

¹وَكَانَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ أَنَّ مَلِكَ بَنِي عَمُّونَ مَاتَ، وَمَلَكَ خَانُونُ ابْنُهُ عَوَصاً عَنْهُ.² فَقَالَ دَاوُدُ، أَصْنَعُ مَعْرُوفاً مَعَ خَانُونِ بْنِ نَاحَاشَ كَمَا صَنَعَ أَبُوهُ مَعِيَ مَعْرُوفاً. فَأَرْسَلَ دَاوُدُ بَنِي عَمِيدِهِ يُعْزِيهِ عَنْ أَبِيهِ. فَجَاءَ عَمِيدُ دَاوُدَ إِلَى أَرْضِ بَنِي عَمُّونَ.³ فَقَالَ رُؤَسَاءُ بَنِي عَمُّونَ لِحَانُونِ سَيِّدِهِمْ، هَلْ يُكْرِمُ دَاوُدُ أَبَاكَ فِي عَيْتِكَ حَتَّى أَرْسَلَ إِلَيْكَ مُعْزِينَ. أَلَيْسَ لِأَجْلِ قُحْصِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَتَحَسُّسِهَا وَقَلْبِهَا أَرْسَلَ دَاوُدُ عَمِيدَهُ إِلَيْكَ.⁴ فَاتَّخَذَ خَانُونُ عَمِيدَ دَاوُدَ وَخَلَقَ أَنْصَافَ لِحَاهِمُ، وَقَصَّ نَيْبَاتِهِمْ مِنَ الْوَسْطِ إِلَى أَسْتَاهِمُ، ثُمَّ أَطْلَقَهُمْ.⁵ وَلَمَّا أَخْبَرُوا دَاوُدَ أَرْسَلَ لِلْقَائِهِمْ لِأَنَّ الرِّجَالَ كَانُوا خَجَلِينَ جِدًّا. وَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ، أَقِيمُوا فِي أَرِيخَا حَتَّى تَنْتَ لِحَاكُمُ ثُمَّ ارْجِعُوا. وَلَمَّا رَأَى بَنُو عَمُّونَ أَنَّهُمْ قَدْ أَتَوْا عِنْدَ دَاوُدَ أَرْسَلَ بَنُو عَمُّونَ وَاسْتَأْجَرُوا أَرَامَ بَيْتِ رَحُوبَ وَأَرَامَ صُوبَا، عِشْرِينَ أَلْفَ رَاجِلٍ، وَمِنْ مَلِكِ مَعَكَةَ أَلْفَ رَجُلٍ، وَرِجَالَ طُوبَ اثْنَيْ عَشَرَ أَلْفَ رَجُلٍ.⁷ فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ دَاوُدَ أَرْسَلَ يُوَابَ وَكُلَّ جَيْشِ الْجَبَارَةِ.⁸ وَخَرَجَ بَنُو عَمُّونَ وَاصْطَفَوْا لِلْحَرْبِ عِنْدَ مَدْخَلِ الْبَابِ، وَكَانَ أَرَامُ صُوبَا وَرَحُوبُ وَرِجَالُ طُوبَ وَمَعَكَةُ وَخَدَّهُمْ فِي الْخَفْلِ.⁹ فَلَمَّا رَأَى يُوَابُ أَنَّ مُقَدِّمَةَ الْحَرْبِ كَانَتْ تَحُوهُ مِنْ قُدَّامَ وَمِنْ وَرَاءِ، اخْتَارَ مِنْ جَمِيعِ مُتَخَيِّي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَصَفَّقَهُمْ لِلِقَاءِ أَرَامَ.¹⁰ وَسَلَّمَ بَقِيَّةَ السَّعْبِ لِيَدِ أَخِيهِ أَبِيشَايَ فَصَفَّقَهُمْ لِلِقَاءِ بَنِي عَمُّونَ.¹¹ وَقَالَ، إِنْ قَوِيَ أَرَامُ عَلَيَّ تَكُونُ لِي مُنْجِداً. وَإِنْ قَوِيَ عَلَيَّ بَنُو عَمُّونَ أَذْهَبُ لِنَجْدِكَ.¹² تَجَلَّدَ وَلْتَسْتَدِدَّ مِنْ أَجْلِ شَعْبِنَا وَمِنْ أَجْلِ مُذْنِ إِلَهِنَا، وَالرَّبُّ يَفْعَلُ مَا يَحْسُنُ فِي عَيْنَيْهِ.¹³ فَتَقَدَّمَ يُوَابُ وَالسَّعْبُ الَّذِينَ مَعَهُ لِمُحَارَبَةِ أَرَامَ فَهَزَبُوا مِنْ أَمَامِهِ.¹⁴ وَلَمَّا رَأَى بَنُو عَمُّونَ أَنَّهُ قَدْ هَرَبَ أَرَامَ هَرَبُوا مِنْ أَمَامِ أَبِيشَايَ وَدَخَلُوا الْمَدِينَةَ. فَرَجَعَ يُوَابُ عَنْ بَنِي عَمُّونَ وَآتَى إِلَى أُورُسَلِيمَ.¹⁵ وَلَمَّا رَأَى أَرَامُ أَنَّهُمْ قَدْ انْكَسَرُوا أَمَامَ إِسْرَائِيلَ اجْتَمَعُوا مَعاً.¹⁶ وَأَرْسَلَ هَدْدُ عَزْرَ فَأَبْرَزَ أَرَامَ الَّذِي فِي غَيْرِ النَّهْرِ، فَأَتَوْا إِلَى جِلَامَ وَأَمَامَهُمْ شُوبَكَ رَئِيسُ جَيْشِ هَدْدَ عَزْرَ.¹⁷ وَلَمَّا أَحْبَرَ دَاوُدَ جَمَعَ كُلَّ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَعَبَّرَ الْأَرْدَنَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى جِلَامَ، قَاصِطاً أَرَامَ لِلِقَاءِ دَاوُدَ وَخَارِيُوهَ.¹⁸ وَهَرَبَ أَرَامُ مِنْ أَمَامِ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَقَتَلَ دَاوُدُ مِنْ أَرَامَ سَعَةً مِائَةِ مَرْكَبَةٍ وَأَرْبَعِينَ أَلْفَ فَارِسٍ، وَضَرَبَ شُوبَكَ رَئِيسَ جَيْشِهِ قَمَاتَ هُنَاكَ.¹⁹ وَلَمَّا رَأَى جَمِيعُ الْمُلُوكِ، عَمِيدُ هَدْدَ عَزْرَ أَنَّهُمْ انْكَسَرُوا أَمَامَ

¹And it came to pass after this, that the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead.² Then 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.³ And 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?⁴ Wherefore 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.⁵ When 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.⁶ And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Bethrehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ishtob twelve thousand men.⁷ And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men.⁸ And 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.⁹ When Joab saw that the front of the

إِسْرَائِيلَ صَلَحُوا 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

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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.