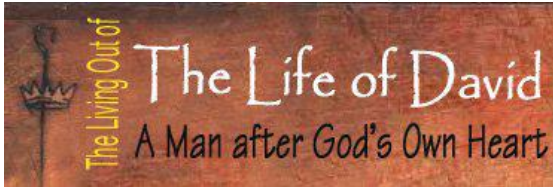




# 2 Samuel 23:8-39

Joab Sun, Apr 15<sup>th</sup> 2007



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## David is a great man – God said so

- God called him a man after His own heart
- God holds him as an example thru whole Bible
- Thru David, God blessed Israel & brought them higher & greater than perhaps have ever known
- David was a blessing to Israel

## David not alone – was a blessing, but more than him

- With David God raised a host of great men
- **Section before us – calls them mighty men**
  - Showing their boldness, their feats of faith
- **Yet...already covered this section**
  - Chronicles gives at beginning of David's reign
  - We covered this then – Sept – can listen online, CD
- **Today...cover name that is noticeably absent- Joab**
  - Notice Joab's brothers listed v.18-19,24a
  - Notice even Joab's armor bearer listed 37
  - These all listed...but not Joab, David's general...
  - Today we want to talk about why....

## In one sense...this is a promised study

- Mentioned several times that I would do this
- Honestly, when coming at it now...struggling
  - Want it to bless you...pray that it does

# I. Joab's History

## 1. Begin with who he is

- a) Name means Yaheweh is his father
- b) See David's genealogy
  - (i) Joab is David's nephew
  - (ii) Notice – that Amasa is Joab's cousin

## 2. Look at Joab's history with David

- a) Joins David 1Sam 22:2
- b) Leads Troops against Abner 2Sa 2
- c) Kills Abner 2Sa 3
- d) Takes Jerusalem – General 2Sa 5:8
- e) Leads army against Amon 2Sa 10
- f) Helps kill Uriah 2Sa 11
- g) Defeats Rabbah, Calls for David 2Sa 12
- h) Fetches Absalom 2Sa 14
- i) Kills Absalom 2 Sa 18
- j) Confronts David over Absalom 2Sa 19
- k) Kills Amasa 2Sa 20
- l) Leads Israel against Sheba 2Sa 20
- m) Resists David numbering Israel 2Sa 24
- n) Joins Adonijah 1Ki 1
- o) Dies at hand of Solomon, at Alter 1Ki 2

## 3. Could bring out more details....

- a) Would see that Joab is a victorious general
- b) Yet... troubling occurrences are the three men that Joab killed – Abner, Absalom and Amasa

## II. Joab's Character

### 1. Question for us is "Why"-why did Joab do all this?

- a) Dangerous question
- b) **Jesus told us to avoid – Mat 7:1**
  - (i) Why, no one knows another's heart
  - (ii) Can see fruit...but not heart
- c) **But for us today – not judging Joab**
  - (i) Seeking to learn from...good question
  - (ii) But again...unknown question

### 2. Many, Most feel that Joab is a selfish man

- a) **Many laud his loyalty to David – wonderful**
  - (i) Note his helpfulness
- b) **Yet man feel that his actions are repressible**
- c) **Feel that he is selfish, driven by jealousy**
  - (i) Loyal– unless own position attacked
- d) **David himself struggled with Joab**
  - (i) Felt he was harsh...wrong
- e) **This perspective is possible...even probable**
  - (i) It is true, does happen, that people can even serve the Lord from such a heart
  - (ii) Paul tells us of such service Phi 1:15-16
- f) **If this is the lesson from Joab – good lesson**
  - (i) Can serve–be used even by God...but no honor, no reward
  - (ii) Warn you about this...call you from it
- g) But...I want to explore another option....

### 3. Could be that Joab was God's provision for David

- a) Again note with me...speculation
- b) Began for me – in considering David's life
  - (i) Asked – what if Joab not there....

### III. Joab's Part...gift

#### 1. What if Joab didn't deal with these 3 men

a) **Abner – 2 Sam 3:6-10**

- (i) Notice – strengthening his hold, power
- (ii) Notice – knows against God's will, word
- (iii) Abner then changes sides to David...
- (iv) Wonder if would have brought same heart
- (v) David is willing to make Abner his
- (vi) Joab kills Abner...saving perhaps huge pain

b) **Absalom – rebellious son...destroying**

- (i) David unwilling to deal with...Joab does

c) **Amasa – was Absalom's general**

- (i) Leading army against David...then David offers to Amasa to be his general
- (ii) Think how odd this would be
- (iii) Joab kills him...even though his cousin

#### 2. What if the reason Joab did this was good?

- a) What if it was for the good of the kingdom?
- b) What if he did this, full knowing he could forfeit his life over this...and he could have
- c) What if Joab supplied a part of David's kingdom that David lacked...and needed?

### 3. In the NT we see some who fill this role

- a) Turn to **1Cor 12:4-18**
- b) Is a body-with different gifts – parts, need all
- c) **Key** - Gifts of the Spirit are often “Major” what all Christians are called to “Minor” in
- d) **One of those gifts is discernment**
  - (i) Again – all of us are called to this
  - (ii) Part of all our lives, needs to be
  - (iii) But some are called to it
- e) **See it in Acts 5**
  - (i) Annanis and Saphira- dangerous prob.
  - (ii) Peter sees– deals with – good impact
- f) **See it in Acts 8**
  - (i) Simon “believes” – seems all believe it
  - (ii) Peter given insight–his heart, confronts
  - (iii) Sadly, history says this man didn’t listen
- g) **Interesting-seems be a part of Peter’s calling**
  - (i) Writes much about it in 2 Peter

### 4. Point – some are called to such a role in church

- a) Often call them today apologists
- b) Want to give a few lessons from Joab for
  - (i) To me...Joab is perhaps a role model for
  - (ii) Say this...probably only a few, maybe one in our fellowship who is this-needed

## **5. Lesson for all – see need for apologists**

- a) Part of lesson for me, has been this
- b) I am not this...but I see its need
- c) I am not a David...but want to be
- d) Yet, feel I want to learn from his weakness

## **6. Lesson for those who are this – called to**

- a) **1<sup>st</sup> lesson – know you may never be popular**
  - (i) Joab was needed...but unappreciated
  - (ii) Not listed in mighty men...not recognized
  - (iii) Think of apologetics conference-few go
- b) **2<sup>nd</sup> lesson – know you will be misunderstood**
  - (i) Joab and brothers often called harsh
  - (ii) “so unloving” is the oft repeated today
- c) **3<sup>rd</sup> lesson – know you may often act alone**
  - (i) Few stand with you...follow
- d) **4<sup>th</sup> lesson –be willing to risk all for good of church**
  - (i) Joab risked his life for this...worth it
  - (ii) Like white blood cells – giving life for health of the body
- e) **5<sup>th</sup> lesson – leave rewards to God**
  - (i) To me, love the picture of Joab’s death
  - (ii) Not that he died...but where, how
  - (iii) Holding altar– submitting to God’s verdict

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## Conclusion

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### **Can I tell you this – all of you will stand before God**

- One way or another – Heb 9:27
- Won't matter what others say or think about you – not judged by their acceptance or disapproval
- Won't matter what you think – you are unfair
- What matters – is living to please Him...
- Paul says it this way Gal 1:10
- Stand before rewards seat

### **The rest of you will stand before God – white throne**

- Rev 20:11-15
- Want you to understand this is coming
- Won't matter what people say, or you say...but what God says
- Key is to live for that....
- Everything this book said would happen, has happened in its time...and will