

## For the Love of the King

As we approach the end of our study of David's life, this section is important because it looks forward to a King. This King will be and has been foretold through the centuries, the king that this looks toward will be an eternal king from the House of David that will rule and reign forever.

There will be a section of our scripture that we will look at today that was a postscript. David had died and his thoughts about those "mighty men" around him are written down. He will identify three specific men, but we may be surprised why they are singled out.

Many of these soldiers joined him in the beginning at the cave of Adullam:

*"David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. <sup>2</sup> All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him." (1 Samuel 22:1-2)*

If we think about these men that surrounded David his entire life they would certainly make an interesting executive board. But we learn that David who followed God saw things differently than most.

**God doesn't take influential people and promote them...He takes faithful people and promotes them to places of influence.**

*<sup>8</sup> These are the names of David's mightiest warriors. The first was Jashobeam the Hacmonite, who was leader of the Three—the three mightiest warriors among David's men. He once used his spear to kill 800 enemy warriors in a single battle. <sup>9</sup> Next in rank among the Three was Eleazar son of Dodai, a descendant of Ahoah. Once Eleazar and David stood together against the Philistines when the entire Israelite army had fled. <sup>10</sup> He killed Philistines until his hand was too tired to lift his sword, and the LORD gave him a great victory that day. The rest of the army did not return until it was time to collect the plunder! <sup>11</sup> Next in rank was Shammah son of Agee from Harar. One time the Philistines gathered at Lehi and attacked the Israelites in a field full of lentils. The Israelite army fled, <sup>12</sup> but Shammah held his ground in the middle of the field and beat back the Philistines. So the LORD brought*

*Philistines gathered at Elah and attacked the Israelites in a field full of lentils. The Israelite army fled, <sup>12</sup> but Shammah held his ground in the middle of the field and beat back the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.” (2 Samuel 23:8-12)*

As we look more closely at these three men we realize God sees a potential for faithfulness. He is looking for things that most of us don't look for; let's see what these might be.

**Hebrew Word for 'Mighty Men' = *ghib-bore* = strong or valiant fighting men.**

*“Benaiah son of Jehoiada, a valiant fighter from Kabzeel, performed great exploits. He struck down Moab's two mightiest warriors. He also went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion.” (:20)*

Benaiah is not one of the three, but we learn that side notes are important. He displayed courage in the sight of overwhelming odds.

But we begin to understand that it's more than bravery, it is really how they view God. They do believe to their core that God is bigger than a lion, bigger than a giant or mighty warrior. These “mighty men” have a large view of God, we hear the echo's of a young David, “who is this...that defiles the armies of the living God”.

- **Standing in the face of overwhelming odds – Adino**

*“He once used his spear to kill 800 enemy warriors in a single battle.” (:8)*

*“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (I Corinthians 15:58)*

At times we see promoted or placed in positions because of payoffs or a political play. This acknowledgement was earned because they earned it.

It's important to note that you can tell a lot about a leader by who surrounds him.

- **Standing in the face of overwhelming fatigue – Eleazar**

*“He killed Philistines until his hand was too tired to lift his sword.” (:10b)*

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)*

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)*

Stand firm; don't lose your footing in the snowy, slippery places of battle. Don't give up, keep fighting, we have a motivation that will carry us even if we're exhausted or faced with overwhelming odds it is love for our King...

- **Standing in the face of overwhelming insignificance-Shammah**

*“Shammah held his ground in the middle of the field and beat back the Philistines.” (:12)*

While others would guard or battle for the king's palace or the Temple Shammah held his ground for a field of beans. To others it may have seemed insignificance, but it was his assignment. Who knows if this little piece of turf was overrun what may fall next?

Experts tell us that many people who commit suicide do so because life has lost all meaning. They see no purpose or reason to keep on living. Shammah saw purpose in standing his ground on a bean field. He stood with his king when everyone else had fled; there is no doubt that Shammah was motivated because of his love for his king.

*“<sup>13</sup> During harvest time, three of the thirty chief warriors came down to David at the cave of Adullam, while a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. <sup>14</sup> At that time David was in the stronghold, and the Philistine garrison was at Bethlehem. <sup>15</sup> David longed for water and said, “Oh, that someone would get me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!” <sup>16</sup> So the three mighty warriors broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem and carried it back to David. But he refused to drink it; instead, he poured it out before the LORD. <sup>17</sup> “Far be it from me, LORD, to do this!” he said. “Is it not the blood of men who went at the risk of their lives?” And David would not drink it. Such were the exploits of the three mighty warriors.” (2 Samuel 23:13-17)*

After all this time, David found himself back in the cave of Adullam. The Philistines were driving hard through Israel, trying to divide and destroy the people of God. David is sighing and longing for water from the well in Bethlehem where he was born.

His three mighty men heard him, they loved him and nothing else mattered. These three men risked their lives and brought David a refreshing drink from the well.

How could they have known? Only those in close proximity would

refreshing drink from the well.

How could they have known? Only those in close proximity would have heard this sigh and longing. They were not only close enough to hear this but they knew his heart.

Religious people treat God as a boss, but those who seek after God hear his heartbeat and respond...like his three mighty men.

**Worship recognizes God's grace. To pour it out...is to say 'God did this.' 'This is God's doing.'**

What a beautiful act of worship before the Lord. But in addition this is David saying:

"Anything I get I pour back out to you" (Not, I did this or they did this)

This was not about; "I overcame the risk, worked hard etc." But this was God and his grace.

There will always be a temptation to say; "this is mine" (my money, my resources, my possessions, etc.)

By the way, this was always pointing to Jesus who was poured out for us:

*"I am poured out like water..." (Psalm 22:14)*

*"Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water." (John 19:34)*

*"Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14)*

I want to live my life like Paul:

*"But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you". (Philippians 2:17)*

*For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. (II Timothy 4:6)*

## Discussion Questions

- 1) Please discuss this quote from page 1 of your notes: "God doesn't take influential people and promote them...He takes faithful people and promotes them to places of influence" What does this mean for you personally and does it give you hope?
- 2) On page 2 of your notes, we discussed *Benaiah*. Although not one of the mighty three the scripture tells us that he; "*struck down Moab's two mightiest warriors. He also went down into a*

- 2) On page 2 of your notes, we discussed *Benaiah*. Although not one of the mighty three the scripture tells us that he; “*struck down Moab’s two mightiest warriors. He also went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion.*” Randy explained that this was not only bravery and courage, but how they viewed God. For *Benaiah* facing these challenges or David facing a giant they believed their God was bigger than the challenge in front of them. Please share if there are any giants or mighty warriors, possibly a lion in a pit (on a snowy day) that you’re facing and possibly you need to see how big your God is.
- 3) Let’s first consider the leader of David’s mightiest warriors. Verse 8 tells us that he killed 800 warriors with a spear in one battle. Please discuss this phrase that describes him: “*Standing in the face of overwhelming odds*”.
- 4) The next mighty warrior was: *Eleazar*. The scripture tells us that the entire army had fled but he stood with his king and fought until he couldn’t lift his sword, one version says that his hand was frozen on the sword. Think about this phrase: “*Standing in the face of overwhelming fatigue*” and discuss how this applies to our lives today.
- 5) The third mighty warrior is *Shammah*. Our passage tells us that the Philistines were attacking and the Israeli army was fleeing, but he stood his ground...on a field of beans. At first read we may wonder of all of David’s soldiers why him? Think about this statement: “*Standing in the face of overwhelming insignificance*” and discuss why this is so important to David (and God) and what it says to us today.
- 6) Lastly look at your notes starting on page 4 and discuss what occurred when David’s men brought him the water. Also the implications for us today and how we are called to live our lives: “*Worship recognizes God’s grace. To pour it out...is to say ‘God did this.’ ‘This is God’s doing.’*”