

17.27 David's Victories (2 Samuel 8:1–18; 22:1–51; 1 Chronicles 18:1–17; 11:10-47; 1 Kings 11:15–17; Psalm 18; 60:6–12 and 108:6–12 are similar; 144:9–11)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [. . .] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- Draw stick-figures and simple pictures at appropriate point in the story, or use mine found at the end of this lesson.
- Map of Israel and surrounding territories (a hand-drawn one is found below)

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *spoiling*: taking the enemies’ riches after conquering them
- *descendants*: children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, *etc.*, of someone

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Samuel 8:1 After this David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and David took Metheg-ammah [“Gath and its villages”; 1 Chronicles 18:1] out of the hand of the Philistines.

2 And he defeated Moab and he measured them with a line, making them lie down on the ground. Two lines he measured to be put to death, and one full line to be spared. And the Moabites became servants to David and brought tribute.

3 David also defeated Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to restore his power at the river Euphrates. 4 And David took from him 1,700 horsemen, and 20,000 foot soldiers. And David hamstringed all the chariot horses but left enough for 100 chariots. 5 And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David struck down 22,000 men of the Syrians. 6 Then David put garrisons in Aram of Damascus, and the Syrians became servants to David and brought tribute. And the Lord gave victory to David wherever he went. 7 And David took the shields of gold that were carried by the servants of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem. 8 And from Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took very much bronze.

9 When Toi [*Tou* in 1 Chronicles] king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the whole army of Hadadezer, 10 Toi sent his son Joram to King David, to ask about his health and to bless him because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him, for Hadadezer had often been at war with Toi. And Joram brought with him articles of silver, of gold, and of bronze. 11 These also King David dedicated to the Lord, together with the silver and gold that he dedicated from all the nations he subdued, 12 from Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, the Philistines, Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

13 And David made a name for himself when he returned from striking down 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. [Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, did this; 1 Chronicles 18:12.] 14 Then he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David’s servants. And the Lord gave victory to David wherever he went.

15 So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. 16 Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder, 17 and Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests, and Seraiah was secretary, 18 and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and David’s sons were priests [or “the chief officials in the service of the king”; 1 Chronicles 18:17].

1 Chronicles 11:10 Now these are the chiefs of David's mighty men, who gave him strong support in his kingdom, together with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the Lord concerning Israel. 11 This is an account of David's mighty men: Jashobeam, a Hachmonite, was chief of the three. He wielded his spear against 300 whom he killed at one time.

12 And next to him among the three mighty men was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite. 13 He was with David at Pas-dammim when the Philistines were gathered there for battle. There was a plot of ground full of barley, and the men fled from the Philistines. 14 But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and killed the Philistines. And the Lord saved them by a great victory.

15 Three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David at the cave of Adullam, when the army of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. 16 David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem. 17 And David said longingly, "Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!" 18 Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and took it and brought it to David. But David would not drink it. He poured it out to the Lord 19 and said, "Far be it from me before my God that I should do this. Shall I drink the lifeblood of these men? For at the risk of their lives they brought it." Therefore he would not drink it. These things did the three mighty men.

20 Now Abishai, the brother of Joab, was chief of the thirty. And he wielded his spear against 300 men and killed them and won a name beside the three. 21 He was the most renowned of the thirty and became their commander, but he did not attain to the three.

22 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was a valiant man of Kabzeel, a doer of great deeds. He struck down two heroes of Moab. He also went down and struck down a lion in a pit on a day when snow had fallen. 23 And he struck down an Egyptian, a man of great stature, five cubits tall. The Egyptian had in his hand a spear like a weaver's beam, but Benaiah went down to him with a staff and snatched the spear out of the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear. 24 These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and won a name beside the three mighty men. 25 He was renowned among the thirty, but he did not attain to the three. And David set him over his bodyguard.

26 The mighty men were Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem, 27 Shammoth of Harod, Helez the Pelonite, 28 Ira the son of Ikkesh of Tekoa, Abiezer of Anathoth, 29 Sibbecai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite, 30 Maharai of Netophah, Heled the son of Baanah of Netophah, 31 Ithai the son of Ribai of Gibeah of the people of Benjamin, Benaiah of Pirathon, 32 Hurai of the brooks of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite, 33 Azmaveth of Baharum, Eliahba the Shaalbonite, 34 Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan the son of Shagee the Hararite, 35 Ahiam the son of Sachar the Hararite, Eliphal the son of Ur, 36 Hopher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite, 37 Hezro of Carmel, Naarai the son of Ezbai, 38 Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar the son of Hagri, 39 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai of Beeroth, the armor-bearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah, 40 Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, 41 Uriah the Hittite, Zabad the son of Ahlai, 42 Adina the son of Shiza the Reubenite, a leader of the Reubenites, and thirty with him, 43 Hanan the son of Maacah, and Joshaphat the Mithnite, 44 Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jeiel the sons of Hotham the Aroerite, 45 Jedaiel the son of Shimri, and Joha his brother, the Tizite, 46 Eliel the Mahavite, and Jeribai, and Joshaviah, the sons of Elnaam, and Ithmah the Moabite, 47 Eliel, and Obed, and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

15 For when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army went up to bury the slain, he struck down every male in Edom 16 (for Joab and all Israel remained there six months, until he had cut off every male in Edom). 17 But Hadad fled to Egypt, together with certain Edomites of his father's servants, Hadad still being a little child. 18 They set out from Midian and came to Paran and took men with them from Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house and assigned him an allowance of food and gave him land. 19 And Hadad found great favor in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him in marriage the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen. 20 And the sister of Tahpenes bore him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house. And Genubath was in Pharaoh's house among the sons of Pharaoh.

To the choirmaster: according to Shushan Eduth. A Miktam of David; for instruction; when he strove with

Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and when Joab on his return struck down twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt. [Psalm 108:6–12 is similar to this passage.]

Psalm 60:6 God has spoken in his holiness: “With exultation I will divide up Shechem and portion out the Vale of Succoth. 7 Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine; Ephraim is my helmet; Judah is my scepter. 8 Moab is my washbasin; upon Edom I cast my shoe; over Philistia I shout in triumph.”

9 Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom? 10 Have you not rejected us, O God? You do not go forth, O God, with our armies. 11 Oh, grant us help against the foe, for vain is the salvation of man! 12 With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.

Of David. Psalm 144:9 I will sing a new song to you, O God; upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you, 10 who gives victory to kings, who rescues David his servant from the cruel sword. 11 Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners, whose mouths speak lies and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

Introduction/Review:

When David wanted to build a temple for God, what did God say? [No.] What else did God say—a promise to David? [1. That David’s son would build the temple; 2. David’s sons and grandsons would have the kingdom forever.] Who is the everlasting King of Israel and of Christians? [Jesus Christ.]

Story:

Today our Bible story tells us a little about how God used David to subdue Israel’s enemies so that David’s son could have peace in order to build the temple. Also, conquering those enemies and spoiling them (taking their riches after conquering them) produced the gold, silver, and bronze needed in building the temple. Let’s see what God did with and through David. [Locate all these places.]

(1) *The Philistines*

Show me on the map where they lived. [Coastal area.] These were the enemies in strong Samson’s time about 74 years earlier (Samson 1090 B.C.; David 1016 B.C.). They were the ones who took the ark during Samuel’s lifetime. They were Saul’s chief enemies. David slew their most famous giant. Who was he? [Goliath.] When Saul died, the Philistines took over several cities and much land in Israel. David had gained back that land, but now he stopped the Philistines from fighting Israel and conquered their chief city, Gath. Its name meant “bridle,” something to keep back. Now Israel could keep back—bridle—the Philistines.

(2) *Moab*

These children of Lot, Abraham’s nephew, although distant cousins to Israel, were their enemies. They lived on the east side of the Jordan River, southeast of Israel. Balak, king of Moab had hired Balaam to prophesy against the children of Israel 400 years earlier. One of the things Balaam had prophesied then was, “There shall come a [king] out of Israel, and shall smite [hit] the corners of Moab and destroy the children of Sheth” (Numbers 24:27). Jesus Christ would later completely fulfill this prophecy, but David partially fulfilled it in his time.

This is how he destroyed Moab. After God gave the armies of Moab to David, David had the Moabite soldiers lie on the ground. Somehow he divided them into three groups. Two of the groups died and one group lived.

Why was the punishment of Moab so severe? We don’t hear about David’s parents in the Bible after David took them to Moab to protect them from Saul. ✓Perhaps the Moabites destroyed his parents. This is just a guess and isn’t in the Bible. We do know from Scripture, however, that the Moabites during Balaam’s time did cause great sin in Israel. Perhaps that is why David now was so severe.

The Moabites became David’s servants, and every year they brought money to him to show their submission.

(3) *Zobah*

Going northeast to the Euphrates River, David was expanding the nation of Israel to the border God had promised Abraham. Hadadezer, king of Zobah (northeast but location unknown), rose up against David, but David defeated him. In fact, David took from Zobah 1000 chariots, 700 horsemen, 20,000 footmen, golden shields, and a whole lot of bronze from which Solomon would make the laver and other pieces of furniture for the temple.

Now, David, having had his bad experience in trying to bring back the ark of the covenant, ✓must have searched God's law about this situation. ✓From that search he learned Israel's kings were not to keep a lot of horses because they were not to trust in horses or chariots but in the Lord. So, David did something to all but 100 (✓or maybe 400) of those horses that prevented them from pulling chariots anymore. He hamstrung [*houghed*, KJV] them by cutting a muscle-like thing in their legs.

(4) Syria

People, called Syrians, who lived in this area thought it would be a good idea to help Hadadezer. Not a good idea, for David slew 22,000 Syrians and put forts (garrisons) in Syria to make sure these people served him. Every year they, too, brought money to show their loyalty to King David.

Wow! These are a lot of people conquered by David. David was a real man, not a fake comic superhero who never gets hurt. How could real David do all this without getting hurt? The Bible says, "And the Lord gave victory to David wherever he went" (2 Samuel 8:14; 1 Chronicles 18:6).

(5) Hamath in Syria, north of Canaan

The king of Hamath had an interesting name—Toi (pronounced "TOE eye" or "toy" if said quickly). Another way his name is given is Tou ("TOE OO"). He also lived in Syria and was delighted to hear that David had conquered Hadadezer because Toi himself had had wars with Hadadezer. Instead of fighting with David, Toi went with his son to David in order to congratulate him, to bless him, to bring him gifts—all kinds of containers of gold, of silver, and of bronze. David took these valuable items and dedicated them to God, just as he had dedicated the gold, silver, and bronze from the other nations.

(6) Edom, south of Moab, south of Israel

The Edomites were descendants of Esau, Jacob's twin brother. Apparently, they had helped the Syrians, which made them David's enemies. Since God was with David "wherever he went," it was not good to be his enemy, for then you would be God's enemy.

Abishai, David's nephew and Joab's brother, led in a very great slaughter of thousands and thousands of Syrians and Edomites. So many died that Joab and his men had to stay in Edom six months in order to bury all the dead—"every male in Edom" (1 Kings 11:15, 16). But one prince, Hadad, and some of his servants escaped to Egypt, where Pharaoh protected him.

How was David able to do all this? The Bible again states, "Thus the Lord gave victory to David wherever he went" (2 Samuel 9:6; 1 Chronicles 18:13).

From these six nations and two more, whose stories are not told, David and his soldiers gathered valuable gold, silver, and bronze, but instead of keeping them for themselves, they dedicated them to the Lord.

David's top three mighty men

Even before he was king, David had a great many soldiers join him. At that time, there were 600. Of those and the additional soldiers gained when he became king over all Israel, only three are listed as being the most noteworthy. They were Jashobeam, who was chief of the three. Very little is said about this brave man except that he "wielded his spear against 300 whom he killed at one time" (1 Chronicles 11:11).

The second man to be mentioned among the top three is "Eleazar the son of Dodo. . . . He was with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel withdrew. He rose and struck down the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clung to the sword. And

the Lord brought about a great victory that day” (2 Samuel 23:9; see also 1 Chronicles 11:12).

The third top-notch soldier among the three was named Shammah. He showed himself to be worthy when the “Philistines gathered together . . . where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the men fled from the Philistines. But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and struck down the Philistines, and the Lord worked a great victory (2 Samuel 23:11, 12)

David’s thirty mighty men

The Scripture also lists the names of thirty additional outstanding soldiers of whom Abishai, the brother of Joab and cousin of David, was chief. Even though he was the “most renowned of the thirty and became their commander,” he did not attain the rank of the top three.

Earlier, when David had been hiding from Saul at the cave of Adullam while the Philistines were encamped at Bethlehem, David’s hometown, David had said longingly, “Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!”

Three of David’s thirty mighty men were so loyal that they “broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem . . . and brought it to David.” He was so impressed by the bravery and allegiance of these three that he refused to drink the water, saying, “Far be it from me before my God that I should do this. Shall I drink the lifeblood of these men? For at the risk of their lives they brought it.” Instead, he poured the water out ✓as an offering to the Lord.

Our enemies

The Bible tells us that we, too, have enemies—the world, the flesh, and the devil. The *world* is the enemy of God and true goodness. What you watch on TV is the world, which basically promotes false gods or hate for the one true God. The *flesh* is the desire for things you see or things to fill yourself with pride in your accomplishments. The world, the flesh, and its desires will pass away because God will conquer it one day. The *devil*, Satan (Lucifer), has been God’s enemy since before the Garden of Eden. One day he will be cast into the Lake of Fire. These enemies of God are enemies because they keep people from repenting of their sin and trusting Jesus Christ for salvation. He is the all-powerful, everlasting, conquering Son of David, the only One who can save and keep you.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

Jesus is the all-powerful, everlasting, conquering Son of David, the only One who can save and keep His own.

Activities:

- Play dough: shields; swords
- Snack: sugar cookies made in the shape of shields
- Sing “Obedience” by Mike and Ruth Greene, found in *Praises I* songbook, published by Majesty Music.
- Pretend to hold a toy sword until the hand is clinging to the handle; pry fingers from the sword.
- Psalm 18 (identical to 2 Samuel 22:2-51) is a long passage of David’s extolling the Lord for His victories. Have older students read all or part of this psalm.
- Review questions: (Game: Print the small shields found below. back with paper towel. Cut apart. For each correct answer, students may place a shield on a flannel board.)
 1. Name one of the cities or nations that David defeated. [Philistia; Moab; Edom; Zobah; Syria; Hamath; Ammon; Amalek.]
 2. What was the name of the king of Hamath? (Hint: His name sounds like something a child plays

with.) [Toi.]

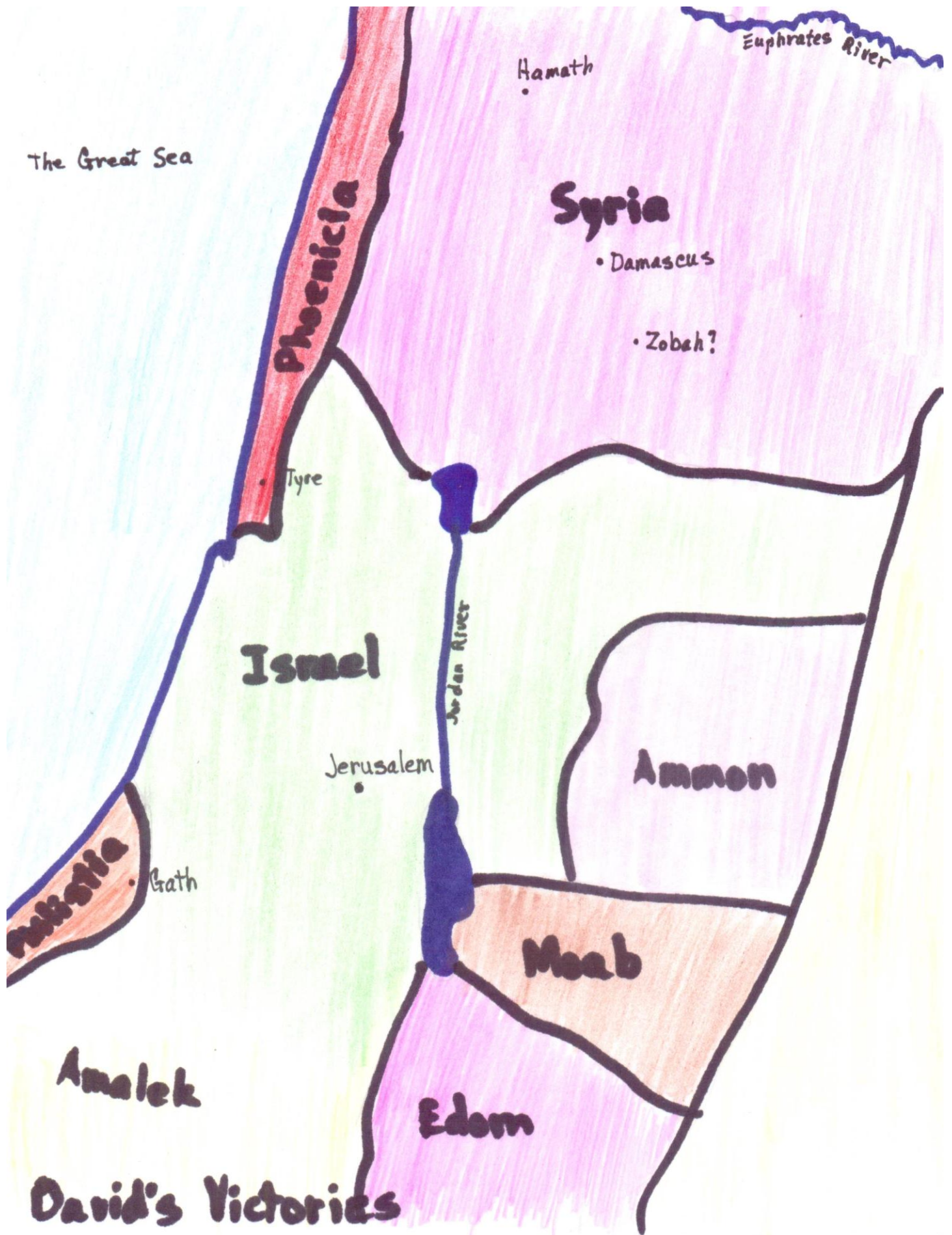
3. What did David do with all the articles that were made of gold, silver, and bronze that he got from the defeated nations? [Dedicated them to the Lord.]
4. Where would all this gold, silver, and bronze eventually be used? [In the temple.]
5. How many of David's mighty men are listed in the Bible? [Thirty; counting the three mightiest, thirty-three.]
6. What are the three enemies of the Christian? [The world, the flesh, the devil.]

Memory Verse[s] (KJV)

- Psalm 100:1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

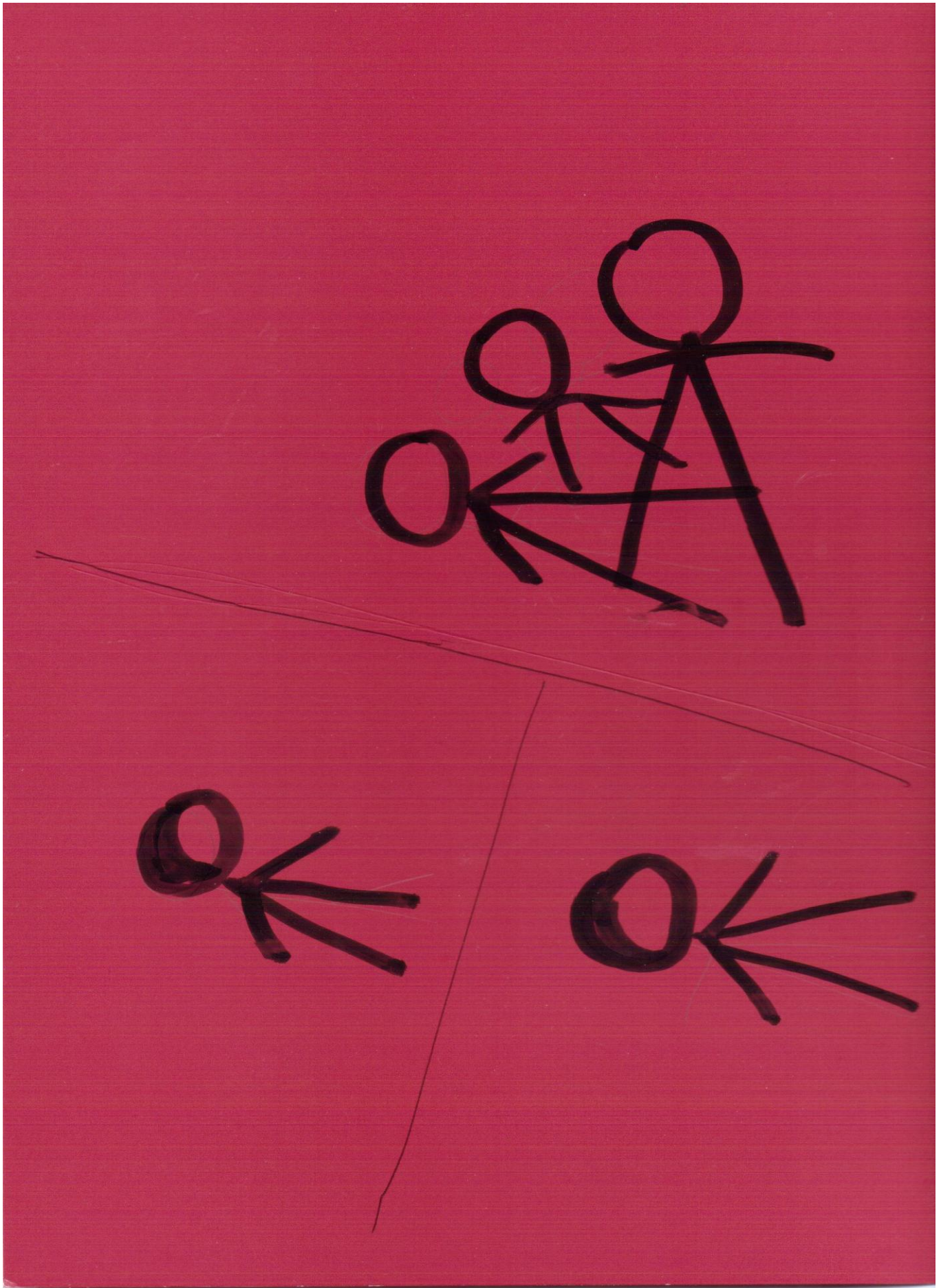
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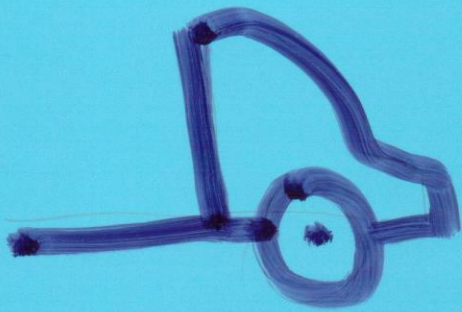
- Gold or silver shields to decorate with a strap stapled to the back. The one pictured below is made from foil-like card stock (and didn't scan very well). The red at the bottom shows the width of the strap by which students hold the shield. "Dedicate" the shields by having students place them in a pile. However, students may take them home.



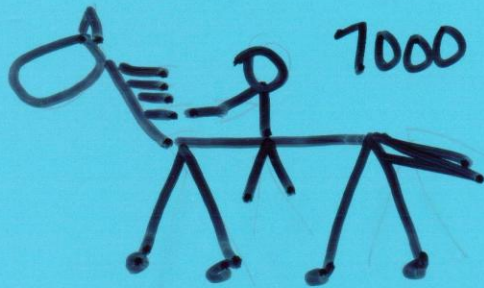


#1 Gath



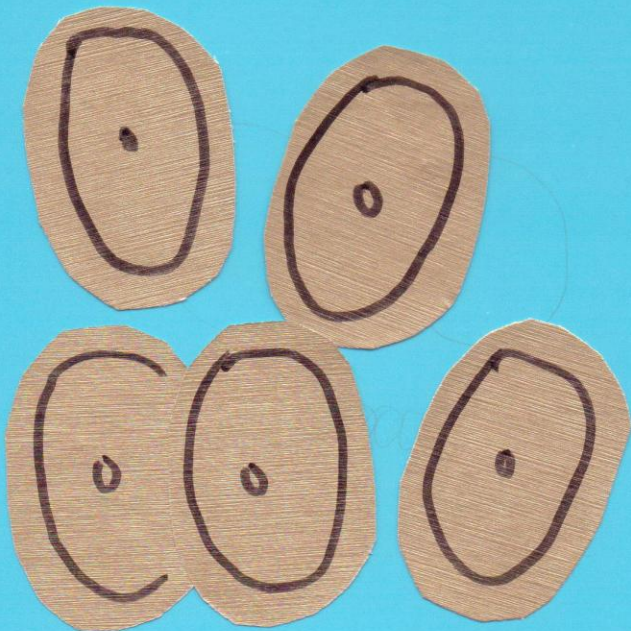


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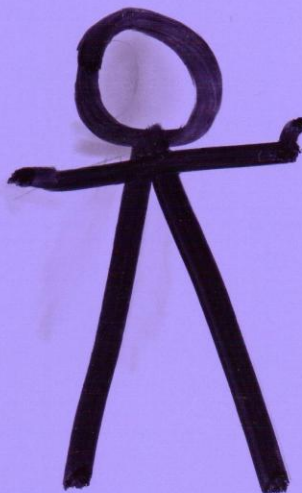
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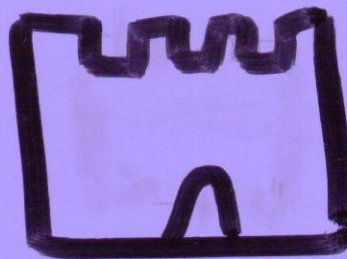
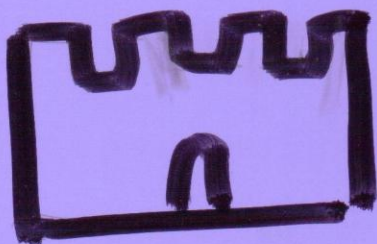


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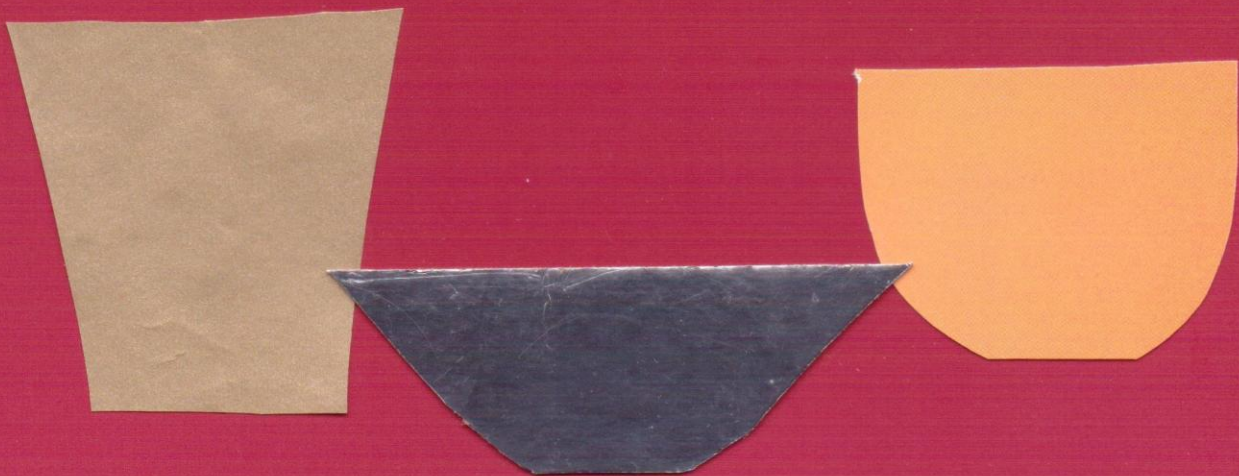
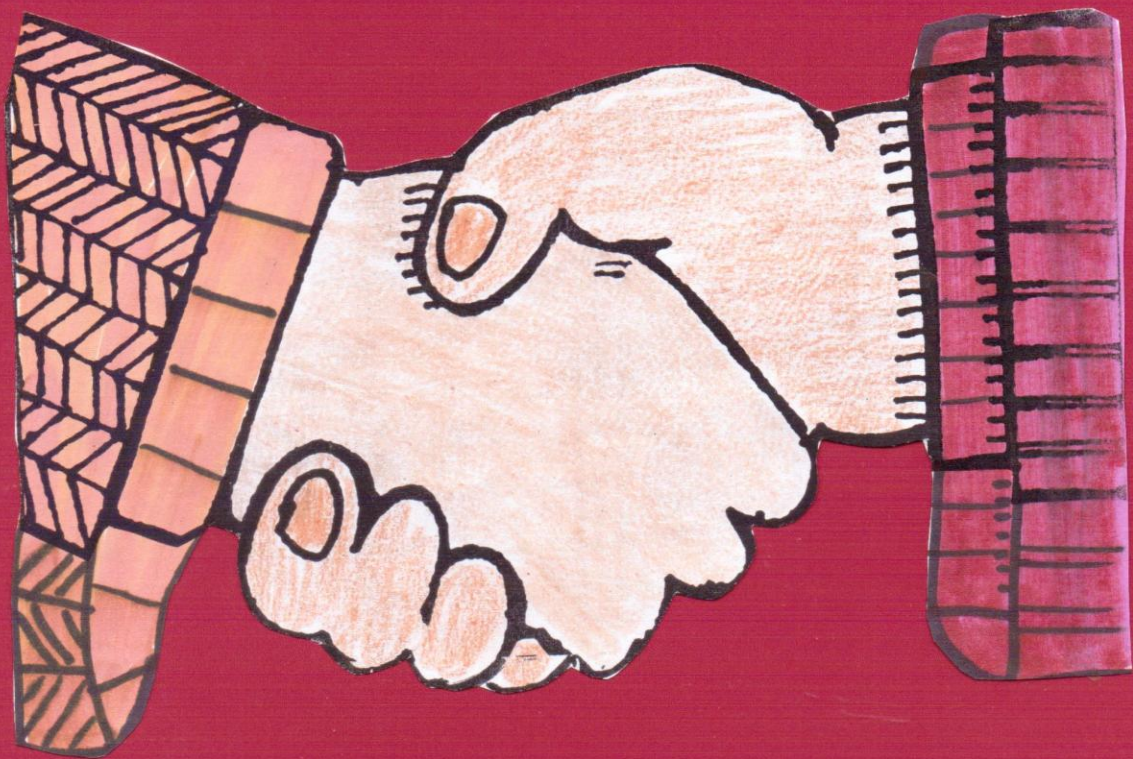
3, Zebah



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4. Syria



5. Hamath



6. Edom

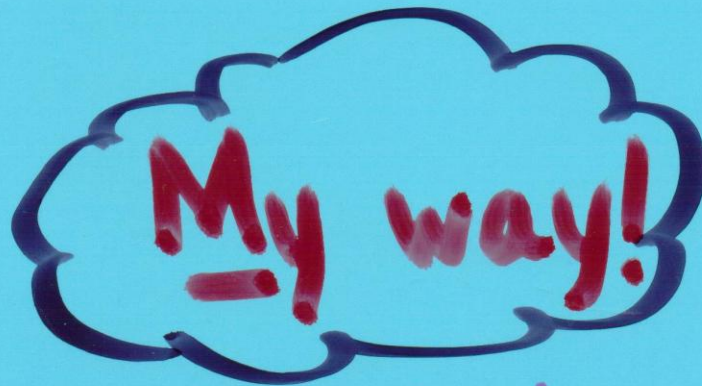
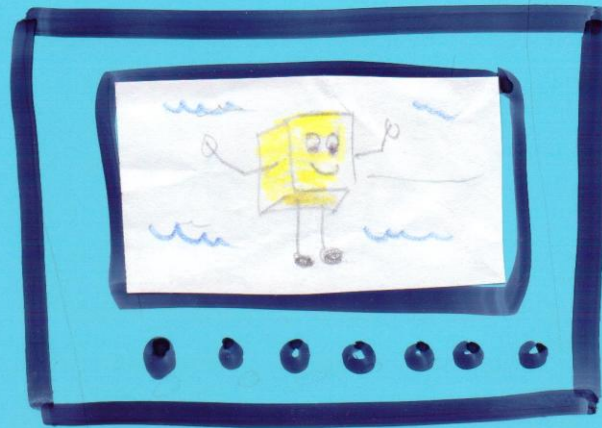
David's Mighty Men

Name	Description	Feat
1. Josheb-Basshebeth	Tahkenmonite; chief of top 3	Raised a spear against 800 that he killed at one time
2. Eleazar	Son of Dodai, the Ahohite	With David when Israel retreated from Philistines but stayed until his hand, weary, clung to his sword. "The Lord gave great victory."
3. Shammah	Son of Agee the Hararite	Philistines chased off the people but he defended a field of lentils. "The Lord gave great victory."
		These first three got David water from Bethlehem, which was, at that time, held by the Philistines. When they brought David the water, he poured it out to the Lord because the three had hazarded their lives.
4. Abishai	Brother of Joab; son of Zeruiah	Captain of the three; lifted spear against 300; later saved David's life
5. Benaiah	Son of valiant Jehoiada of Kabzeel; was set over David's guard	Slew two lion-like Moabites, a lion in a pit in snow, and a giant Egyptian with his own spear
6. Asahel	Brother of Joab	Killed by Ishbosheth's general
		More are listed, including Ittai of Gibeah (Saul's city), a Benjaminite; and Eliam, son of Ahithophel, the Gilonite
37. Uriah	"The Hittite"; Bathsheba's husband	
		Notice that both of Joab's brothers and his armorbearer, Nahari, the Be-erothite, are included, but Joab is not.



DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN

The
world



The Flesh



The Devil



