

**Message #31****II Samuel 23:8-39**

What we are getting in these final texts in II Samuel are the last recorded words of King David after an incredible life.

David never forgot loyalty. David never forgot faithfulness and bravery. They are honored and they are promoted.

There is a picture here of what Jesus Christ will do one day. He will honor and promote those who were loyal to Him; faithful to Him and brave in their defense of Him. They will be seen and known as great servants of God forever.

**THOSE WHO PROVED THEMSELVES TO BE GOOD, FAITHFUL, LOYAL SOLDIERS WERE ULTIMATELY ELEVATED AND HONORED FOR THEIR FAITHFUL SERVICE.**

**What we have here are 32 verses in which David names 37 total “mighty men.”** Apparently there were a total of 37 in all that David classified as mighty men. He leaves himself out of the list and he leaves Joab out of the list.

All of the men in this list were nobodies until they were connected to David. Without David, they would not be in the word of God. David was the key guy chosen by God and he was the one who really put these guys on the map. They did not start out being mighty men of God; they ended that way and it was their connection to David that gave them their status.

We need mighty men and women of God today who will stand for truth and defend it. We need mighty men and women of God today who will rally behind a true ministry and fight for it. That kind of labor is not in vain and it will never be forgotten. There are three main honorable systematic parts to this:

**SYSTEMATIC PART #1 – David names the top three mighty men. 23:8-17**

**Mighty Man #1 - Josheb-basshebeth (23:8).**

He is the first of the top three and he was the leader of the top three. He is known in other places of Scripture by his name “Jashobeam” (I Chron. 11:11). He was also called “Adino the Eznite.” He earned the high honor of being chief by an amazing act. He literally killed 800 men in one fight with his spear.

David organized his military by divisions. He would literally bring a different 24,000 man division each month to carry out his assignments. Josheb was assigned the first division the first month (I Chron. 27:4).

**Mighty Man #2** - Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite (23:9-10).

The second of the top three was Eleazar. He was fighting with David against the Philistines and found himself alone because the rest of Israel had withdrawn. He did not withdraw. He stood his ground and kept fighting and Israel won a great victory that day. Of course it was God giving the victory, but He used Eleazar to accomplish it. In fact, the people returned to take spoils from the dead. Eleazar was the kind of warrior who would stand beside David and fight for him even if he were alone. Eleazar's father, Dodo (Dodai), was assigned the second division of 24,000 men the second month (I Chron. 27:4).

**Mighty Man #3** - Shammah (23:11-12).

The third of the top three was Shammah. He also took a stand against the Philistines when the other Israelites fled. He fought and God gave him victory. He too was a brave top warrior. He was assigned the fifth division of 24,000 men in the fifth month.

In **verses 13-17**, we get a glimpse of what these three collectively did together.

David was oppressed by the Philistines in the valley of Rephaim. He was trapped in the cave of Adullam. The cave did not have a fresh water supply and David wanted a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate.

These three mighty men decided to go get David some water from that well. It was about twelve miles away and it was in dangerous Philistine territory. They literally risked their lives to bring David water.

David was so moved by this that he would not drink the water but poured it out as an offering to God, because these three had literally risked shedding their own blood to get him a drink of water.

These were three mighty men and David honored these three above all others.

**SYSTEMATIC PART #2** – David names two more top men among thirty men. **23:18-23**

**Mighty Man #4** - Abishai the brother of Joab and son of David's sister killed 300 enemies with his spear (23:18-19).

He was a highly honored man among the top men, but not quite as honorable as the top three. He was the one who went with David into Saul's camp and took his spear and jug of water that was lying by Saul's head (I Sam. 26:6ff). He was not afraid to take on 300 men with his spear. Abishai was initially given the command to track down Sheba (20:6).

**Mighty Man #5** - Benaiah had a great reputation for being a great warrior (23:20-23).

He was the son of a Levitical priest. He was no feminine clergy boy. He would fight against any man or beast. He became David's personal bodyguard. He killed two of Moab's best men. He killed a lion in a pit on a snowy day. He killed an Egyptian who had a spear and he only had a club. He too was an honored man, but not quite as high as the top three. He was appointed over David's guard, which had 30 special soldiers and he was put in charge of the 24,000 division of men in the third month (I Chron. 27:5).

**SYSTEMATIC PART #3** – David names the thirty top mighty men. **23:24-39**

The group is called “the thirty” but there are more than thirty listed here.

**Mighty Man #6** - Asahel **23:24a** - He died on the battlefield in a fight with Abner (II Sam. 2:23). He was the son of David's sister and a very fast runner (II Samuel 2:18).

**Mighty Man #7** - Elhanan **23:24b** - He was the son of Dodo of Bethlehem.

**Mighty Man #8** - Shammah **23:25a** - Shammah was the Harodite.

**Mighty Man #9** - Elikah **23:25b** - Elikah was a Harodite.

**Mighty Man #10** – Helez **23:26a** - was a Paltite from Ephraim and was put in charge of the seventh division of 24,000 men the seventh month (I Chron. 27:10).

**Mighty Man #11** - Ira **23:26b** - was from Tekoa and was put in charge of the sixth division of 24,000 men the sixth month (I Chron. 27:9).

**Mighty Man #12** - Abiezer **23:27a** - he was an Anathothite of Benjamin put in charge of the ninth division of 24,000 men the ninth month (I Chron. 27:12).

**Mighty Man #13** - Mebunnai **23:27b** - he was a Hushathite. A Hushathite named Sibbecai was put in charge of the 8th division of 24,000. It may have been the mother's name or father's name (I Chron. 27:11).

**Mighty Man #14** - Zalmon **23:28a** - he was an Ahohite.

**Mighty Man #15** - Maharai **23:28b** - he was a Netophathite of the Zerahites who was in charge of the 10<sup>th</sup> division of 24,000 men the tenth month (I Chron. 27:13).

**Mighty Man #16** - Heleb **23:29a** - Also a Netophathite called Heldai who was in charge of the 12<sup>th</sup> division of 24,000 men in the 12<sup>th</sup> month (I Chron. 27:15).

**Mighty Man #17** - Ittai **23:29b** - Son of Ribai of Gibeah in Benjamin.

**Mighty Man #18** - Benaiah **23:30a** - he was from Ephraim and was put in charge of the 11<sup>th</sup> division of 24,000 men in the 11<sup>th</sup> month (I Chron. 27:14).

**Mighty Man #19** - Hiddai **23:30b** - from an area known as the brooks of Gaash.

**Mighty Man #20** - Abi-albon **23:31a** - an Arbathite.

**Mighty Man #21** - Azmaveth **23:31b** - he was a Barthumite who was put in charge of the king's storehouses in Jerusalem (I Chron. 27:25).

**Mighty Man #22** - Eliahba **23:32a** - he was a Shaalbonite.

**Mighty Man #23** - Jashen's sons **23:32b** - these were Gizonites (I Chron. 11:34).

**Mighty Man #24** - Jonathan **23:32c** - Jonathan was the son of Uzziah who was put in charge of the King's storehouses out in the country, including the cities, villages and towers (I Chron. 27:25).

**Mighty Man #25** - Shammah **23:33a** - He was a Hararite.

**Mighty Man #26** - Ahiam **23:33b** - he was an Ararite.

**Mighty Man #27** - Eliphelet **23:34a** - he was a son Ahasbai, the son of the Maacathite, who can be actually linked to Ur (I Chron. 11:35).

**Mighty Man #28** - Eliam **23:34b** - The son of Ahithophel, the father of Bathsheba (II Sam. 11:3).

**Mighty Man #29** - Hezro **23:35a** - he was a Carmelite (I Chron. 11:37).

**Mighty Man #30** - Paarai **23:35b** - He was an Arbite.

**Mighty Man #31** - Igal **23:36a** - He was the son of Nathan of Zobah.

**Mighty Man #32** - Bani **23:36b** - He was a Gadite.

**Mighty Man #33** - Zelek **23:37a** - He was an Ammonite.

**Mighty Man #34** - Naharai **23:37b** - He was a Beerothite, one of the armor bearers of Joab (I Chron. 11:39).

**Mighty Man #35** - Ira **23:38a** - He was an Ithrite (I Chron. 11:40).

**Mighty Man #36** - Gareb **23:38b** - He was an Ithrite (I Chron. 11:40).

**Mighty Man #37** - Uriah **23:39** - He died on the battlefield (II Sam. 11:17).

These men were rallied around God's chosen king, David, and as a result they are honored forever.

We know the first man on this list, Asahel, and the last man on this list, Uriah, were both dead. So their honor is beyond the grave and is eternal.