

Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

David's Mighty Men

- David's final public address to Israel was a song of humility and praise [2 Sam 23:1-7].
 - He acknowledged that God had raised him up and had spoken to him and through him [vv. 1-3a].
 - He recognized the importance of relying upon God as King of Israel [vv. 3b-4].
 - He contrasted his house being blessed by God with evil men in the hands of God [vv. 5-7].
- David's mighty men consisted of 37 men who distinguished themselves in their service to God under David's leadership [2 Sam 23:8-39].
 - The list starts with three chief men [vv. 8-17].
 - Two others of 2nd rank are mentioned [vv. 18-23].
 - Thirty-two other men are mentioned as part of "the thirty" [vv. 24-39].
 - Notably missing from this list is Joab.
 - This could be because Joab was commander of the whole army during most of David's reign, so it was not necessary to mention him [2 Sam 20:23].
 - There is a similar list in 1 Chr 11:11-47 where some additional mighty men are listed.
- The list begins with the three chief mighty men of valor [2 Sam 23:8-17].
 - The first is Josheb-basshebeth, a Tahchemonite, who killed 800 men in one battle [v. 8].
 - The second is Eleazar, son of Dodo the Ahohite, who defeated the Philistines [vv. 9-10].
 - The third is Shammah, son of Agee a Hararite, who also defeated the Philistines [vv. 11-12].
 - These three men risked their lives to obtain water for David when he was being besieged by the Philistines at Adullam [vv. 13-16a].
 - David was so overwhelmed by their actions that he did not drink the water but poured it out as a drink offering to the Lord [vv. 16b-17].
- The list continues with two more mighty men of note [2 Sam 23:18-23].
 - The first is Abishai, Joab's brother, who killed 300 men in one battle and was an honored member of the thirty [vv. 18-19].
 - The second is Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, who defeated men as well as a lion and was honored by being appointed over David's guard [vv. 20-23].
- The list goes on to highlight 32 more mighty men of valor [2 Sam 23:24-39].
 - Such a group normally consists of 30 men, but if not would still be referred to as "the thirty", a technical term for a small military contingent.
 - It is also possible that two of these men had died (Uriah the Hittite, for example) and had been replaced by another mighty man in this list.

David's Mighty Men

2 Samuel 23

1 Chronicles 11

"The Three"

1. Josheb-Basshebeth, a Tahkemonite (23:8) Jashobeam, a Hacmonite (11:11)
2. Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite (23:9) (11:12)
3. Shammah son of Agee the Hararite (23:11) (*Not mentioned in 1 Chron. 11, but implied in 11:15–19*)

Other honored men

4. Abishai the brother of Joab son of Zeruiah (23:18) (11:20)
5. Benaiah son of Jehoiada (23:20)

*The "Thirty"**

6. Asahel the brother of Joab (23:24) (11:26)
7. Elhanan son of Dodo (23:24) (11:26)
8. Shammah the Herodite (23:25) Shammoth the Harorite (11:27)
9. Elika the Harodite (23:25) (*Not mentioned in 1 Chron 11.*)
10. Helez the Paltite (23:26) Helez the Pelonite (11:27)
11. Ira son of Ikkesh (23:26) (11:28)
12. Abiezer from Anathoth (23:27) (11:28)
13. Mebunnai the Hushathite (23:27) Sibbecai the Hushathite (11:29)
14. Zalmon the Ahohite (23:28) Ilai the Ahohite (11:29)
15. Maharai the Netophathite (23:28) (11:30)
16. Heled (or Heleb; cf. NIV marg.), son of Baanah (23:29) (11:30)

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| 17. | Ithai son of Ribai (23:29) | (11:31) |
| 18. | Benaiah the Pirathonite (23:30) | (11:31) |
| 19. | Hiddai from ... Gaash (23:30) | Hurai from ... Gaash (11:32) |
| 20. | Abi-Albon the Arbathite (23:31) | Abiel the Arbathite (11:32) |
| 21. | Azmaveth the Barhumite (23:31) | Azmaveth the Baharumite (11:33) |
| 22. | Eliahba the Shaalbonite (23:32) | (11:33) |
| 23. | The sons of Jashen (23:32) (These words could be trans. Bene-Jashen, the proper name of one soldier.) | The sons of Hashem (11:34) (These words could be trans. Bene-Hashem, the proper name of one soldier.) |
| 24, 25. | Jonathan son of Shammah the Hararite (23:32–33) (The Heb. could refer to two men, Jonathan, and Shammah; cf. NIV marg.) | Jonathan son of Shagee the Hararite (11:34) |
| 26. | Ahiam son of Sharar the Hararite (23:33) | Ahiam son of Sacar the Hararite (11:35) |
| 27. | Eliphelet son of Ahasbai (23:34) | Eliphal son of Ur (11:35) Hopher the Mekerathite (11:36) Ahijah the Pelonite (11:36) |
| 28. | Eliam son of Ahithophel (23:34) | <i>(Not mentioned in 1 Chron 11.)</i> |
| 29. | Hezro the Carmelite (23:34) | (11:37) |
| 30. | Paarai the Arbite (23:35) | Naarai the son of Ezbai (11:37) |
| 31. | Igal son of Nathan (23:36) | <i>(Not mentioned in 1 Chron. 11.)</i> Joel the brother of Nathan (11:38) |
| 32. | The son of Hagri (23:36) (The Heb. could be trans. Bani the Gadite.) | Mibhar son of Hagri (11:38) |
| 33. | Zelek the Ammonite (23:37) | (11:39) |
| 34. | Naharai the Beerothite (23:37) | (11:39) |

35. Ira the Ithrite (23:38) (11:40)
36. Gareb the Ithrite (23:38) (11:40)
37. Uriah the Hittite (23:39) “There were 37 in all” (23:39).*

Zabad son of Ahlai (11:41)

Adina son of Shiza (11:42)

Hanan son of Maacah (11:43)

Joshaphat the Mithnite (11:43)

Uzzia the Ashterathite (11:44)

Shama the son of Hotham (11:44)

Jeiel the son of Hotham (11:44)

Jediael son of Shimri (11:45)

Joha the Tizite (11:45)

Eliel the Mahavite (11:46)

Jeribai son of Elnaam (11:46)

Joshaviah son of Elnaam (11:46)

Ithmah the Moabite (11:46)

Eliel (11:47)

Obed (11:47)

Jaasiel the Mezobaite (11:47)¹

¹ Merrill, E. H. (1985). [2 Samuel](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, pp. 478–480). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.