

2 Samuel Chapter 23 Commentary

2Sa 23:1 ¶ "Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, 2 The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue."

"**Now these be the last words of David.**" As scripture testifies here, this is the last Psalm that King David wrote, which was inspired by God. We can know of certainty that it was God inspired for David tells us this in verse two. Thus, we see the dying testimony of a man looking back upon his life, and declaring how God had used him. It also gives us a prophetic picture of the coming of Christ and the eternal judgement.

We are told here that these are the last words of David, which simply tells us that these are the last "God inspired" words of King David. However, we reminded you that scripture is not necessarily in chronological order, and we have much to see and hear of David yet in scripture.

3 "The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. 4 And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain."

David says to us; God the Holy Spirit spoke through him. David says, God the Rock, a picture of Jesus Christ, spoke to me, and he said to me: "**He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.**" Why must the rulers of God's people be just? So, the light of God would shine forth from him to the people he rules over. Remember what Israel told King David in: **2Sa 21:17 "But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David sware unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel."** Even King David's men understood that their ruler was a light from God, for the nation of Israel.

God's ruler over his people must be sinless in his walk before God and God's people. When leaders are exposed in sin, they give occasion for the enemy to blaspheme the name of God, and they have put their light, the light of God in them, under a bushel. David tells us that he has had some mornings that his skies were cloudy, and his light of God was hid by sin.

David tells us, when the light of God was shining through me, it was like the sun rising after rain which caused the new growth of grass to spring forth from the earth. So it should be in our own lives as children of God as we are told in **Mt 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."** The light of Christ shining in us, will produce good fruit "**tender grass springing out of the earth**" as we see in this text by others also glorifying God.

Paul gave us some words to this effect in **Php 3:17-21; 17 ¶ "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) 20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."** Paul tells us that Jesus is the perfect example to follow; but Jesus is no longer here to set the example for you. Therefore, Paul is telling them to follow the example of living the Christian life set by him, and the other ministers and deacons who are following my example. Paul tells them: if you walk as I do, you too will be reflecting the light of Jesus Christ. All of God's ministers should be able to say the same thing to their congregations, and they should be found as faithful as Paul was on the ministry.

Paul also warns them to not follow the ungodly examples of others who did not walk as he did: declaring them to be wolves in sheep's clothes as we are told in **Mt 7:15 ¶ "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."** This same warning is applicable to our lives today. We should always examine the ministers and deacons, all occupants of leadership positions in the church, according to the word of God and the example of Jesus, as was set forth by Paul.

Paul also gives us the warning signs to look for when examining those in leadership, or being considered to be in leadership, positions in the church, which are these" "**whose God is their belly:**" "**whose glory is in their**

shame:" and those "**who mind earthly things.**" These are warning lights going off to help us avoid bad leaders. They are those whose light is actually darkness.

"ruling in the fear of God." David tells the leaders of God's people to never forget who God is. Why? David says I have experienced God's judicial wrath in my own life and it is not something you want to go through. We are reminded also that David, though he feared God because he knew that God could just take his life or completely ruin it, yet David also reminded us that he knew that God was merciful. David actually laid his own life in God's hands, and experienced both the wrath and mercy of God.

There are many commandments from God to rulers to be just and right, judging and ruling according to the word of God. Just look around, at the chaos in the world today, and you can understand that the rulers today have no fear of God in them. This applies in the world of religion also.

Ruling in the fear of God produces light. This is prophecy of the coming of Jesus into the world as the light of the world. He is the rising sun "Son" of the age of salvation by the grace of God. As Jesus began implanting the Holy Spirit in the lives of men under the reign of grace, He was imparting to them the same light that came from Him. It is the prophetic picture that as Jesus led a perfectly sinless life: our leaders, both natural and spiritual, should live sinless lives before God, which produces light to those under their rule.

In application to our lives today: we will look at another scripture that speaks to us about rulers, seen in: **1Ti 2:1-4; 1 ¶ "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."** I have long misunderstood the implications of this text. The text does not say; we are to pray to God for our rulers, so that we get the things we want. It is saying: we are to pray to God for the salvation of the souls of our leaders, so that they would be men after God's own heart as King David was. If our leaders are not saved, they will not be ruling in the fear of God. Rather, they will be ruling by their inherited sin nature which has no light of God to reflect, and we see what that gets us as we look at the world today. We are living in a world filled with confusion, filled with hatred of God and godliness? We are not living in a world of tranquility today, nor shall we have completely tranquil lives, until the resurrection of the dead in Christ, and the change of God's people who are alive at his second coming.

If every one of our leaders, from the lowest to the highest, were saved by God's grace, and the light of Christ shining through them, we would be living in a completely different world than what exists today. God saved leaders would be speaking, ruling, and judging by the truth of God's word, and all those under their rule would have the gospel preached to them, by saved leaders walking uprightly before God and man.

These truths give us the prophetic picture of Jesus, the Christ, coming to earth in a prepared body as King over God's people, speaking to them the truths of God, for his light is truth enlightening to His people, and causing the earth to bring forth fruit to God in abundance. Jesus is the only person, in human flesh, who was completely just, doing things to accomplish the Father's will. Jesus told us that he was the light of the world, and after his ascension back to heaven, we are to be the light of the world.

Wherefore, we adjure thee to pray to God for all our leaders, that God would save them, and preserve them in his salvation, that they fall not into the snares of Satan and evil men. Why? "**that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.**" The result of having God saved leaders is that we will live quiet and peaceable lives, which is a prophetic picture of what will be when we are in the eternal kingdom of God. The ill effects of sin will not be present and all will be peace and love. Thank you. King Jesus, for this promise!

5 "Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow."

This verse is a reference verse for our 3rd Article of Faith: "*We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.*" Why? Because David says that God has made an everlasting covenant with me, which is God has ordered and therefore it is sure. The same is true for every born-again child of God for whom Christ died. Why? Because in the new birth we are given eternal life, just as Christ tells us in: **Joh 3:15 "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life."**

King David confesses; I have sinned and failed to always follow God. I have sinned at times against God and his light departed from me. Even his words of truth did depart from me for a season. Yet, God, in his tender

mercy, and because he loved me and had made a promise to me, did return unto me. He pointed out my transgressions, of which I repented, and God forgave my sins. We know this to be true because we have studied how when David sinned against God, God sent Nathan and Gad, prophets of God, to show David his sin. Each time David repented and was forgiven of God. Why did God do this? Because he had made an eternal covenant with David, and David's salvation was of God and was eternal. The same is true for God's people today.

"**although he make it not to grow.**" David understood that in his times of transgression, and in the aftermath while he suffered the judicial judgments of God, his house did not grow. He was not personally prosperous, nor did his kingdom grow. When David was under the judicial hand of God, not only did his kingdom not grow, but it often shrank, because the wrath of God often slew many of Israel in judicial judgment.

We declare unto you today, that through our King, Jesus Christ, we have an everlasting covenant of eternal life and eternal forgiveness of sins. Our eternal salvation is sure. However, we, like David, do not always do exactly as God would have us to do. Jesus is the only one who ever did that perfectly. The more we rise in insurrection against God, and our King, the less our houses will grow (which is a picture of fewer blessings) and the more we will suffer under the judicial judgements of God. When we are walking in the lust of our inherited sin nature; we will not be effective in the growth of God's kingdom on earth. The light of Christ will not be shining brightly through us, because we have hidden our candle under a bushel.

Some will immediately say: but I am not a king and do not rule over a kingdom. To whom we reply by the word of God: ***Re 1:6; 4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.***" If you are a child of God; you are a king and a priest. What, or who, are you king over?

- First, you are king over your inherited sin nature, which you are to keep in subjection by giving it the word of God to annihilate the lust thereof.
- Second, if you are married, you are king of a household. if you are a parent; you have a kingdom of people under your leadership, for whom you are to set the example of letting the light of Christ shine brightly in their sight. Understand, your house is a church as seen in: ***Ac 8:3 "As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.***" And in several other scriptures we see that the church is in the house of people, of which here is one: ***Ro 16:5 "Likewise greet the church that is in their house.***"
- Third, if you are a faithful disciple of Christ, having made your public confession of faith, and joined the organized church; you are a fellow king and priest with each member of God's Church.
- Forth, being a disciple of Christ, you should be living as a king, not only at church meetings, but among the community around you. You should be filled with the light of Christ and his word of truth, setting the example of a good king and priest, so that others may see your good works and thereby glorify your Father in heaven.

Finally, we should acknowledge, to all, that the surety of our salvation is in Jesus Christ, all the while acknowledging that we are sinners, by our very inherited sin nature. We should not be sinners by practice.

David is drawing upon past promises of God and his experiences in life to state the things he spoke above. Here is one of those promises: ***2Sa 7:15-29; 15 "But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. 16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever. 17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David. 18 ¶ Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? 19 And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD? 20 And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant. 21 For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know them. 22 Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a***

name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods? 24 For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee forever: and thou, LORD, art become their God. 25 And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it forever, and do as thou hast said. 26 And let thy name be magnified forever, saying, The LORD of hosts is the God over Israel: and let the house of thy servant David be established before thee. 27 For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore, hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee. 28 And now, O Lord GOD, thou art that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant: 29 Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue forever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken it: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed forever." This text is a prophetic picture of the coming of King Jesus. Yet, every heir of grace can claim this promise, as their own personal security in Christ Jesus.

"**although he make it not to grow.**" Even if we do not see the fruition of the promise of God presently, we can rest assured that it will come to pass, in the time God has set for it to be manifested, and growth will be restored to the kingdom of God.

6 "But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands: 7 But the man that shall touch them must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the same place."

David warns that all men are not saved. He tells us that some people are the sons of Belial, Satan. Some people will immediately say that the devil doesn't spawn children to which we give you the words of Jesus in *Joh 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."* We would add to this that if some people were not of their father the devil; there would be no need for eternal damnation in the lake of fire, nor the separation of the sheep and goats by Jesus, so that each would go to their destined place. The sons of Belial have no belief or trust in God, and they are burning flames of self-destruction.

David says, to handle these men, you must have on your armor for protection and have your sword of defense, and the staff of a spear, in your hand. Why the staff of a spear? The spear is a weapon that is long and can be used to keep the enemy farther away from you. You can deal the enemy a death stroke at a distance. If you are well trained in its use, you can throw the spear and kill at an even further distance. The point being that when the sons of Belial come to attack God's people, and they are burning and consuming flames of hell manifested in the flesh. The closer they get to you, the more likely you will be burned, especially without proper protection. This is the reason for the whole armor of God and the reason to be well studied in the true word of God. These sons of Belial come with temptations, and you need the proper scripture to hurl your spear of truth to slay them, before they get to close, and you receive damage to your own person.

This is why each child of God is commanded to put on the whole armor of God, seen in: *Eph 6:11, 13; 10 ¶ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*" The whole armour of God, the indwelling presence of Christ in us, and the whole truth of the word of God, is the staff of the spear, which keeps us from becoming confederate with sons of Belial. The word of God gives us the ability to withstand their advances upon us.

David tells us that the end of Satan, and his confederates, the sons of Belial, is "**they shall be utterly burned with fire in the same place.**" Jesus tells us that the end of Satan and his confederates will be in the eternal lake of fire, seen in: *Re 20:10-15; 10 "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. 11 ¶ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those*

things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Did you notice the phrase "**the devil that deceived them?**" This tells us that at one time the sons of Belial were able to discern right from wrong. This scripture testifies to us: the sons of Belial will not enter the eternal heaven, but they will surely be cast into the eternal lake of fire. This should fill the heart of every person, with a desire to pray to God, for the covenant of eternal salvation to be extended to them, and their families. Thank you, King Jesus, for your purchase of our spirits, souls, and bodies into the eternal kingdom of God. Hallelujah! Amen!

8 ¶ "These be the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite: he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time. 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 that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away: 10 He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil. 11 And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines. 12 But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory."

We are here given the names of the three mighty men of David, and the feats they wrought to be called mighty men. Because of their faith in God, God strengthened them to defeat the Philistines. These men were men in whom God had given great acuity and knowledge of making war. Men that were well prepared to meet the enemy in the name of the Lord, who they believed would deliver them from the sons of Belial.

Let's look at another scripture that exemplifies the context of this scripture and the picture we are trying to get you to understand. *Lu 8:26-35; 26 "And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee. 27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. 29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) 30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. 31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep. 32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them. 33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked. 34 When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid."* Jesus stood alone in defense of this child of God who had been overcome with an army of sons of Belial. How did Jesus overcome these sons of Belial and give salvation to this man? These sons of Belial recognized the Lord Jesus and Jesus gave them commandment to depart from the man and set him free. Those who were accompanying Jesus took no part in the battle. Jesus fought it alone.

Now, we are not Jesus, but we are indwelt with the holy Spirit of God, which is Jesus in us. Herein lies our strength to withstand the sons of Belial. The sons of Belial will recognize the Jesus in you, and they will be as the legion in this man. They will plead that they be not cast into the pit, and if you are filled with the whole truth of God, you will be able to give the proper word of God for the temptation, and these sons of Belial will be forced, by the power of Jesus, to yield to the word of God.

The lesson for us is: if your companions, and fellow soldiers, desert you and run away from the presence of the enemy, are you willing to stand, alone, in defense of the name of God and Christ? We see that God does not save by numbers, but by men who are strong in their faith in God, and his word of truth. In these three mighty men of David, we see the picture of men of God who are well studied in the true word of God. Men who have

put on the whole armor of God and taken up their weapons of war. Men who have prayed to God; for deliverance from the sons of Belial; that the name of God may be glorified. May we be found so faithful, in our defense of the kingdom of God on earth, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen!

13 "And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam: and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim. 14 And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. 15 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate! 16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD. 17 And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men."

Now, we are given three more mighty men who were a different group to the first three mighty men. We are told in the following verses what they did to be known as mighty men. In these verses we see that the Philistines had pitched against David and David was in the hold. David expressed aloud his desire to have a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem. These three mighty men broke through the host of the Philistines and drew water from the well of Bethlehem and brought it to David. David would not drink the water, because he proclaimed it to be representative of the blood, of the three mighty men, who hazarded their lives, and brought the water to him. Therefore, he poured the water out unto the Lord.

This gives us the picture of preferring our brethren above ourselves seen in ***Ro 12:9-13; 9 "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. 10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; 11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; 12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; 13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.***" A picture of being willing to lay down your life for your friends.

18 "And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief among three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, and slew them, and had the name among three. 19 Was he not most honourable of three? therefore he was their captain: howbeit he attained not unto the first three. 20 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lionlike men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow: 21 And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear. 22 These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three mighty men. 23 He was more honourable than the thirty, but he attained not to the first three. And David set him over his guard."

We are told in these verses what two of these three mighty men did to be given the name of mighty men, although they attained not to the first three mighty men. We do not know the name of the third of these mighty men, but we do know that scripture tells us that Joab has long been over the host of Israel. We also know that when Adonijah aspired to make himself king over Israel that Joab followed him, seen in: ***1Ki 1:7 "And he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah, and with Abiathar the priest: and they following Adonijah helped him.***" In 1 Kings 2 we find Adonijah tries another ploy to gain the kingship by asking for Abishag to be given him to wife. He being the eldest son, this would have set him up to contest Solomon's kingship. Solomon in response to the request, seeing the ploy, has Adonijah killed. When Joab hears what has happened, he flees to the altar, seen in: ***1Ki 2:29-35; 29 And it was told king Solomon that Joab was fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD; and behold, he is by the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, Go, fall upon him. 30 And Benaiah came to the tabernacle of the LORD, and said unto him, Thus saith the king, Come forth. And he said, Nay; but I will die here. And Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me. 31 And the king said unto him, Do as he hath said, and fall upon him, and bury him; that thou mayest take away the innocent blood, which Joab shed, from me, and from the house of my father. 32 And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head, who fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, my father David not knowing thereof, to wit, Abner the son of Ner, captain of the host of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, captain of the host of Judah. 33 Their blood shall therefore***

return upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed forever: but upon David, and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne, shall there be peace forever from the LORD. 34 So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up, and fell upon him, and slew him: and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. 35 ¶ And the king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his room over the host: and Zadok the priest did the king put in the room of Abiathar." Thus, we see that Benaiah is put in Joab's former position, which leads us to believe that Joab was the third of these three mighty men. We believe that Joab is not named, because he killed two men, Abner and Amasa, more righteous than himself. He lost the honor of being named because his evil deeds were greater than his great deeds. A warning to guard our reputation very carefully.

24 Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem, **25** Shammah the Harodite, Elika the Harodite, **26** Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, **27** Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite, **28** Zalmon the Aohite, Maherai the Netophathite, **29** Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin, **30** Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash, **31** Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite, **32** Eliahba the Shaalbonite, of the sons of Jashen, Jonathan, **33** Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite, **34** Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite, **35** Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite, **36** Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite, **37** Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah, **38** Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite, **39** Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all."

We are given a list now of thirty other mighty men, plus Asahel who was over them. This has to be true, because thirty are named, and he was counted of that group because he was over them. There were two groups of three each, and the thirty, plus the one, Asahel, who was over the thirty, which makes the total of thirty-seven correct.

We do not know why these totals are given in scripture. We do know that God's totals are always correct. Which gives us great joy, because we know, that God knows all those who are his. Not one shall be left out of the eternal kingdom of God. Our Saviour affirmed that is scripture in: *Joh 6:39 "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."* Thus, we see the prophetic picture that our King, Jesus Christ, has saved all whose names are recorded in the book of life, seen in: *Re 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* Thank you, King Jesus, for the gift of eternal life with you. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!