



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Leader Series: David's Mighty Men

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The events of this study took place over a sixty year period before and after 1,000BC. David's "mighty men" are listed in 2 Samuel 23:8-38 and repeated in 1 Chronicles 11:10 to 12:40. Amazingly, these valiant men are ranked in the Scriptures! The Samuel account lists the top three, then the top thirty, and seven additional who were known for their heroic feats. The Chronicles listing adds to the thirty, naming three hundred mighty men who are captains of tens of thousands of valiant warriors. We only report on a selected few of these champions. The emphasis here is on military exploits. Bravery, courage, loyalty, and valor can be displayed in a variety of settings. I pray that you see yourself in this elite category of leaders/ team members.

INTRODUCTION

David rose from obscurity, a teenager tending sheep on his father's farm in rural Bethlehem. He is the highest acclaimed King in the Bible and certainly the favorite of God (Acts 13:22). In leadership, King David started well and finished well. This was because the LORD, Yahweh was with him (2 Samuel 8-16). We also admire David's ability to lead and inspire followers. Our earlier study featured Abigail, a woman of wisdom and boldness. She prevented David from committing a brutal act of revenge prior to being crowned as king by the leading men of Judah and later Israel (1 Samuel 18:12). David's wife, Bathsheba, prevented an insurrection in the last year of David's reign. Her wise action and diplomacy abruptly ended a takeover by Solomon's older brother (1 Kings 1:5-53).

DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN ARE LISTED

1 Chronicles 11:10 These were the chiefs of David's mighty men—they, together with all Israel, gave his kingship strong support to extend it over the whole land, as the LORD had promised—¹

How did the thirty qualify to be on David's list of mighty men? They each displayed bravery, courage, and valor. They were skilled warriors, remembered for military exploits. What distinguished the three from the top thirty? A bold expression of **loyalty** set them apart!

A LEADER'S DESIRE PROMPTS ACTION

2 Samuel 23:15 David remarked longingly to his men, "Oh, how I would love some of that good water from the well by the gate in Bethlehem."²

Friends, relatives, and other renegades came and joined David during the time he was fleeing from a jealous King Saul. David was hiding in the wilderness of Judah. Israel's enemy, the Philistine army, was camped in Bethlehem. Three of his warriors heard David's desire for water from Bethlehem. They broke through the Philistine's camp, drew water from the well, and brought it to David. He poured out the water as a sacrifice in recognition of their great risk. Do you **strive to overcome all barriers** to meet the goals established by leadership?

FEATS OF THE THREE MIGHTY MEN

2 Samuel 23:8-12 (Please see the listing below)

Josheb-Basshebeth, Chief of the three captains: He slew three hundred soldiers with his spear during a fierce battle.

Eleazar was with David and the three when they defied the Philistines who had just scattered the Israeli army at Pasdammim. He stood fast in the middle of a barley field, slaying attackers until the Lord brought a great victory. After the battle, his fingers had to be pried off the handle of his sword. The rest of Israel's soldiers only then returned to take plunder.

Shammah stood fast in the middle of a field of lentils at Lehi after most of Israel's army was driven off by a troop of Philistines. He continued to slay his attackers until the Lord brought victory.

Are you so tenacious that you finish the task and accomplish the goal regardless of the opposition? Once sure of our cause, we should be invincible! Would you like to have Josheb, Eleazar, or Shammah on your team? Perhaps you could strive to be that one!

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDIES

LEADERSHIP STUDY – WEDNESDAYS: 7 TO 7:50 AM, CAPITOL ROOM 142 SOUTH

STAFF/GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS: 12:05 TO 12:55 PM, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM – CAPITOL 264 WEST

Kansas

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OTHERS OF THE THIRTY - MEN OF VALOR

1 Chronicles 11:20-47 (Please see the listing below)

Abshai, brother of Joab, was most honored of the thirty and became their captain. In battle, he swung his spear and slew three hundred attackers. King David, late in his reign, became weary during a battle with the Philistines. A giant of a man with a new weapon had singled out David as a prize, but Abshai came and slew the Philistine. **Do you look for opportunities** to “rescue” team members who are maligned by others or are at an impasse in their operations?

Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, a valiant warrior. He was ambushed by two fierce attackers, but he struck them down. During another battle, Benaiah was confronted by an Egyptian who was over seven feet tall and armed with a giant spear. Benaiah took him down with a club, wrestled the spear from his hand, and used it to slay him. Benaiah was also renowned for chasing a lion into a pit on a snowy day and killing it. David put him in charge of the royal security force. **What do you wish to be renowned for?**

Uriah the Hittite was a loyal soldier who King David had killed in an attempted cover-up after Bathsheba, his wife, became pregnant by David. The writers of Samuel and Chronicles gave this subtle tribute to the man whom David had betrayed (2 Samuel 11:2-15). This is another reminder that our sin will be found out.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The Holy Scriptures include dozens of repetitions of phrases like: “The LORD was with him” or “the LORD delivered them” in reference to the victories of David and his mighty men. We should develop this close relationship to our Lord (Psalm 73:28). The next step is to seize every opportunity to serve and achieve. Young David defended himself (and his flock) from a bear and a lion. This fortified his faith to later take on a giant and ultimately lead a nation (1 Samuel 17:37).

Life as a mighty leader or faithful servant is simple to describe, nearly impossible to fulfill. Your other option is a life of **mediocrity!** We focus on three truths:

1. Great faith is necessary to overcome inward and outward obstacles. The ultimate truth is that the servant of the Lord is secure in eternity (Luke 23:40-43). We are promised that even death is no threat. All other fears fall short (Jeremiah 45:5). This awareness enabled young David to tell Goliath: **“You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the Name of the LORD Almighty”** (1 Samuel 17:45a). We see another example of great faith in the Book of Esther: Queen Esther was told it may cost her life to advocate for a condemned people. She replied: **“If I perish, I perish”** (Esther 4:16). Can you step forward with complete abandon?

2. Total commitment is necessary to show courage. No plan “B” is necessary! After becoming king of Israel, David’s first military action was to take the Jebusite fortress that divided Judah and northern Israel. This fortress was considered impregnable, a stronghold for a hundred years (2 Samuel 5:6-9). The Book of Ruth describes another example of commitment (Ruth 1:16): Naomi urged her deceased son’s wife to go back to the country of Moab. Ruth answered: **“Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.”**

3. Unity is a critical component in accomplishment: David’s mighty men supported their chosen leader and the common goal of unifying the nation. David started his climb to the kingship with one loyal champion. Jonathan said to David: **“Whatever you say, I will do for you”** (1 Samuel 20:4). Soon David had eight hundred warriors with him, later, tens of thousands. Are you working in unity with one chosen leader? How many are unified with you in service?

¹ The Holy Bible, New International Version. (Biblica). 1984.

² The Holy Bible, New Living Translation. (Tyndale House Publishing). 2007.