



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Leader Series: General Joab

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The events of this study occur during the time of King David's rule over Judah, then all of Israel 1011BC to 971BC. Joab was General of David's army, loyal through forty years of service. However, this loyalty was so focused that Joab facilitated David in sinning against the Lord (2 Samuel, chapter 11). Our earlier study discussed the fierce loyalty of David's friend, Jonathan. His loyalty strengthened David in the Lord (1 Samuel 23:16). We trust that this study is helpful in our quest to be loyal in service.

INTRODUCTION

Joab was King David's nephew, son of David's sister Zeruiah. Joab's brother, Abishai, was a valiant warrior serving with David during the wilderness years as they eluded a jealous King Saul and the army of Israel.

JOAB WAS COURAGEOUS

1 Chronicles 11:6 David had said, "Whoever leads the attack on the Jebusites will become commander-in-chief." Joab son of Zeruiah went up first, and so he received the command.¹

The Jebusites occupied a stronghold, a well fortified citadel dividing Judah and Israel, one which seemed invincible. The defenders taunted and mocked David. Joab broke through by sending a commando team in through a water shaft, a stone-lined passageway that lead from the fortress to a ground-water spring below. In a later battle, Joab was in a stand-off with the army of Ammon when the army of Aram approached Joab from behind. Joab sent his brother and part of the army to attack them while Joab advanced against Ammon. Joab encouraged Abishia in the Lord, telling him that whoever succeeded first was to help the other. Both enemies fled from Israel. Joab knew when to boldly attack and when to seek creative approaches.

JOAB STRIVES TO WIN AT ALL COSTS

2 Samuel 14:3 "Then go to the king and say these words." Then Joab told her what to say.²

Joab resorted to deception in convincing King David to restore Absalom, banished for a murder of revenge.

The goal restoring David's son, Absalom, was achieved. However, this son later attempted to take the throne from David, resulting in the death of Absalom and many others (Chapters 13–18). In revenge for a military loss, Joab murdered both Abner and Amasa, generals who had earlier negotiated surrender with David (Chapters 3 & 20). Joab, in blind loyalty to his King, was accomplice to the murder of Uriah, husband of Bathsheba. She had become pregnant by David when he brought her to the King's house (Chapter 11). Joab resorted to ruthlessness, treachery, and murder to accomplish the goal of establishing the kingdom and maintaining power.

CONCLUSION

David recognized Joab's hindering influence. He even strongly rebuked this powerful and loyal supporter (2 Samuel 3:28-30), publicly condemning him (3:28-39). These extreme examples of violence and intrigue may seem remote to you. However, what appears as a "necessity of politics" to achieve objectives may be a covering for sin. Deception, half-truths, and lies lead to greater sin. **"No lasting harm comes to a righteous person, but wicked people have lots of trouble"** (Proverbs 12:21). Governor Brownback has developed a more contemporary standard for his leadership team: **"Please God, obey the law, and go big!"**

A PRAYER

Father God, You gave David a standard for leaders: to exercise authority with justice, in complete submission to divine sovereignty (23:3). This will make me "like the helpful rays of sun at dawn and the life giving showers which nourish the earth" (23:12). Protect me from succumbing to blind loyalty to others and passion to reach worldly goals. Keep me focused on You and Your Word as I serve here in this season of time called life. I pray in Christ's Name. Amen.

¹ The Holy Bible, New International Version. (Biblica). 2011.

² The Holy Bible, New Century Version. (Thomas Nelson, Inc.). 2005.

BIBLE STUDIES DURING BREAK

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