

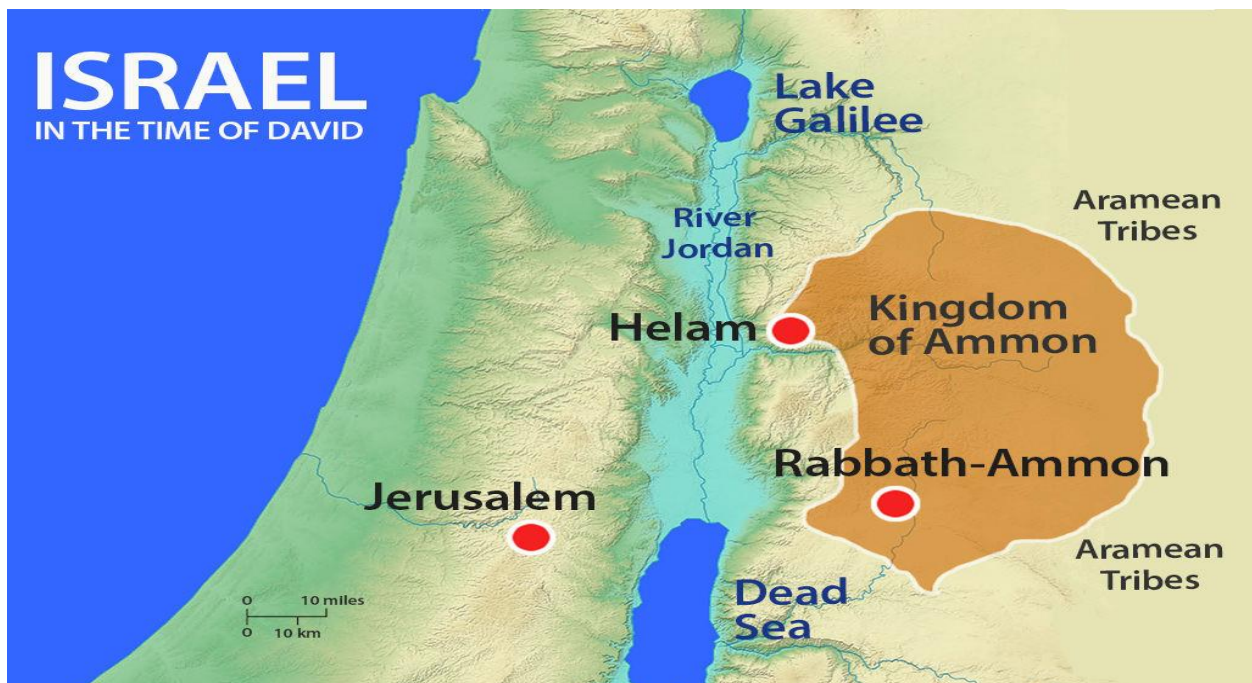
2 Samuel 10

Verses 1 - 5

Now it happened afterward that the king of the Ammonites died, and his son Hanun became king in his place. ² Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, just as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent some of his servants to console him about his father. But when David's servants came to the land of the Ammonites, ³ the commanders of the Ammonites said to their lord Hanun, "Do you think that David is *simply* honoring your father since he has sent you *servants* to console you? Has David not sent his servants to you in order to explore the city, to spy it out and overthrow it?" ⁴ So Hanun took David's servants and shaved off half of their beards, and cut off their robes in the middle as far as their buttocks, and sent them away. ⁵ When *messengers* informed David, he sent *servants* to meet them, because the men were extremely humiliated. And the king said, "Stay in Jericho until your beards grow *back*, and *then* you shall return."

Now it happened afterward that the king of the Ammonites died, and his son Hanun became king in his place.

See map 1005



The Ammonites were descendants of Lot.

See Genesis 19:36 - 38

³⁶ And so both of the daughters of Lot conceived by their father. ³⁷ The firstborn gave birth to a son, and named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. ³⁸ As for the younger, she also gave birth to a son, and named him Ben-ammi; he is the father of the sons of Ammon to this day.

² Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, just as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent some of his servants to console him about his father.

Nahash had been an enemy of Saul but treated David kindly as a means of opposing Saul.

See 1 Samuel 11:1-2

Now Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a covenant with us and we will serve you." ² But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "I will make *it* with you on this condition, that I will gouge out the right eye of every one of you, and *thereby* I will inflict a disgrace on all Israel."

But when David's servants came to the land of the Ammonites, ³ the commanders of the Ammonites said to their lord Hanun, "Do you think that David is *simply* honoring your father since he has sent you *servants* to console you? Has David not sent his servants to you in order to explore the city, to spy it out and overthrow it?"

The princes of Hanun did not trust David and had some good reasons not to do so.

1. David had conquered all of the surrounding nations in the recent past.
2. There was a long history of separation and mistrust.

See Deuteronomy 23:3-6

³ No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the Lord; none of their *descendants*, even to the tenth generation, may ever enter the assembly of the Lord ⁶ You shall never seek their peace or their prosperity all your days.

⁴ So Hanun took David's servants and shaved off half of their beards, and cut off their robes in the middle as far as their buttocks, and sent them away.

Cutting off the robes was a way of shaming the Israelite men.

See Isaiah 20:4

³ Then the Lord said, "Even as My servant Isaiah has gone naked and barefoot for three years as a sign and symbol against Egypt and Cush, ⁴ so the king of Assyria will lead away the captives of Egypt and the exiles of Cush, young and old, naked and barefoot with buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

⁵ When *messengers* informed David, he sent *servants* to meet them, because the men were extremely humiliated. And the king said, "Stay in Jericho until your beards grow *back*, and *then* you shall return."

Shaving half the beard was the greater of the two insults because it kept the men from returning home until their beards grew out again.

The double nature of this insult made it likely that David would not ignore it.

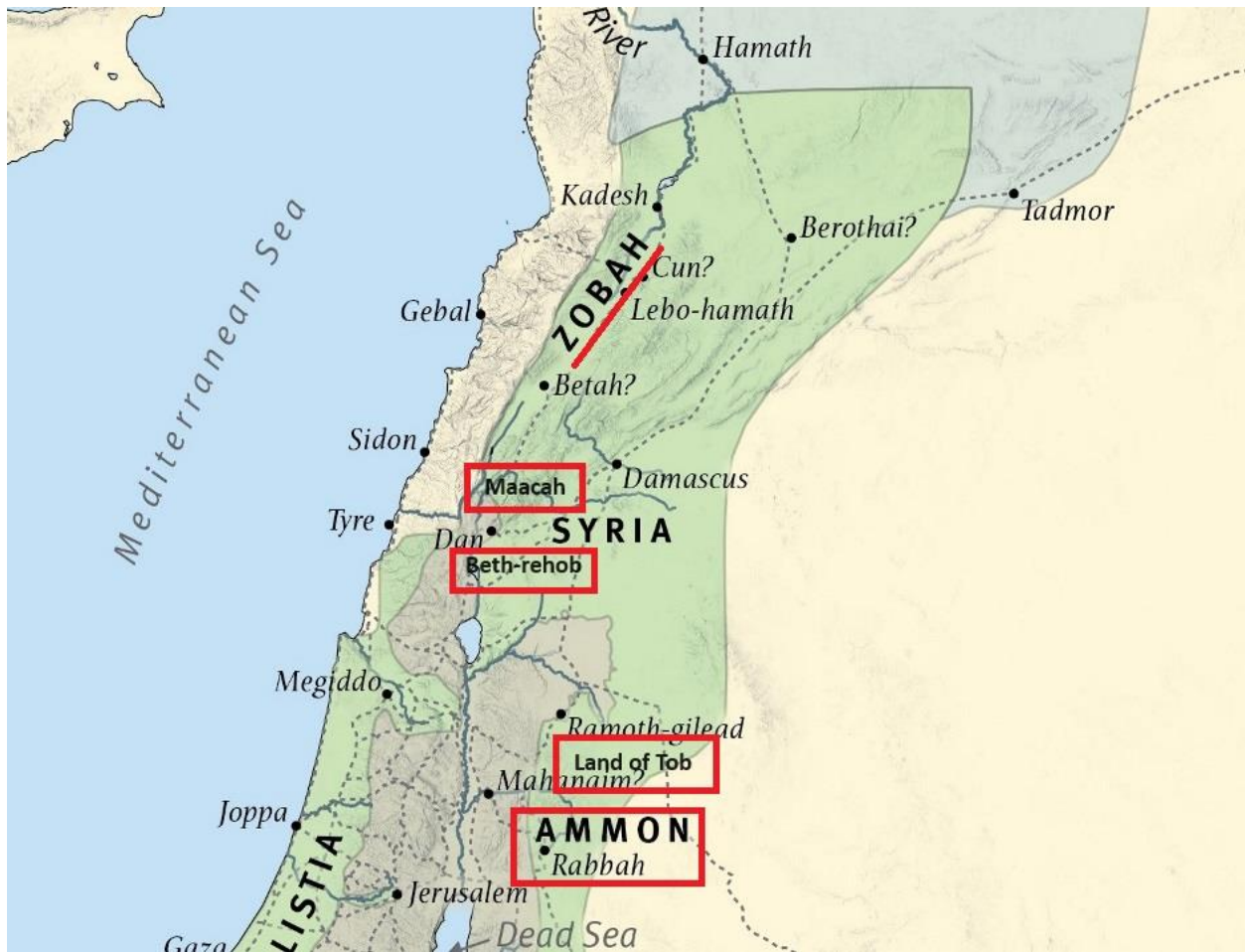
Verses 6 - 8

⁶ Now when the sons of Ammon saw that they had become repulsive to David, the sons of Ammon sent *messengers* and hired the Arameans of Beth-rehob and the Arameans of Zobah, twenty thousand foot soldiers, and the king of Maacah *with* a thousand men, and the men of Tob *with* twelve thousand men. ⁷ When David heard *about this*, he sent Joab and all the army, the warriors. ⁸ And the sons of Ammon came out and lined up for battle at the entrance of the city, while the Arameans of Zobah and of Rehob and the men of Tob and Maacah *were stationed* by themselves in the field.

⁶ Now when the sons of Ammon saw that they had become repulsive to David, the sons of Ammon sent *messengers* and **hired the Arameans of Beth-rehob** and the **Arameans of Zobah**, twenty thousand foot soldiers, and **the king of Maacah** *with* a thousand men, and the men of Tob *with* twelve thousand men.

The king of Ammon hired 33,000 men of war to help in the war against Israel.

See map 1010



Tob was the place that Jephthah fled to, in order to get away from his brothers.

See Judges 11:3

³ So Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob; and worthless men gathered around Jephthah, and they went wherever he did.

The land of Zobah was mentioned two chapters earlier.

See 2 Samuel 8:

⁵ When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer, king of Zobah, David killed twenty-two thousand men among the Arameans.

The other two places, Maacah and Beth-rehob, were also part of Syria.

⁷ When David heard *about this*, he sent Joab and all the army, the warriors.

Rabbah, the Capital of Ammon, was a strongly fortified city and in addition there were also the 33,000 Syrian mercenaries. However, Israel had God on their side plus Joab, the mighty men of renown and the regular army.

⁸ And the sons of Ammon came out and lined up for battle at the entrance of the city, while the Arameans of Zobah and of Rehob and the men of Tob and Maacah *were stationed* by themselves in the field.

The name of the place where these mercenaries were encamped was Medeba

See 1 Chronicles 19:6 - 7

⁶ When the sons of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, Hanun and the sons of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia, Aram-maacah, and Zobah.

⁷ So they hired for themselves thirty-two thousand chariots, and the king of Maacah and his people, who came and camped opposite Medeba. And the sons of Ammon gathered together from their cities and came to the battle.

As one can see there is a difference between the two accounts.

See pic 1015

2nd Samuel 10:6		
Beth-rehob & Zobah	20,000	foot soldiers
Maacah	1,000	men
Tob	12,000	men
1 Chronicles 19:7		
Aram-maacah, and Zobah	32,000	chariots

32,000 chariots seem like a very large number; perhaps this is a scribal error?

⁹ Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him at the front and at the rear, he selected *warriors* from all the choice men in Israel, and lined *them* up against the Arameans.

Joab considered the large force of Syrian mercenaries as the greatest threat so he lined up the best men of war against them.

¹⁰ But the remainder of the people he placed under the command of his brother Abishai, and he lined *them* up against the sons of Ammon.

Joab's brother Abashai led the attack against the Ammonites.

¹² Be strong, and let's show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and the cities of our God; and may the Lord do what is good in His sight."

Joab was willing to trust the outcome of the battle to the will of God.

¹³ So Joab and the people who were with him advanced to the battle against the Arameans, and they fled from him. ¹⁴ When the sons of Ammon saw that the Arameans had fled, they *also* fled from Abishai and entered the city.

When Joab launched his attack against the Syrian mercenaries they fled and when the Ammonites saw that the Syrians had fled, they retreated to the city.

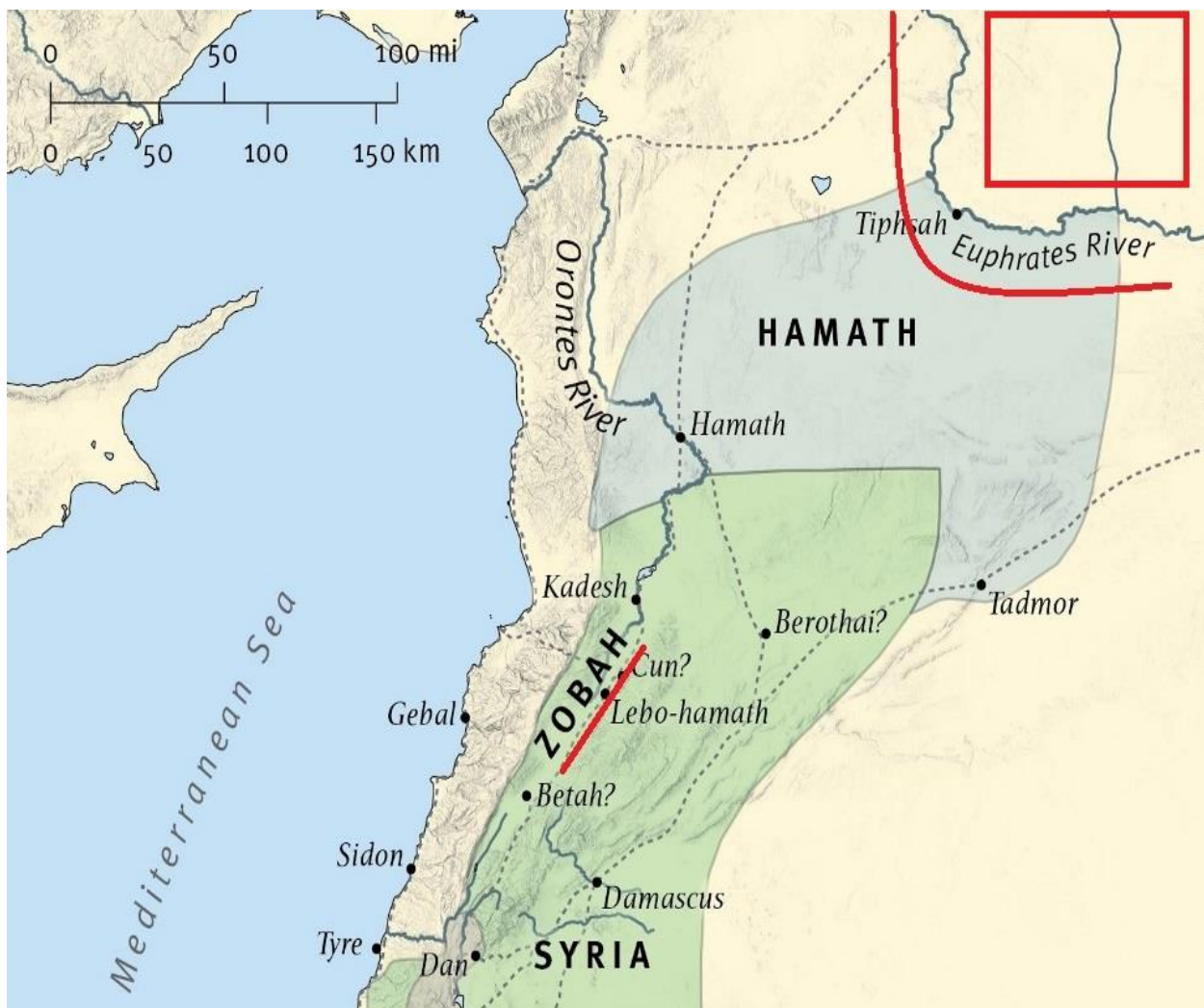
Verses 15 - 19

¹⁵ When the Arameans saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they assembled together. ¹⁶ And Hadadezer sent *word* and brought out the Arameans who were beyond the *Euphrates* River, and they came to Helam; and Shobach the commander of the army of Hadadezer led them. ¹⁷ Now when it was reported to David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Arameans lined up against David and fought him. ¹⁸ But the Arameans fled from Israel, and David killed seven hundred charioteers of the Arameans and forty thousand horsemen, and struck Shobach the commander of their army, and he died there. ¹⁹ When all the kings, servants of Hadadezer, saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Arameans were afraid to help the sons of Ammon anymore.

¹⁵ When the Arameans saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they assembled together. ¹⁶ And Hadadezer sent *word* and brought out the Arameans who were beyond the Euphrates River, and they came to Helam; and Shobach the commander of the army of Hadadezer led them.

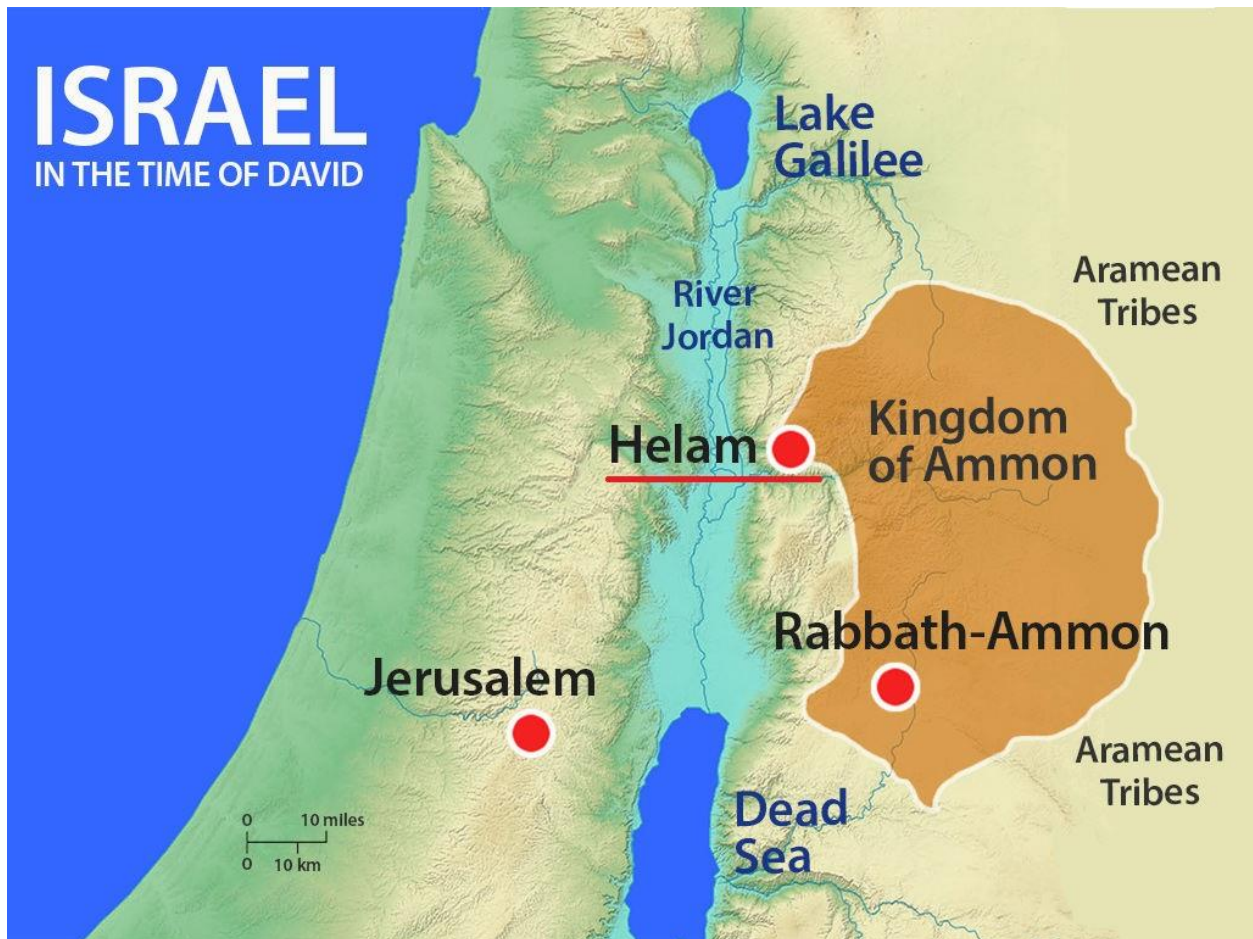
Hadadezer, the king of Zobah, hired Arameans from beyond the Euphrates River.

See Map 1025



Helam is near the Jabbok River east of Succoth.

See Map1030



17 Now when it was reported to David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Arameans lined up against David and fought him.

Joab is not mentioned in this battle but as we have seen in other wars the king often got the credit for a victory even when Joab and Abashai did the heavy lifting. But it is possible that David got more involved this battle

18 But the Arameans fled from Israel, and David killed **seven hundred charioteers** of the Arameans and **forty thousand horsemen**, and struck Shobach the commander of their army, and he died there.

There is a discrepancy in the number of casualties and the kind of personnel that were killed when this verse is compared to the account in 1st Chronicles.

See 1 Chronicles 19:18

¹⁸ And the Arameans fled from Israel, and David killed of the Arameans seven thousand charioteers and forty thousand foot soldiers; and he put Shophach the commander of the army to death.

So is it 700 charioteers and 40,000 horseman or 7,000 charioteers and 40,000 foot soldiers? In cases like this it is always good to check the Septuagint.

Septuagint.....1 Samuel 10:18

18 And Syria fled from before Israel, and David destroyed of Syria seven hundred chariots, and forty thousand horsemen, and he smote Sobac the captain of his host, and he died there.

Septuagint.....1 Chronicles 19:18

18 And the Syrians fled from before Israel; and David slew of the Syrians seven thousand [riders in] chariots, and forty thousand infantry, and he slew Sophath the commander-in-chief of the forces.

This may be the solution to one of the differences in 2 Samuel 10:18 and 1 Chronicles 19:18.

The Septuagint has 700 chariots and 7,000 charioteers (riders in chariots). This makes sense since there may have been 4 charioteers in each chariot plus extra charioteers to replace those that die during the battle.

However the Septuagint has the same issue as our modern versions when it comes to the 40,000 horsemen verses 40,000 infantry.

Here again the Septuagint is superior to our modern versions.

¹⁹ When all the kings, servants of Hadadezer, saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Arameans were afraid to help the sons of Ammon anymore.

Since all the kings were servants of King Hadadezer this tells us that he had been the dominant ruler in northern Syria and the Mesopotamian area.

See map 1025 above.

However, King Hadadezer and his servant kings became subjects of David and served Israel. After losing two conflicts with Israel the Syrians decided they would no longer help the Ammonites. Better late than never. 😊