

2 Samuel 8

Verse 1

Now it happened afterward that David defeated the Philistines and subdued them; and David took control of the chief city from the hand of the Philistines.

The chief city was Gath

See 1 Chronicles 18:1- 2

Now after this it came about that David defeated the Philistines and subdued them and took Gath and its towns from the hand of the Philistines. ² And he defeated Moab, and the Moabites became servants to David, bringing tribute.

See Map 805



Verse 2

² **And He defeated Moab**, and measured them with the line, making them lie down on the ground; and he measured two lines to put to death, and a full line to keep alive. And the Moabites became servants to David, bringing tribute.

See map 810



This massacre of the Moabites by David is somewhat surprising since David had his father and mother lodge with the king of Moab while David was a fugitive from Saul.

See 1 Samuel 22:3-4

³ And David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, “Please let my father and my mother come *and stay* with you until I know what God will do for me.” ⁴ Then he left them with the king of Moab; and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

Jewish writers assert that the Moabites massacred David's parents and family. This is not verified by scripture but it would explain why David took such a hard line against Moab. It is not clear whether this massacre was perpetrated against the whole population of Moab, or just against their army.

Verses 3 - 8

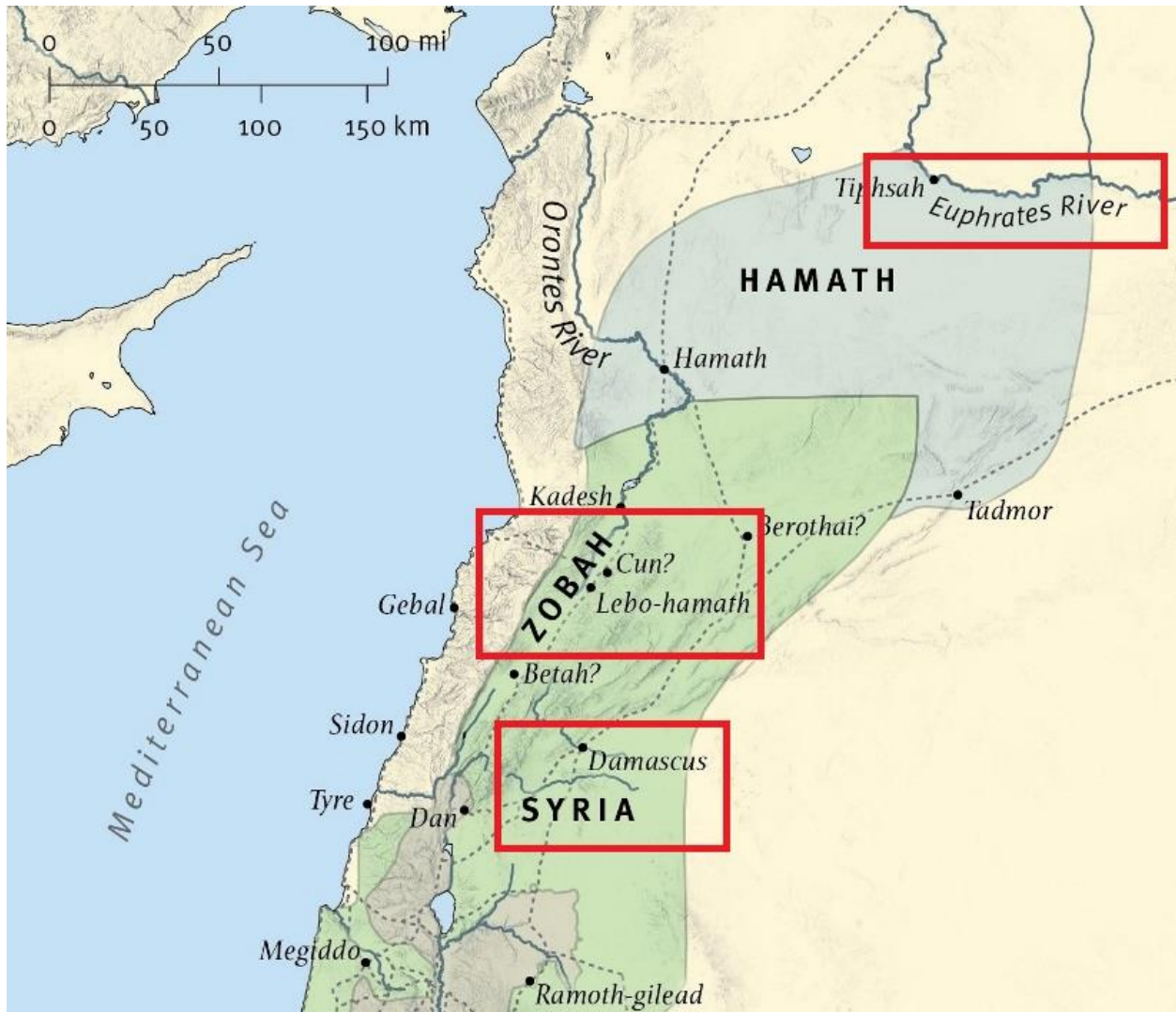
³ Then David defeated Hadadezer, the son of Rehob king of Zobah, as he went to restore his power at the *Euphrates River*. ⁴ And David captured from him 1,700 horsemen and twenty thousand foot soldiers; and David hamstringed *almost* all the chariot horses, but left *enough* of them *for* a hundred chariots. ⁵ When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer, king of Zobah, David killed twenty-two thousand men among the Arameans. ⁶ Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of Damascus, and the Arameans became servants to David, bringing tribute. And the Lord helped David wherever he went. ⁷ David took the shields of gold which were carried by the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. ⁸ And from Betah and Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took a very large amount of bronze.

³ Then David defeated Hadadezer, the son of Rehob king of Zobah, as he went to restore his power at the *Euphrates River*. ⁴ And David captured from him 1,700 horsemen and twenty thousand foot soldiers; and David hamstringed *almost* all the chariot horses, but left *enough* of them *for* a hundred chariots.

King Hadadezer went from Zobah to the Euphrates River to restore his power in that region but David fought and defeated him.

Very little information is given about the battle other than the fact that David captured 1700 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers.

See map 815



We are also told that David hamstringed most of the chariot horses. God commanded Joshua to do this during the takeover of Canaan.

See Joshua 11:6-9

⁶ Yet the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow at this time I am going to turn all of them over to Israel as good as dead; you shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.”

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

See Map 815 above.

David slew 22,000 Syrian men.

⁶ Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of Damascus, and the Arameans became servants to David, bringing tribute. And the Lord helped David wherever he went.

A garrison is a fortified military post where troops are stationed.

All of these victories were not the result of David and his men having superior military ability but rather Devine intervention.

Verses 9 - 12

⁹ Now when Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the whole army of Hadadezer, ¹⁰ Toi sent his son Joram to King David to greet him and bless him, because he had fought Hadadezer and defeated him; for Hadadezer had been at war with Toi. And *Joram* brought with him articles of silver, gold, and bronze.

¹¹ King David also consecrated these *gifts* to the Lord, with the silver and gold that he had consecrated from all the nations which he had subdued: ¹² from Aram, Moab, the sons of Ammon, the Philistines, Amalek, and from the spoils of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

⁹ Now when Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the whole army of Hadadezer, ¹⁰ Toi sent his son Joram to King David to greet him and bless him,

The people of Hamath were descendants of Canaan

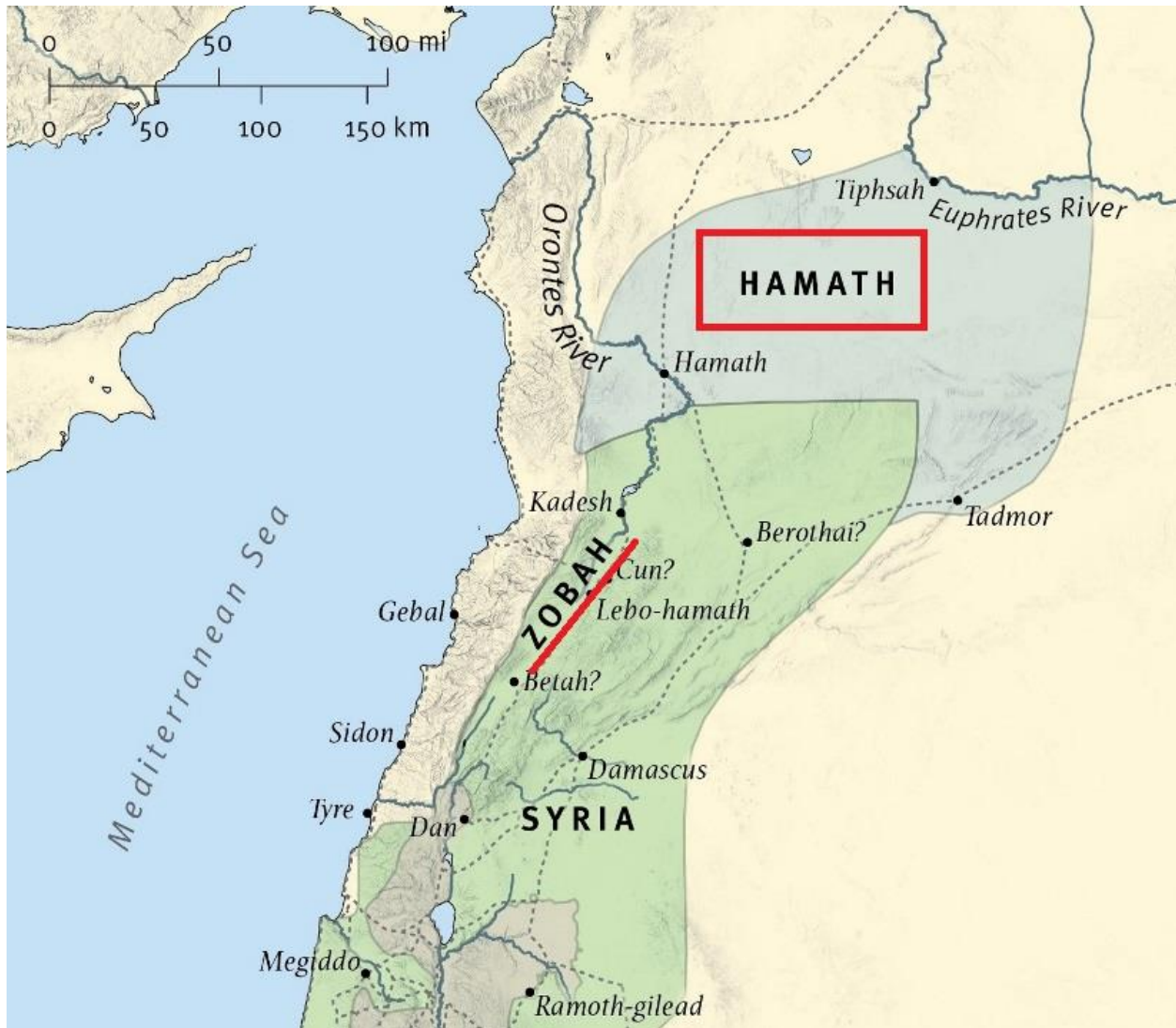
See Genesis 10:18

¹⁵ Canaan fathered Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth, ¹⁶ the Jebusite, the Amorite, the Girgashite, ¹⁷ the Hivite, the Arkite, the Sinite, ¹⁸ the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite; and afterward the families of the Canaanite were spread abroad.

For Hadadezer (king of Zobah) had been at war with Toi. And *Joram* brought with him articles of silver, gold, and bronze.

David did not have to fight King Toi of Hamath to make them a tributary because they gladly payed tribute to David for defeating their long time enemy King Hadadezar of Zobah.

See Map 820

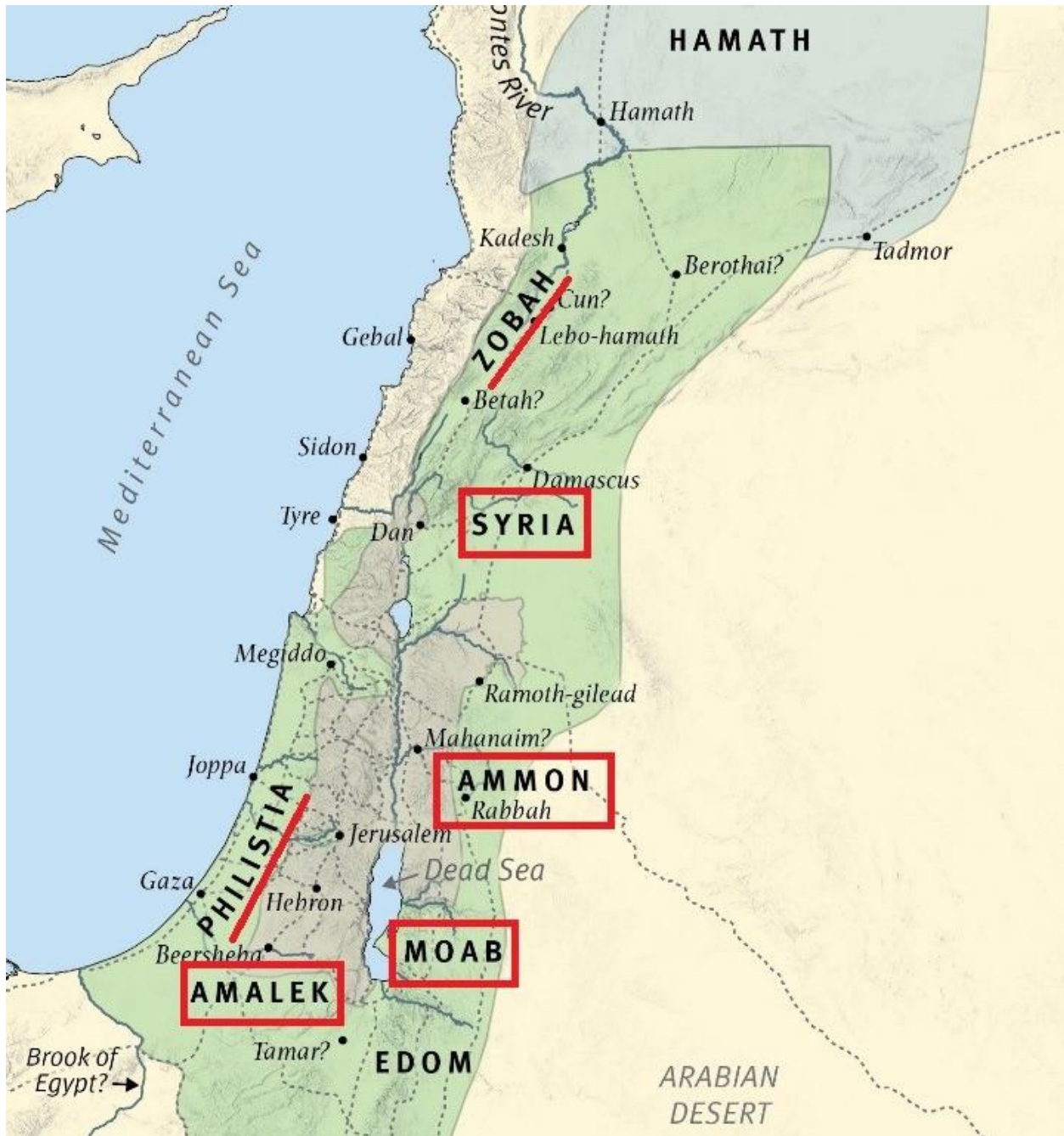


¹¹ King David also consecrated these *gifts* to the Lord, with the silver and gold that he had consecrated from all the nations which he had subdued:

All of the tribute that David received, he dedicated to God and Solomon constructed the temple from the money David had stored up.

¹² from Aram, Moab, the sons of Ammon, the Philistines, Amalek, and from the spoils of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

See Map 825

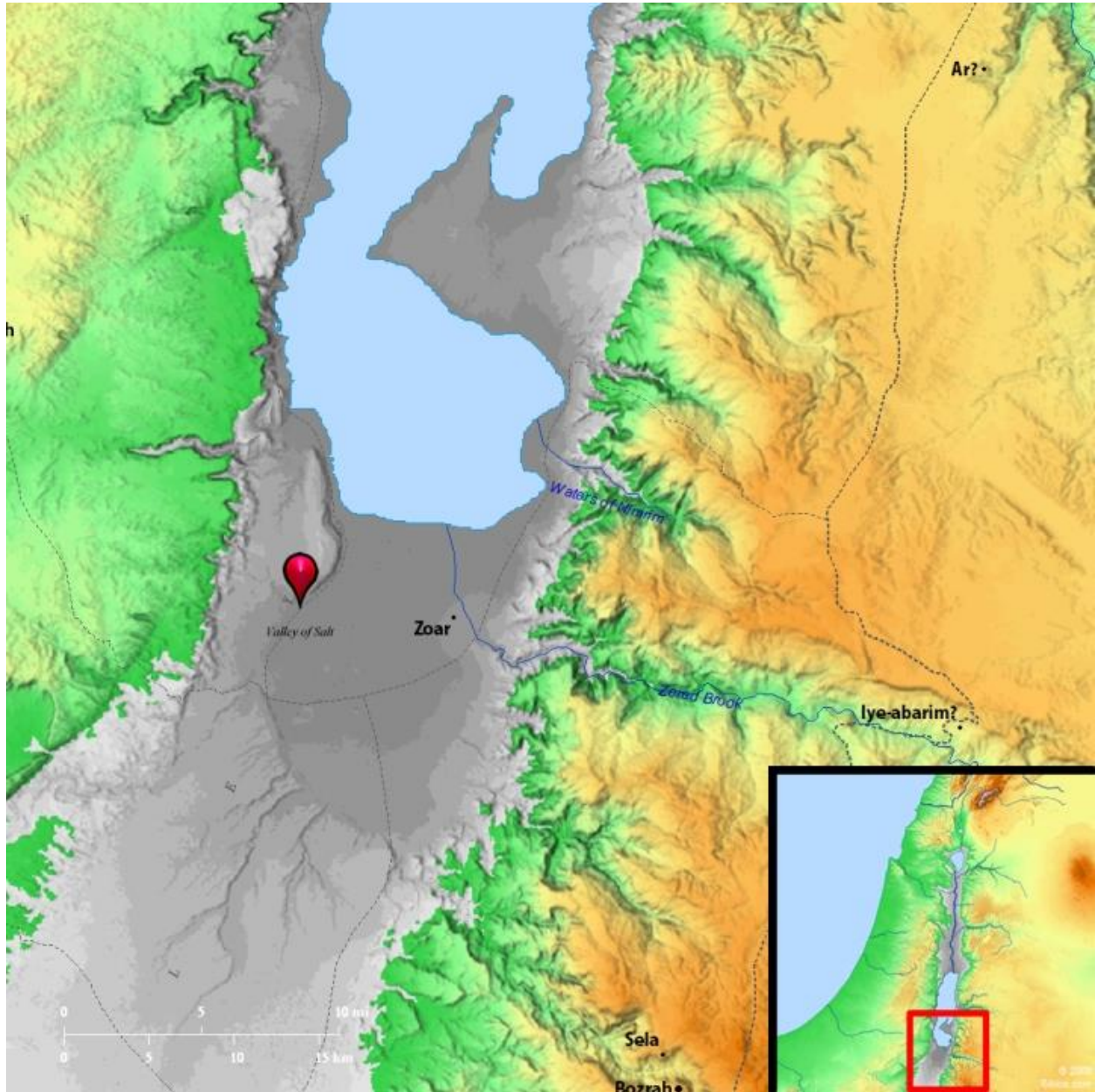


Verses 13 - 14

¹³ So David made a name *for himself* when he returned from killing eighteen thousand Arameans in the Valley of Salt. ¹⁴ He also put garrisons in Edom. In all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became servants to David. And the Lord helped David wherever he went.

¹³ So David made a name *for himself* when he returned from killing eighteen thousand Arameans in the Valley of Salt.

See map 830



The Valley of Salt is just below the bottom of the Dead Sea.

It would be interesting to know what 18,000 Syrians were doing in this area but we are not privy to that information.

¹⁴ He also put garrisons in Edom. In all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became servants to David. And the Lord helped David wherever he went.

David is given the credit for doing these things but we find out in two other passages that the heavy lifting was done by Joab and Abishai.

See 1 Kings 11:15-16

¹⁵ For it came about, when David was in Edom and Joab the commander of the army had gone up to bury those killed in battle, and had struck and killed every male in Edom ¹⁶ (for Joab and all Israel stayed there for six months, until he had eliminated every male in Edom),

See 1 Chronicles 18:13

¹² Moreover, Abishai the son of Zeruiah defeated eighteen thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt. ¹³ Then he put garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites became servants to David. And the Lord helped David wherever he went.

Verses 15 - 18

¹⁵ So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered justice and righteousness for all his people. ¹⁶ Joab the son of Zeruiah *was commander over the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was secretary.* ¹⁷ Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar *were priests, and Seraiah was scribe.* ¹⁸ Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief ministers.

¹⁵ So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered justice and righteousness for all his people.

David started out with a wise and efficient administration.

¹⁷ Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests.

Zadok and Ahimelech (Abiathar) were High Priests. Having two high priests was contrary to the Law of Moses but the Ark was in Jerusalem and the Tabernacle was in Gibeon.

¹⁸ Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief ministers.

The Cherethites and the Pelethites was a bodyguard of foreign mercenaries.

David's sons were the chief officials in the service of the king.