلِكِ مَعَكَةَ أَلْفَ رَجُلٍ، وَرِجَالَ طُوبَ اثْنَيْ عَشَرَ أَلْفَ رَجُلٍ.⁷فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ دَاوُدَ أَرْسَلَ يُوَابَ وَكُلَّ جَيْشِ الْجَبَايِرَةِ.⁸وَخَرَجَ بَنُو عَمُّونَ وَاصْطَفَوْا لِلْحَرْبِ عِنْدَ مَدْخَلِ الْبَابِ، وَكَانَ أَرَامُ صُوبَا وَرَحُوبُ وَرِجَالُ طُوبَ وَمَعَكَةُ وَخَذَهُمْ فِي الْحَقْلِ.⁹فَلَمَّا رَأَى يُوَابُ أَنَّ مُقَدِّمَةَ الْحَرْبِ كَانَتْ تَخُوهُ مِنْ قُدَّامِ وَمِنْ وَرَاءِ، اخْتَارَ مِنْ جَمِيعِ مُنْخَبِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَصَفَّهُمْ لِلِقَاءِ أَرَامَ¹⁰ وَسَلَّمَ بَقِيَّةَ الشَّعْبِ لِيَدِ أَخِيهِ أَبِيشَايَ قَصَفَهُمْ لِلِقَاءِ بَنِي عَمُّونَ.¹¹وَقَالَ، إِنْ قَوِيَ أَرَامُ عَلَيَّ تَكُونُ لِي مُنْجِدًا. وَإِنْ قَوِيَ عَلَيْكَ بَنُو عَمُّونَ أَهْبُ لِتَجِدَنَّكَ.¹²تَجَلَّدُ وَلَتَسْتَدِدُّ مِنْ أَجْلِ شَعْنِي وَمِنْ أَجْلِ مُدُنِ إِلَهَتَا، وَالرَّبُّ يَفْعَلُ مَا يَحْسُنُ فِي عَيْنَيْهِ.¹³فَتَقَدَّمَ يُوَابُ وَالشَّعْبُ الَّذِينَ مَعَهُ لِمُخَارَبَةِ أَرَامَ فَهَرَبُوا مِنْ أَمَامِهِ.¹⁴وَلَمَّا رَأَى بَنُو عَمُّونَ أَنَّهُ قَدْ هَرَبَ أَرَامُ هَرَبُوا مِنْ أَمَامِ أَبِيشَايَ وَدَخَلُوا الْمَدِينَةَ. فَرَجَعَ يُوَابُ عَنْ بَنِي عَمُّونَ وَآتَى إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ.¹⁵وَلَمَّا رَأَى أَرَامُ أَنَّهُمْ قَدْ انْكَسَرُوا أَمَامَ إِسْرَائِيلَ اجْتَمَعُوا مَعًا.¹⁶وَأَرْسَلَ هَدَدُ عَزْرَ فَأَبْرَزَ أَرَامَ الَّذِي فِي غَيْرِ التَّهَرُّ، فَأَتُوا إِلَى جِيلَامَ وَأَمَامَهُمْ شُوبَكُ رَئِيسُ جَيْشِ هَدَدُ عَزْرَ.¹⁷وَلَمَّا أَخْبَرَ دَاوُدَ جَمَعَ كُلَّ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَغَيْرَ الْأَزْدَنِّ وَجَاءَ إِلَى جِيلَامَ، قَاصِطَفَ أَرَامَ لِلِقَاءِ دَاوُدَ وَخَارِبُوهُ.¹⁸وَهَرَبَ أَرَامُ مِنْ أَمَامِ إِسْرَائِيلَ، وَقَتَلَ دَاوُدُ مِنْ أَرَامَ سِتْعَ مِئَةِ مَرْكَبَةٍ وَأَرْبَعِينَ أَلْفَ قَارِسٍ، وَضَرَبَ شُوبَكَ رَئِيسَ جَيْشِهِ قَمَاتَ هُنَاكَ.¹⁹وَلَمَّا رَأَى جَمِيعُ الْمُلُوكِ، عَمِيدُ هَدَدُ عَزْرَ أَنَّهُمْ انْكَسَرُوا أَمَامَ

إِسْرَائِيلَ صَالِحُوا إِسْرَائِيلَ وَاسْتَعِيدُوا لَهُمْ، وَخَافَ أَرَامُ
أَنْ يُجِدُوا بَنِي عَمُّونَ بَعْدُ.

battle was against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice men of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians:¹⁰ And the rest of the people he delivered into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put them in array against the children of Ammon.¹¹ 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 come and help thee.¹² Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good.¹³ And Joab drew nigh, and the people that were with him, unto the battle against the Syrians: and they fled before him.¹⁴ And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, then fled they also before Abishai, and entered into the city. So Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem.¹⁵ And when the Syrians saw that they were smitten before Israel, they gathered themselves together.¹⁶ And Hadarezer sent, and brought out the Syrians that were beyond the river: and they came to Helam; and Shobach the captain of the host of Hadarezer went before them.¹⁷ And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together, and passed over Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in array against David, and fought with him.¹⁸ And the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew the men of seven hundred chariots of the Syrians, and forty thousand horsemen, and smote Shobach the captain of their host, who died there.¹⁹ And when all the kings that

were servants to Hadarezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Syrians feared to help the children of Ammon any more.