

# When Things Are Looking Up

## What We Will Learn In This Series:

1. We learn a lot about someone by watching how they respond in really bad or in really good times.
2. Life is all about good times and bad times. As Christians, we need to be able to handle both of them properly.

## Two Things to Notice

1. Much time is passing in King David's reign.  
8:1 "In the course of time..." . . . 10:1 "In the course of time..." - 2 Samuel 8:1; 10:1
2. David is victorious and it is God who wins these victories.  
6 "The LORD gave David victory wherever he went." - 2 Samuel 8:6  
14 "The LORD gave David victory wherever he went." - 2 Samuel 8:14

## The Victories of David and Israel

1. These victories were in fulfillment of God's prophecy for Israel.  
"On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates." - Genesis 15:18
2. To the West — Philistines. (*Metheg Ammah*)
3. To the East — Moabites.
  - The Moabites were David's distant relatives.
  - David shows grace and spares every third soldier.
  - Treasures were won in battle and tribute was given. (*horses*)
4. To the North — Syrians and Arameans. David built garrisons to solidify the victories.
  - These enemies became subject and brought tribute.
5. To the South — Edomites.
  - David defeated 18,000 men and the defeated became subject to him.

## The Spoils of Victory

1. David became extremely famous.  
"And David became famous..." - 2 Samuel 8:13  
"So David's fame spread throughout every land, and the LORD made all the nations fear him." - 1 Chronicles 14:17
  - Kings sent their own sons to congratulate him.
2. David became extremely wealthy.  
"...Joram brought with him articles of silver and gold and bronze." - 2 Samuel 8:10

3. David became extremely powerful.

## How Does David Handle the "Best of Times?"

1. The fame he gave to the Lord by giving credit to the One who had truly achieved the victories.  
"Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle.  
10 to the One who gives victory to kings, who delivers His servant David from the deadly sword." - Psalm 144:1,10
2. The wealth he gave to the Lord by dedicating all of the plunder and tribute to the Lord.  
"King David dedicated these articles to the LORD, as he had done with the silver and gold from all the nations he had subdued: 12 Edom and Moab, the Ammonites and the Philistines, and Amalek. He also dedicated the plunder taken from Hadadzezer son of Rehob, king of Zobah." - 2 Samuel 8:11,12
3. The power was distributed and advice was sought.  
"Joab son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was recorder; 17 Zadok son of Ahitub and Ahimelech son of Abiathar were priests; Seraiah was secretary; 18 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the Kerethites and Pelethites; and David's sons were royal advisers." - 2 Samuel 8:16-18

David's Cabinet	
Joab, Minister of Defense	Seraiah, Scribe (Secretary)
Jehoshaphat, Min. of Foreign Affairs	Benaiah, Head of Bodyguards
Zadok and Ahimelech, Priests	David's Sons, Advisors

4. In everything, David was an upright leader!  
"David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people." - 2 Samuel 8:15

## Lessons

1. Sometimes, when life is good and we receive recognition, wealth and/or power, it is easy to forget about God.
2. Fame can lead to pride unless we "pass along" the credit.
3. Wealth can lead to false confidence and a lack of trust in God, unless we handle that wealth properly.
4. Power can lead to corruption unless we share it.
5. The greatest example of handling fame, wealth and power properly is Jesus.  
"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness." - Philipians 2:6,7

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