

David's Three Mighty Men

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God so spoke to my heart through this study about **David's three mighty men** and it encouraged me to pursue Him with the intense passion and zeal as these three men possessed. They are a pattern of the overcomers who are willing to go all the way with their Lord by laying their lives down as a living sacrifice. In **2 Samuel 23:8-17** we are introduced to David's three mighty men.

Romans 12:1 "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."

JASHEB-BASSHEBETH

2 Samuel 23:8-17 (8) "These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: **Josheb-basshebeth** a **Tahchemonite**, **CHIEF; OF THE CAPTAINS**, he was called Adino the Eznite, because of eight hundred slain by him at one time;" NASU

The first mighty man was a **Tahchemonite** which means "skillful; to be wise in mind, word or act; exceeding". He became the **CHIEF** of the **captains**. **Chief** means "to shake the head, principal ruler; excellent; beginning; highest ruler". He became the highest ruler because his head was the most easily shaken!

Josheb-Basshebeth did not fight against the goads of correction, he allowed everything in his thoughts to be shaken that all that remained was of the Lord (Heb. 12:27). He was chief of the captains, a principal ruler who was an example of excellence to the other captains. He was not only the chief of the chiefs but the leader of the leaders. It is important to truly understand what his name and character represent because **Josheb-Basshebeth** is a reflection, a type.

The three mighty men of David symbolize the overcomer who will rule and reign in the earth with Christ as a judge to bring forth justice in the earth (I Cor. 6:2-3, Jude 14-15). In order to be a judge we must first judge ourselves in the Lord.

Josheb-Basshebeth's rank was determined by his willingness to allow the Holy Spirit to go deep within him and purge him. He was symbolic of the **barley harvest**. Barley is winnowed and sifted and is symbolic of Christ's overcomers. The overcomers allow the Holy Spirit to winnow and sift them without resistance

to correction. Because Josheb-Basshebeth had no fight of resistance but was totally submissive and obedient, he was an example of an overcomer.

Josheb-Basshebeth was called *Adino the Eznite* which means “*to be a sharp, strong **SPEAR***”. He was called by the name of what he reflected. The Word of God is a sharp spear that pierces through the lies of the enemy. **A spear** is a **weapon** which must be **hurled** or **thrust**ed at its **target**. We are to apply the Word of God to the source of destruction, that it might be overturned by the power of the blood of Jesus.

Under the power of the Lord’s might, he slew 800 of the enemy at once. Christ took out the enemy of our soul that we might become a new creation in Him and walk in a new beginning in Him.

ELEAZAR

2 Samuel 23:8-17 [continued] (9) “and after him was **Eleazar** the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the **three mighty men** with **David** when they **DEFIED** the **Philistines** [*rolling in dust*] who were gathered there to battle and the **MEN** [to be frail, feeble, melancholy; desperately sick; incurable; woeful] **of Israel** had **withdrawn**. (10) He arose and struck the Philistines until his hand was weary and clung to **the sword** [the Word of God], and the LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the **PEOPLE** [become dim, hide, huddle together] returned after him only **to STRIP** [to plunder, to spoil] the slain.”

We can see from the above scriptures here that *Philistine* means “*rolling in the dust*.” This means we are living in our carnal fleshly nature of serving self. The second mighty man’s name **Eleazar** means “*God is helper; mighty man; ram; pilaster; oak tree; to twist as being rolled together*”. He was the son of **Dodo** which means “*to love; to boil; friend*” and he was an **Ahohite** which means “*brother, branch, fruitful, first born; lamb*” He is symbolic of who we are to be in Christ. He was an overcomer in Christ Jesus. He was a **pillar** in the house of his God and he was in total agreement and unity with the word of God. He was of the seed of Christ, who is the First Born from among the dead, the Lamb who was slain before the foundations, the Branch of our salvation and our Elder Brother.

This **mighty man defied** the **Philistines**! Again, *Philistine* means “*rolling in the dust*”. **Defied** there means “*to expose as by stripping; defame; reproach*.”

Eleazar chose to expose the **dust realm** within, the old Adam, his beastly nature, through undergoing a stripping by the correction of the fire of God's love.

When all others withdrew from the battle, he remained and stood firm in the strength and the power of the Lord. The men of Israel who withdrew were living in the feebleness of their beastly nature which is **incurably sick** and causes us to be **weak** and **frail** and **live** in **melancholy** and **self-pity**. They chose to look at the situation and instead of rising up in Christ. They chose to **wallow** in their circumstances, fear, and apprehensions that hindered them from being used of God.

While the mighty man of God chose to allow the Lord to **strip and expose the dust realm in his life**, the majority chose to live in the "woe is me" mentality of "I'm just going to be like this until I die." To put it bluntly, they were being lazy in spirit. They did not want to submit to the stripping that comes from receiving the correction of the Lord. Instead they **withdrew and retreated**. The **mighty man of God** rose up in the Spirit because he had submitted to the **stripping** and He knew it was not by his might nor by his power but by the Spirit. He wielded the Sword of the Spirit and it brought about a great victory!

The people who chose to hide and not face the **dust realm**, came back after the victory to retrieve the spoils and treasures. **They** were not a **part** of the **victory** the **first time**, they received the treasures of the spoils of the victory of the enemy after the mighty man had won the battle through the power of the Holy Spirit. Eleazar **overcame** and was **victorious in Christ** the **first time**, the **others** had to **wait until later** because their **lack of submission** caused them to **miss out** the **first time**.

We can correlate this with the Five Wise Virgins and the Five Foolish Virgins in **Matthew 25:1-13**. The Five Wise Virgins were prepared. They took oil (the anointing of the Holy Spirit) along with their lamps. The passage says the **five foolish virgins** took their lamps but they had no oil, no anointing. They weren't willing to purchase or pay the price for the anointing as did the **five prudent virgins**. The Five Foolish Virgins were lazy and unprepared for the day of their visitation. When they heard that the Bridegroom was coming they left to try and purchase oil for themselves. **Matthew 25:10** says, "...those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut." Those who were ready, prepared in Spirit went in with Him to the wedding feast. The wedding feast

represents the Millennial reign of Christ. The **foolish virgins** later asked the Lord to let them in, but His reply was, “I do not know you.”

The whole desire of the **three mighty men of David** was to know and please their king. To “**know**” Christ means to have an intimate relationship with Him, to seek His face, His presence, where all you desire is Him and not a title or name in ministry in order to be seen by men.

SHAMMAH

2 Samuel 23:8-17 [continued] (11) “Now after him was **Shammah** the son of **Agee a Hararite**. And the Philistines were gathered into a troop where there was a plot of **GROUND** [field] **full of LENTILS**, and the people fled from the Philistines. (12) But he took his **STAND** [station, remain] in the **MIDST** [the center, between, the middle] of the plot, defended it and struck the Philistines; and the LORD brought about a great victory.”

The third mighty man was named **Shammah** which means “*to devastate; be amazed; make waste*” he was the son of **Agee** whose name means “*flame*” and he was a **Hararite** which means “*mountaineer*”. This mighty man of God was full of the fire of the zeal of the Holy Spirit. When we are filled with the fire, we will be able to be a mountaineer and overcome the mountains of our thoughts and the hindrances of the enemy.

The **Philistines** were gathered in the field. Where is the only place that Satan has the power? In the **field** of the **uncultivated areas of our lives**. What grew in the **field**? The **field was full of lentils**. When I looked up the word **lentils** its meaning surprised me. **LENTILS** mean “*perversity, evil, iniquity, sin; mischief and punishment*”. When we submit to the dust realm of the beastly old Adam nature, it produces sin, evil, perversity, and causes us to live in punishment instead of the perfection of God.

Again we see the pattern of the people, the majority running from the battle. While the remnant remained and stood firm in Christ. The mighty man of God stood in the midst, in the middle, in the gap. He chose to remain and overcome. We will never overcome, unless we stand still and see the salvation of our God. We can never overcome if we run away! A great victory was won because one man chose to stand up in the Lord. We are called to stand in the gap for others as Christ did

for us. We are to be a flame, a light in the darkness, and to destroy all darkness with the light of the truth of the Word of God!

2 Samuel 23:8-17 [continued] (13) “Then THREE of the thirty chief men went down and came to David in the harvest time to the cave of Adullam, while the troop of the Philistines was camping in the valley of Rephaim [a giant; cure, to cause to heal; physician, repair thoroughly]. (14) David was then in the stronghold, while the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem [house of bread].”

It was the time of the harvest, the time of the reaping of the first fruits, and the mighty men *CHOSE* to go to the cave with their King. It never said they were summoned by their king to come to the cave, they chose to go! They chose to follow their king not because they were told but because of their love of service to him. Wow what a powerful example!

The enemy was in the valley of the giant. However, even though the name reveals the problem, it reveals the cure. Christ thoroughly delivered and healed us of the giants in the land; we have been set free from them already when we stand in Him. The Philistines, the old Adam beastly nature, had encamped in the House of Bread. When we submit to the Old Adam it causes the Christ in us, the Word to be stifled.

2 Samuel 23:8-17 [continued] (15) “David had a CRAVING [desired, wished for] and said, "Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem which is by the gate!" (16) SO THE THREE MIGHTY MEN BROKE THROUGH THE CAMP OF THE PHILISTINES, AND DREW WATER FROM THE WELL of Bethlehem which was by the gate, and TOOK IT AND BROUGHT IT TO DAVID...”

The Three Mighty Men heard the wish of their king and they fulfilled it. No one told them, prodded them, or hinted to them. They listened and heard because they had a relationship with him and their whole desire was to please his heart! They weren't interested in their own comfort, but in serving their king with their whole being.

Revelation 12:11-12 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and THEY DID NOT LOVE THEIR LIFE EVEN WHEN FACED WITH DEATH." NASU

Verse 16 [continued] “...Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD; (17) and he said, "Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this.

Shall I drink the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things the **three mighty men** did."

David acknowledged the bravery and love these three mighty men had for him. He chose to pour out their offering to him as unto the Lord. He saw their love and the excellence of God they possessed. He would not drink of the water as an honor to them and to the Lord.

ABISHAI AND BENAIAH DID NOT ATTAIN TO THE THREE

There were two other mighty men of God which we read about in **2 Samuel 23:18-23**. While these two mighty men, **Abishai** and **Benaiah**, did great exploits for their God, even with all of the things that they did, they "DID NOT ATTAIN to the three", the perfection and completion of overcoming. Why? What separated them from the others? **The three** chose to go to their **king** and give their very lives to honor His desire.

We can do mighty exploits for our God, but without a true love relationship with Him, it is all dung. Without submitting to the correction and the purging of God, we miss out on the fullness of the completion, the overcoming power of God within us. This is an example of the ones who made a difference in Christ, however they were stuck in the first and the second room mentality of it. They never chose to go all the way with the Lord, to completely lose their identity and follow their king to the caves. Like Jonathan, they desired their comfort above going all the way to serve their king.

QUALIFICATIONS TO RULE AND REIGN WITH CHRIST

In order to **qualify to rule**, we have to die to our flesh and love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and mind. The **three mighty men** represent those who will **ATTAIN TO THE BETTER RESURRECTION** (i.e. the first resurrection, Rev. 20:4-6; Phil. 3:11; Luke 20:34-36), who are willing to give up their lives in exchange for Christ's life.

This was also Paul's desire as he writes in:

Philippians 3:10 “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Another scripture that validates this truth is found in:

Revelations 20:4-6 “Then I saw thrones [plural; places of authority to judge, rule and reign], and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast [animalistic desires of the soul; natural, physical nature; 1st Adam] or his image [likeness], and had not received the mark [character and nature] on their forehead [minds, thoughts] and on their hand [works, deeds of the flesh]; and they came to life and reigned with **Christ for a thousand years**. (5) The rest of the **dead** did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the **FIRST RESURRECTION**. (6) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”

There is a people pioneering this message, who are being purged to be overcomers who will be a part of the first resurrection. Those who are not willing to pay the price of laying down their lives will have to **wait a thousand years** to finally be a part of the second resurrection.

This is why Paul states in **1 Corinthians 9:27**, “But I buffet [discipline; self-control in all things] my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.” What was he referring to here? Being disqualified from what? I believe he was referring to being disqualified from being a part of the first resurrection, receiving the victor’s crown, the crown of righteousness referred to in **2 Timothy 4:8**. The scripture says it will be awarded to all those who love Christ’s appearing. This crown represents the full mind of **Christ** in a complete, mature overcomer! This crown will be awarded to those who were willing to lay down their lives, to qualify to rule and reign with **Christ** in His Millennial Kingdom in the earth.