

### Introduction

**We said that just like other Scripture, the Holy Spirit had the writer of the books of Samuel list and recount the deeds of these mighty men of David for our benefit!**

*Romans 15:4 – “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”*

So, when we understand that **David, as king of Israel, is a type of our Lord Jesus Christ** in many ways, then it gives us **some great examples of the degree of love and loyalty** we should have toward OUR KING...KING JESUS!

**These mighty men listed here gave their lives for King David!**

They sacrificed a life they could have lived for themselves for a life lived for their king! That's what the Lord calls us to do!

**If David could garner such great love and loyalty from his mighty men that we read about here, how much more should the Son of David–The Messiah garner our love and loyalty?!**

**These men believed the LORD, they believed in David's cause and they believed that the LORD had his hand on David to accomplish in him what he said he would do, so they came to join him!**  
*(1 Samuel 22:1-2; 23:13; 2 Samuel 15:18; 1 Chronicles 12:1-22)*

Tonight I want us to look at David's mighty men a little closer as we really only spoke of them in general last time. As we review David's mighty men we will see both their God-given skill as well as their faithfulness!

In *2 Samuel 23:8-39* here we see a total of **37 mighty men** listed! Among these 37 men listed here are **a captain-general, three high captains, three lower captains, and thirty regulars**, though we need to understand **all 37 of these men are mighty and valiant military men of varying degrees!**

Further details about these men are in the alternate account. *(1 Chron 11:1-47)*

Differences between the two chapters reflect several things:

- a. different times of recording,
- b. deaths and promotions,
- c. different purposes or perspectives of recording,
- d. differences in names for the same person, and
- e. other aspects of bookkeeping.

***Don't allow yourself to get caught up in the differences.***

**Well tonight let's look at what we might call the mightiest of the mighty!**

### **I. JOAB**

Joab is specifically missing from this list though he is mentioned three times as being a relative of others on the list that were inferior to him.  
*(Verses 18, 24, 37)*

Some suggest that possibly **he is missing because he is the most well known of all considering the context of officers and captains and it would just be assumed that he would be known as being mighty.**

We know that **Joab was David's nephew** *(1 Chronicles 2:16)*, was **captain over the entire host twice** *(2 Samuel 8:16 and 20:23)*

### **A. He First Earned His Position! *(1 Chronicles 11:4-9)***

According to the alternate account there, David plainly made him chief and captain.

He was loyal to the house of David as his whole life of devoted service illustrates. However, the first person to be thought of in Joab's mind was Joab.

### **B. He Performed Well In Battle! *(2 Samuel 10:7-14)***

When Israel battled the Syrians and Ammon at the same time. He was, no doubt, a skilled general, proven by the number of victories he gained.

### **C. However, He Was Also Guilty Of Vindictiveness And Ruthless Cruelty. (e.g. He Wickedly Killed Three Men!)**

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL  
DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN-PT 2  
2 SAMUEL 23:8-38

- a. He wickedly killed Abner. (2 Samuel 3:27)
- b. He wickedly killed Absalom. (2 Samuel 18:14)
- c. He wickedly killed Amasa. (2 Samuel 20:10)

These actions were a blot on his character!

**D. We See Later That Just Before David Died, He Told Solomon To Kill Joab As A Favor. (1 Kings 2:5-6)**

So, David saw him as a possible threat to Solomon.

**II. ADINO. (2 Samuel 23:8)**

It says here that he was chief of captains and that he used a spear to kill 800 men at one time.

Not bad for a man whose name means “*slender*” or possibly “*delicate*” or “*ornament*.”

**III. ELEAZAR. (2 Samuel 23:9-10)**

His name means “*God is Helper*.”

He was one of the three mighty men who was with David, when they defied the Philistines, fought through fatigue, and left only spoil.

**IV. SHAMMAH. (2 Samuel 23:11-12)**

His name means “*loss*”.

He fought the Philistines in a field of lentils when the people fled.

We see these three mightiest men fought with David to secure this battle in a field of lentils when all the Israelites had fled.

But that’s not all, these three mightiest men brought David water from a well in Bethlehem. (2 Samuel 23:13-17)

It is not that David was thirsty, it is that the Philistines had control of this area of Judah. (Vs 14)

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL  
DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN-PT 2  
2 SAMUEL 23:8-38

**V. ABISHAI. (2 Samuel 23:18-19)**

His name means “*possessor of all that is desirable*.”

He was a brother of Joab and hence, also a nephew of David. It says here that he slew three hundred at one time with a spear.

We know that he vigorously defended David’s honor a few times.

He wanted to kill Saul that David might reign, but David wouldn’t let him do it! (1 Samuel 26:8-12)

He also twice wanted to kill Shimei for having cursed David. The first time was when the cursing and rock throwing took place. (2 Samuel 16:5-11)

The second time when Shimei came to apologize after Absalom was dead and David was King again. (2 Samuel 19:16-23)

Abishai was also the one that slew the giant that almost took David’s life. (21:15-17)

**VI. BENAIAH. (2 Samuel 23:20-23)**

His name means “*Jehovah hath built*” or “*is intelligent*.”

He was the grandson of a valiant man who performed some valiant acts himself.

1. He was the son of Jehoiada, a chief priest of Jehovah (1 Chronicles 27:5).
2. He served in the third slot of rotating generals over the host (1 Chronicles 27:5).
3. His son, Ammizabad, served for him when duties took him away (1 Chronicles 27:6).
4. He slew two lion like men of Moab.

**BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL**  
**DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN-PT 2**  
**2 SAMUEL 23:8-38**

5. He slew a real lion in the snow of winter!
  
  6. And he slew a 7'6" Egyptian\* with the Egyptian's own spear when he himself only had a staff in his hand.  
(\* "A man of great stature, five cubits high.")  
*(2 Chronicles 11:22-25)*
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We will see some more interesting things about Benaiah, Lord willing, next time!