

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

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Introduction

The last two ventures into this Chapter, we've been looking at David's mighty men! The first time we just looked at them in general! Then last week looked at what I would call the mightiest of the mighty and we saw some pretty amazing men and some specific things that were mentioned about them!

- I. *JOAB*
- II. *ADINO. (2 Samuel 23:8)*
- III. *ELEAZAR. (2 Samuel 23:9-10)*
- IV. *SHAMMAH. (2 Samuel 23:11-12)*
- V. *ABISHAI. (2 Samuel 23:18-19)*

As we left last week, we had begun to look at a fellow by the name of:

- VI. *BENAIAH. (2 Samuel 23:20-23)*
We saw some things about him, but we didn't get finished!
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.*
 - 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)*

Let's pick up here where we left off and see a few more things about Benaiah:

- 7. He was captain of David's personal guard – the Cherethites and Pelethites.
 - a. David put him over **his personal guard**, which did not report to Joab, the captain of the host!
2 Samuel 8:15-18; (Cf. 1 Chronicles 18:14-17)
2 Samuel 20:7 (Sheba's revolt); 2 Samuel 20:23
 - b. These private guards were believed to be like our Secret Service or like Hitler's private SS during WW2.
 - c. They were not Israelites, but actually Philistines!
(2 Samuel 15:18)
 - d. They escorted Solomon to Gihon much to Adonijah's fear! ***1 Kings 1:32-38, 44*** (Bringing Solomon to power.)
 - e. The name ***Cherethites*** mean ***executioners or life-guardsman*** and ***Pelithites*** can mean ***couriers or official messengers***.
 - f. We know that the Cherethites were of the Philistines and along with the Pelithites and the Gittites they were from the area of Gath (Goliath's hometown!)
 - g. Ittai and his 600 Gittites were part of this band of Philistines serving David, and they had unsurpassed loyalty to David! ***(2 Samuel 15:18-22)***
 - h. Remember Ittai led 1/3 of the men against Absalom!
(2 Samuel 18:2, 5, 12)
- 8. Benaiah was assigned to kill Joab for shedding innocent blood!
(1 Kings 2:28-34)
- 9. Benaiah was promoted to replace Joab as captain of Solomon's host! ***(1 Kings 2:35)***

VII. ASAHEL! (2 Samuel 23:24a)

"Asahel" means "God hath made" or "God is doer".

Asahel was also a brother of Joab and a lesser captain.

1. There are 37 mighty men in total, with Joab being over all the host, three very chief under him, three chief under them, and the basic thirty.
2. Asahel, though he was Joab's brother and David's nephew, was worthy of the special treatment of being a captain because his courage made him a conspicuous fighter.
3. Asahel was very fast, which could be extremely valuable in those days. *2 Samuel 2:18 And there were three sons of Zeruiah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel was as light of foot as a wild roe.*
4. Asahel was very brave! He personally chased the great Abner. *(2 Samuel 2:19-23)* However, both his speed and his brave tenacity cost him his life!
5. He is listed as captain in the courses of the military, like Benaiah is in *1 Chronicles 27:5-7*.
6. Asahel died early on and was likely replaced by Ismaiah. *1 Chronicles 12:4 "And Ismaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty"*

VIII. ELHANAN! (2 Samuel 23:24b; 2 Samuel 21:19)

His name means "God hath been generous" or "mercy of God".
He was a Bethlehemite who killed Lahmi, the brother of Goliath.

IX. MEBUNNAI! (2 Samuel 23:27)

"Mebunnai" means "built up." "Sibbecai" in *1 Chronicles 11:29* –
"Sibbecai" means "Jehovah is intervening or entangling."
He killed Saph, another son of the giant. *(2 Samuel 21:18)*

X. URIAH THE HITTITE! (2 Samuel 23:39)

His name means "Jehovah is light."

He was a mighty man for David and also the first husband of David's wife Bathsheba.

Uriah, as a mighty man for David, was rewarded with treachery from his king!

It was for this that the anger of the Lord was awakened against David!

Conclusion

David's mighty men are worthy of our note and consideration as they have been accorded a place in Scripture for their service to David and Israel!

The Lord still seeks some spiritually mighty men, who will be courageous for Him in these last days.

Our battles are not flesh and blood struggles as theirs were, but rather spiritual battles! (Ephesians 6:10-20)

The LORD wants us to be men and women of faith in our time just as those listed in Hebrews 11 were men and women of faith in their time!

Those who would be great for God must be great in faith, great in the Word of God, great in prayer, and great in courage!

Jesus Christ is a great King, and He deserves our very best in adoration, affection, and service!

If David had men willing to love and serve him as described here in Scripture, how much more does His Son deserve?