

I CHRONICLES

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to I Chronicles chapter 9 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Now the first eight chapters of Chronicles dealt with the genealogies of Israel before they went into captivity. Now, as we move into chapter 9 of I Chronicles we will see the genealogies post captivity, when they returned to the land. As we close chapter 9 we will see the genealogy of Saul and then in chapter 10 we see the death of King Saul. From chapter 11 on through chapter 29 of I Chronicles we will be dealing with the life of David and we will conclude with his death. So with that as our background, let's begin reading in I Chronicles chapter 9, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

I CHRONICLES 9

VERSE 1

1. Why did the Southern Kingdom of Judah go into captivity? Was it because the other kingdoms were stronger than they were? They may have been stronger, but that is not the reason they went into captivity. We are told that it was their “**unfaithfulness**” that brought them into captivity. You see, God warned them over and over to return to Him and they refused and thus, the Babylonians came in and made three invasions into the Southern Kingdom of Judah. The first was in 606 B. C. Then again in 597 B. C. and finally the Babylonians came in 586 B. C. and leveled the city, burned the temple to the ground and took the remaining people captive. The only ones that were left were the weak and the sick. If they would have remained faithful, God would have protected them no matter how strong the enemies were!

2. In II Timothy chapter 2 Paul speaks of vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor and starting in verse 22 we are told, “**Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.**” II Timothy 2:22-26

Now here's the thing. If you don't know Christ then you are in bondage to sin, the Devil has caught you in his snare or trap and the only way to escape is through Christ. Now, please understand that even when we come to Christ we can still get entangled in sin. We can still get caught in the traps that Satan has set for us. Thus, how do we stay clean? Don't play with dirt! I remember taking the grandkids to the park and they would play and run around and by the time we went home they were filthy, they were dirty. How did they get this way? They were playing in the dirt! And think about it like this, it doesn't matter how many times you take a bath, if you go back to the dirt you are going to get dirty! Thus, Paul, in speaking of our lives, he is saying we are to flee dirt, flee these things that will hurt us, destroy our witness, put us on the shelf, not being used by God!

And we are not only to flee from these lusts but also run to righteousness, faith, love, peace with a pure heart and fellowship with others who are doing the same. Why is that that so important to us? Because as we fellowship together, as we spend time together we will help keep each other accountable in our walk and spur each other on in service.

Think about this for a minute. We have over 100 billion neuron cells in our brain, some have a little less, and the majority of those cells are used for memory. Everything that goes into our brain we retain, although at times it may be hard to extract, especially as we get older. Thus, what you put in your mind is there. If you put garbage in, you may not remember it for years, but guess what? All of a sudden there is that garbage coming up again because it has always been there. Don't play with fire because you will get burned!

What should we do? I like what Paul tells us to do in Philippians 4:8-9, **“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”** Fill your mind with the things of God; don’t put anything in there that will hurt you! That is what the Southern Kingdom of Judah should have been doing but instead, they turned from God and ended up in captivity!

3. Now also keep in mind that the focus here is Judah, the Southern Kingdom because we are moving towards the Messiah, showing His lineage. Keep in mind that the Northern Kingdom of Israel had some 8 dynasties or families that sat on the throne before they were taken captive by the Assyrians. But, the Southern Kingdom of Judah only had one dynasty or family on the throne, and that was David’s. And it is from the lineage of David, from the tribe of Judah that the Messiah would come!

VERSES 2-9

1. Notice that we have skipped right over the 70 years of captivity and now we have moved to the Jews returning home. Why is that? I think the years of captivity are not important here, but the years of their return, as they returned to the Lord the Lord brought them back into the land, that is important.

2. This return back to Israel began in 536 B. C. and many had become comfortable living in Babylon. They did not want to return home for there was nothing left. It was a 900 mile journey and not an easy one at that and when they got to Jerusalem they would find that the walls of the city were broken down. The temple was burned down. Their homes gone and yet, in Babylon they were living comfortably! What a lesson for us. Just because it is easy does not make it right. We need to be where the Lord wants us no matter what it may cost us.

3. One more point here before we move on and that is the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, the people from these kingdoms were gathered together. There is no such thing as the 10 lost tribes of Israel. Keep in mind that many from the North were living in Judah when the Babylonians came in and took them captive and now they are returning home, at least some of them.

VERSES 10-27

1. Here in verses 10-13 we see the leaders among the priest. Then in verses 14-16 we see the leaders among the Levites. And verses 17-27 we see those that were the gatekeepers or those that were in charge of the gates. And so, these men were in charge of opening and closing the gates of the temple and they were to make sure that only those who belonged in the temple area were allowed in, and keeping out those that did not belong there. Obviously this was an important position.

Now let's look at what this means to us today. A pastor is like a gatekeeper. Think about that for a minute. You see, a pastor's responsibility is to feed and guide the sheep that have been entrusted to him by God. But it does not end there. If a pastor just feed his sheep you know what he would have? He would have fattened up his sheep for dinner by the wolves that are out there.

And so, my responsibility is to feed you, to guide you and to warn you of the dangers that are out there, to be a gate keeper and let only those things that will build you up, keep you healthy into the church and to keep out those things that will bring you down, destroy you! And I will say this and you may like it or not, you may accept it or not but you show me where I am wrong if you reject it. If a pastor is not feeding his flock, if he is not giving them the Word of God, find another shepherd! Some of you may be thinking, "Pastor Joe, how can you say that?"

In Isaiah 8:20 we are told, "**To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.**" Now yes, this is dealing with witches, mediums, spiritists and-so-on, but the idea is the same. If they are not speaking forth the Word of God, then don't listen to them because they are in the dark. Listen to how The Amplified Bible puts this verse, "**[Direct such people] to the teaching and to the testimony! If their teachings are not in accord with this word, it is surely because there is no dawn and no morning for them.**" And The Living Bible says, "**'Check these witches' words against the Word of God!' he says. 'If their messages are different than mine, it is because I have not sent them; for they have no light or truth in them.'**"

I think that is very clear and yet, how many people today are in churches where the Word of God is replaced with all kinds of garbage and the people love it!

And if you still don't agree with me, then listen to what Paul said in Acts 20:27-32 as he was speaking to the Ephesian elders, **“For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”**

You see, my responsibility is not only to feed and guide you but to watch over you and warn you. Wolves will try to get in! As a gate keeper I am not protecting silver or gold, not that kind of treasure, but something that is far more important to God, **YOU!** God has entrusted to me this flock, and I ask that you would pray for me, that God would give me the wisdom needed to watch over and minister to you.

VERSES 28-34

1. Here again we see some of the representatives of those working in the temple. There were those that washed the utensils and those that were in charge of the incense. “Hey, wait a minute, why am I a dishwasher and you deal with the incense? That is not fair, that is not right. I could have been somebody!” Now we may laugh at that but does that happen in the body of Christ today? Sure it does. People are not happy where they are at and covet what other people are doing. Here’s the thing, one job is not more important than another job. Paul spoke of each of us being part of the body of Christ and thus, we are all important in the roles that God has given to us. If one doesn’t work, refuses to serve, then another part of the body must rise up to assist and that is not good, that is not healthy. Rejoice that you get to serve the King of kings and Lord of lords even if it is washing the utensils!

2. There is another area that I would like to focus on here and that is found in verses 33 and 34, the worship people. These singers or worship people had no other responsibilities other than being in the temple and singing worship songs to the Lord. Day and night music, worship could be heard. Their only responsibility was to make sure the temple was filled with praise unto the Lord.

How does that relate to me today? Should I crank up my stereo and play worship music for my neighbors to hear seven days a week and 24 hours a day? If you do that don’t tell them you go to Calvary Chapel! I think the idea here that the Holy Spirit has for us is that our heart, our lives should be filled with praise and it will as we stay focused on the Lord.

Paul said in Ephesians 5:19, “**speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.**” In other words, it is the joy of the Lord that has filled your life and is overflowing and touching the lives of others. On the other end of the spectrum is a heart that is not filled with worship and it is because that person is distant from God, for if you truly know Him, and are focused on Him, you can’t help but worship Him. In Psalm 22:3 we read, “**But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.**” And you can go through the Psalms and look at how often it speaks of God’s people praising Him! May we be people who have hearts of worship towards the Lord and as people see us, they can hear those praises loudly!

VERSES 35-44

1. Back in I Chronicles 8:29-38 we have the same genealogy, so why repeat it here? Keep in mind that the genealogy in chapter 8 served as a conclusion to the genealogy of Benjamin. Now, here in I Chronicles chapter 9 we see it more as an introduction to the man named Saul, verse 39, and we will get into the life of Saul more in chapter 10.

I CHRONICLES 10**VERSES 1-7**

1. Now as I have said, we have a brief history of King Saul and here we are told that Saul comes against the Philistines at Mount Gilboa, which has an elevation of about 1,700 feet and it lies on the southeastern part of the plain of Jezreel or Esdraelon. It is here that Saul's sons are killed in battle and Saul is severely wounded by an arrow. Saul, king of Israel, knew he could not escape in his condition and he did not want to be tortured or killed at the hands of the Philistines, so he asks his armor bearer to kill him, but he refuses. Thus, Saul attempts to kill himself by falling on his sword, but I believe he did not succeed and he is still alive, although barely.

Onto the scene comes this young Amalekite and Saul asks this young man to kill him, which he has no problem doing. Now there are some that feel Saul was dead, he killed himself and this Amalekite was lying but that does not make sense as I will show you. You see, this young man, knowing the war between Saul and David, brings David the good news that Saul is dead and he is the one that killed him, thinking by saying these things he would get on the good side of David. Well, not exactly.

In II Samuel 1:14-16 we read, **“So David said to him, ‘How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the Lord’s anointed?’ Then David called one of the young men and said, ‘Go near, and execute him!’ And he struck him so that he died. So David said to him, ‘Your blood is on your own head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, ‘I have killed the Lord's anointed.’”**” You see, if he really didn’t kill Saul, then I don’t think David would have put him to death. I think this man would have said, “Just kidding, he was already dead!” but he didn’t! Now, if you disagree with me, there are many who do and I am not trying to change your mind, I am just showing you why I believe it was this Amalekite that killed King Saul! And as you will see as we close this chapter, it truly was not Saul or even this Amalekite that killed Saul.

2. Now with the death of Saul we see the men of Israel flee, there was panic that spread among the people of God with their leader dead! Here’s the thing, Saul’s sin not only affected him but it put the nation of Israel in danger and that truly is how sin works. Yes, it affects the person involved in it, but then, like a cancer, affects so many other people that have contact with the sinner!

VERSES 8-12

1. Here we see the Philistines come upon the body of King Saul and his sons the next day and they desecrate the body of Saul, cutting off his head. Why did they do this? Well, as sick as it may sound, it was a display of their power and taking the head of King Saul was kind of like a trophy they put on display in the temple of Dagon. This false god, Dagon was worshiped by the Philistines as the god of grain. Now when the people of Jabesh Gilead heard of what happened to King Saul they cross over the Jordan River and take the bodies of Saul and his sons and they give them a decent burial.

2. Why in the world would the people of Jabesh Gilead risk their lives to get the body of Saul and his sons? The reason for their actions is found in I Samuel chapter 11 as Saul delivered the people of Jabesh Gilead from the hands of Nahash, the Ammonite! If you remember from our study of I Samuel chapter 11, Nahash gave them an ultimatum. If they would surrender to him instead of fighting, they would have to agree to have their right eye put out; not only a sign of humiliation, but also, this would make them ineffective in battle. Not much of a deal for them and thus, they ask for seven days to think this over and then they would give him their decision.

When Saul hears about this he goes ballistic and he is able to rally the people together to fight against the Ammonites. And it was this incident that caused the people to be drawn to Saul and they made him king. And thus, the people of Jabesh Gilead remained grateful to what Saul had done for them, even though he was not a great king, he took care of them in their time of need. They were just repaying the kindness that Saul had shown them!

3. One more point here and that is found in verse 12 where it says, “**all the valiant men arose**” and the thing we need to remember is that God always has valiant men that He can work through. Yes, great men and women of God will pass off the scene, but God’s work is bigger than any man or any group of people. May we not lose sight of that fact!

VERSES 13-14

1. Did Saul commit suicide? Did the Amalekite kill Saul? You can argue that if you want, but the reality is, the Lord put Saul to death because he was unfaithful to the Lord, He did not keep the Word of God. Folks, make no mistake about it, Saul was a man of great potential and yet he fell far short of what God wanted him to be. And there are some valuable lessons we can glean in these two verses for our own lives. You see, in these verses we see 3 reasons why he failed:

- ***SAUL WAS UNFAITHFUL TO GOD*** - God instructed Saul to wipe out the Amalekites and he only does half the job. He was more interested in himself than obeying what God had told him to do. God is not looking for talent, money, educated people but people who are faithful, people that He can work through and show Himself strong and Saul was not that man.

- ***SAUL DISREGARDED GOD'S WORD*** - God had said in His Word that the priests alone were to offer the sacrifices unto Him. But Saul found himself in trouble with the Philistines, they were preparing for war, and fear was growing in Israel. People were hiding in rocks and caves and fleeing for their lives. And Saul was impatient waiting for the prophet Samuel to come and on the seventh day he could not wait any longer and Saul offered his own sacrifice to the Lord.

We are told in I Samuel 13:10-14 of this incident, **“Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him. And Samuel said, ‘What have you done?’ Saul said, ‘When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, then I said, “The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord.” Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.’ And Samuel said to Saul, ‘You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”**”

Do you think it is important to obey the Word of God? Absolutely and yet today, we see a blatant disregard for the Word of God and folk's, the Bible tells us that God holds His Word above His name, and may we not forget that!

- ***SAUL FAILED TO SEEK GOD PROPERLY***- After the death of Samuel, Saul had no one to inquire of the Lord for him, and God was not speaking to him. And again the Philistines gathered for war and Saul was scared, so he goes to the witch of En Dor to seek council in what he should do. And we read of this encounter in I Samuel 28:18-19 where this spirit, which may have been Samuel, spoke to Saul and said, **“Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the Lord has done this thing to you this day. Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.”**

Instead of going to the Lord, Saul goes to this witch and God judged him for his actions. May we bring our requests, our concerns to Him and not to anyone else! Don't go to the unsaved with your problems of life, bring them to the Lord, have your brothers and sisters in the Lord pray for you. Yes, you can share what is going on in your life with the unsaved, but don't complain. Let them see the salvation that God will bring to a situation and that through it all they may be drawn to Him!

2. We have seen 9 chapters on the genealogies, 1 chapter on the life of Saul, and the rest of the book will cover the life of David. You see, David's life, his dynasty was divinely ordained by God. For Saul, well, the people wanted a king, not God, and yet God said that He would bless Saul if Saul obeyed Him, which he did not. Thus, Saul's dynasty lasted some 40 years, 1051 B. C. to 1011 B. C., and David's lasted some 425 years, 1011 B. C. to 586 B. C. So let's begin looking at the life of this man of God named David, not a perfect man, but as the Bible says, he was a man after God's own heart!

I CHRONICLES 11

VERSES 1-3

1. Here in Chronicles we are moving very quickly past those 7½ years that David reigned over Judah and Benjamin in Judah while the rest of the nation made their king, Saul's son, Ishbosheth. Now those years are past, Ishbosheth has been assassinated and the rest of the tribes of Israel make David their king also, and thus, David is king over all Israel, all 12 tribes!

And in verse 2 we see that the people recognized David as king even when Saul was their king. You see, David was the one who led them in battle. They saw God's hand upon David in all that he did. They saw how God was blessing David. And yet, in God's time-frame, it was not time for him to be king. You see, he was anointed king over Israel when he was 12 years old by Samuel the prophet and yet, it was not until now that the promise of God came to pass! Why did God wait so long? God was not waiting; God was preparing David for his position as king. All those years as a shepherd, all those years in battle, all those years sinking his roots deep down into God were not wasted years at all!

2. It is easy to get frustrated in what you are doing, especially when you know that God has called you to something else and yet, that is not happening. But here's the thing, don't ever think that where God has placed you now is a waste of time. God is preparing you, molding and shaping you for the work he has called you to do, whatever that may be. For me, and you know the story, God called me to Wisconsin from Chicago to be a pastor some 10 to 12 years before He actually brought me up here to be pastor of this church. And as I look back I see all that time, all those years as training for the work He called me to do in His time. Folk's, if God has called you, He will equip you for the work. And yes, you will never know all that you need to know, but that is where faith and growth come in as you have to lean upon the Lord instead of yourself. It is as Paul said in Philippians 1:6, **“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”** May we not forget that!

VERSES 4-9

1. Now keep in mind that we are some 400 years down the road from when God commanded Israel to take all the land He had given to them and yet, we still see this city of Jebus in Canaanite hands! The children of Israel did not completely drive out the enemy, but they left pockets of resistance throughout the Promise Land and now, here in the heart of the land was Jebus. Why did they not drive out the enemy completely as God had instructed them to do? Maybe they were just tired of fighting, they wanted peace at any cost and Joshua warned them that if they did not drive out the enemy they would become a snare to them and they were!

2. We might not think that this applies to our lives as Christians, but it truly does. You see, as Christians we are in a battle every day of our lives, we are fighting against the enemy. And thus, we can get tired of fighting the flesh, and instead of driving out those areas in our life, we allow them to remain. We may think we are doing pretty good. We might feel tired of fighting and thus, a little compromise won't hurt anyone and that is true, it will hurt you though!

And what ends up happening is that these areas in our life that we refuse to deal with, drive out you might say; they only become a snare to us, a hindrance in our walk with the Lord. As a Christian don't ever stop moving forward, for if you do, you will only slide backwards. Learn from Caleb, an old man and what he was able to do. At the age of 85 he goes to Joshua and doesn't ask for an area of land where the enemy is weak, but where the enemy is the strongest. He asks for the area where the Anakim, the giants were, and he defeats them because his faith was in the promises of God. Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh!

Remember what Paul said in Galatians chapter 5, **“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. . . . If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”** Galatians 5:16-17, 25. May we surrender our lives to the Spirit of God and let Him guide us and cleanse us, sanctify us completely! There is a battle going on and it will continue on until we go to be with the Lord. Thus, let us stand strong in the Lord, let us crucify the flesh nature and walk in the Spirit!

3. So David wants this city of Jebus for himself, but this was not an easy city to defeat. You see, it sat on a hill and it was thus, very easy to pick off the enemy as they started to come up to the city. In fact, the Jebusites felt very secure within the walls of their city as they are mocking David, challenging David to get into their city. But David is able to defeat them and thus the city of Jebus becomes the city of David or Jerusalem.

4. David makes a challenge that any of his men that can get into the city of Jebus and open the gates of the city, would be his commander. Well Joab, David's nephew, was a loose-cannon and David did not want him as his commander and thus, he is hoping that someone else would step up and take the city and they would be the new commander. But now Joab is the only one who is able to climb up this 45 foot shaft, from which the Jebusites brought their water into the city, and fight off the enemy until he was able to open the doors of the city. Because of this David once again makes him the commander, for he truly was a great military leader but he did his own thing, he did what he thought was right instead of what the king was telling him to do at times.

VERSE 10

1. Now we are going to see a list of David's mighty men but that is not how they started out, not even close. In I Samuel 22:2 we are told of these guys, "**And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.**"

These guys were nothing more than a bunch of malcontents, they were a ragtag group of renegades and yet they became David's mighty men, how did that happen? Because they spent time with their captain, they learned from him!

I hate to say this, but folk's, we are nothing more than a bunch of malcontents, a ragtag group of renegades, a bunch of complainers that have as their captain Jesus Christ. And as we spend time with Him guess what happens to us? We become mighty men and women of God because of being with Jesus; our life is being conformed to His!

Remember what Paul said in II Corinthians 3:18, “**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**” Listen to how The Amplified Bible puts this verse, “**And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.**” You see, as you spend time in the sun you will get a tan; your skin will show the affects of being in the sun. If you spend time in the Son of God it too will affect your life, your behavior, your character will reflect that of Jesus!

VERSES 11-14

1. The first mighty man mentioned here is Jashobeam and I believe this is the same man spoken of in II Samuel chapter 23:8 and he was called there Josheb-Basshebeth and was known as Adino and that is what I will call him, it is much easier. Now in II Samuel 23 we are told that he defeated the enemy by lifting up his spear 800 times, he defeated 800 men and here in I Chronicles it says 300. Some say it is a copyist error and it could be, but this can also be another incident that he was involved in that is only recorded here. Whatever the case, the idea here is prayer as Paul tells us in I Timothy 2:8, “**I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.**” The first thing a mighty man of God must be is a man of ***PRAYER!***

The next mighty man of God was Eleazar and he defeated the Philistines with his sword and by the time the battle was over his sword cleaved to his hand. It became a natural extension of his hand. Again, this is an important lesson for us to learn if we want to be mighty men and women of God. You see, Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:17 to take up **“the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God.”** The Word of God should be so natural in our life that it just flows from our lives. The second thing a mighty man of God must be is a ***MAN OF THE WORD!***

I am not sure why, but the next mighty man of God’s name is not mentioned here but his story is and his name is Shammah. The Philistines would come in and take the fruits of their enemy’s labor and here we see the captain of the guard give orders for Shammah to watch over and protect something. “What was this piece of ground that he was to guard?” you ask. Did it hold all kinds of gold, maybe silver or precious stones? Not really. It had a bunch of lentils or beans there and that is what Shammah was to guard against the attack of the Philistines. “Shammah, go and save the beans” and he meant that literally! And Shammah did and God gave him a great victory. Here’s the thing, no matter what God gives you to protect, guard, you do it faithfully even if it is just a hill of beans! And so, another thing a mighty man of God must be is ***FAITHFUL IN SERVICE!***

VERSES 15-19

1. Here we see David desiring to have some of that refreshing water from Bethlehem while they were stuck in the cave of Adullam. Now David never commanded his men to get him this water, but they overheard David just talking out loud, and upon hearing his desire, they risked their lives to get David this water to drink. And as his men returned with the water, David could not drink it but poured it out. He told his men that only the Lord deserves that kind of devotion, not me nor anyone else. We, as Christians should be willing to give to the Lord that which is most important to us, as David did. And through this all it shows the heart of David, that he was a man of worship as he gave that which was most precious to him to the Lord! Another thing a mighty man of God must be is a man of **WORSHIP!**

VERSES 20-25

1. We will start out here with Abishai, David's nephew, and he was a mighty man of God but he did not attain the honor that was given to Adino, Eleazar and Shammah.

Next we see Benaiah and he goes and kills two lion-like heroic men of Moab and also he kills a lion on a snowy day. And then he also killed an Egyptian who was some 7½ feet tall! Benaiah was a man of perseverance who did not let anything get in his way. How often we don't feel like persevering, giving it our all but I will tell you this, the enemy never gives up.

Peter reminds us of this fact in I Peter 5:8, **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”**

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour.”** Another thing a mighty man of God must be is that he must *PERSEVERE!*

VERSES 26-47

1. As you read through this list of names of the mighty men of God that were at David's side, he had well over 400 of them. And what I like is that these names are not listed in the great history books of the world but they are listed in God's Book! Let me close with this tonight, something for you to think about. How many today want to be somebody and they will fight and fight till the world recognizes them. They caught the world's attention. But then their names fall quickly out of sight even if they are known for hundreds of years when you compare it with eternity. You see folk's, if we know Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Revelation 21:27), written there in His blood and I would rather be in that book than in all the books the world has to offer, wouldn't you?