

I. Introduction and review: Who are your heroes?

II. David's Mighty Men strike down four giants. 21:15-22 I Chron. 20:4-8

- A. Abishai rescues David from Ishbi-benob. 21:15-17**
1. David's first and last recorded battles were with giants from Gath.
 2. Apparently this giant wasn't as big as Goliath, but David in his older age no longer has the strength of his youth. v. 16 I Sa. 17:7
 3. Joab's brother Abishai kills the giant. v. 17a
 4. David's men insist that he no longer go to war. v. 17b 18:3 I Ki. 15:4 Ps. 132:17
- B. Sibbecai, Elhanan and Jonathan (David's nephew) kill three other giants. 21:18-22**
1. Apparently a certain family in Gath produced these giants. v. 20 I Chr. 20:5
 2. Like the first Goliath, these men defied Israel and thus came under God's judgment. v. 21 I Sam. 17:10,25-26 Ps. 2
- C. How does this section point to Christ?**
1. He is our light. 21:17 22:29 John 3:19 8:12 12:46
 2. Thankfully, He never grows weary. 21:15 Isa. 40:28
 3. He has conquered Satan, sin and death for us. I Jo. 3:8 Col. 2:15 Ro. 8:37
 4. One day all His enemies will be vanquished. I Co. 15:25
- D. How does this section apply to us?**
1. We may find ourselves fighting the same battles even into old age. v. 15 II Ti. 2:22
 2. As we grow older we may have to admit our limitations. v. 16b
 3. Being old does not make one useless. v. 17b 22:1-23:7 Pr. 16:31 20:29
 - a. David continued to be a lamp of wisdom and leadership in Israel.
 - b. He couldn't fight, but he still was able to compose great Psalms of praise to God and encouragement to His people.
 4. Christ gives hope to us as we grow old. One day these deteriorating bodies will be renewed in glory. II Cor. 4:16-5:4 Phil. 3:20-21
 5. Great men of faith inspire others to follow – before David fought Goliath there was no-one in Israel willing to fight a giant. Now there are many. I Sa. 17:11,24
 6. Those who trust God are strengthened to conquer. Ro. 8:37 Is. 40:29-31 Je. 9:23f
 7. What battles do we fight? Eph. 6:10ff II Cor. 10:3-5 I Pe. 2:11

III. The list of David's Mighty Men – A Warriors' Hall of Fame. 23:8-39 I Chr. 11:10-47

A. The divisions of the Mighty Men.

1. The named trio who single-handedly turned battles. v. 8-12
2. The unnamed trio who demonstrated extraordinary loyalty and bravery in their service to David. v. 13-17 I Chron. 11:15-19
3. Two valiant leaders. v. 18-23 I Ki. 2:35 I Chron. 27:5
4. The extended list of Mighty Men. v. 24-39
5. The list concludes with Uriah, a sad reminder of David's great sin. I Ki. 15:5

B. Questions about the list of valiant warriors.

1. Why are there more than thirty men included? 2:18-23
2. What is the significance of the fact that some were foreigners? v. 36,37,39 Is. 60:3
3. Why doesn't this list agree exactly with the list in I Chronicles 11?
4. Why isn't Joab included? 23:37 I Chron. 11:6

- C. General observations about David's Mighty Men.**
1. We are reminded that David did not gain his victories alone. 22:1ff I Chr. 11:10
 2. David is a great king who inspired great loyalty and gained victories over the enemies of Israel where Saul and others had failed.
 3. These were the men who stood by David in his darkest days.
 4. These mighty men, like David, gained their strength and their victories through the LORD. v. 10,12b Jer. 9:23-24
 5. Their warfare illustrates (again) how divine sovereignty works alongside of human responsibility (effort and skill). Phil. 2:12-13
- D. How does this section apply to us today?**
1. This text could be misused by Christian leaders who would put themselves in the place of David and demand loyalty from the LORD's people.
 2. Under the New Covenant, Christ is the true anointed King whose Mighty Men serve with Him.
 3. Jesus carries out His work through His people. Eph. 2:17 4:10-16
 4. Just as David's Mighty Men stood by him during times of great trial, we remain loyal to Christ even though the world rejects Him. Luke 22:29
 5. It is proper to honor those who serve alongside Christ. Rom. 16:4ff Lu. 22:28 Heb. 6:10 11:1ff Phil. 2:19ff Col. 4:10ff II Ti. 1:16ff
 6. These God-honoring soldiers remind us that there are many ways in which we may serve the LORD. I Pe. 4:10-11
 7. All of our service to the LORD is performed in His strength. v. 10,12 I Pe. 4:10-11
 8. Where do we need to show courage today? 23:9
 9. The best leader among us is but a sinner. v. 39 I Co. 15:9-10 I Tim. 1:15
- E. How does this passage point to Christ?**
1. The LORD is a Mighty Warrior. 24:15ff Deut. 10:17 Isa. 42:13 Ps. 110:1
 2. Jesus didn't just risk His life so that we could drink of living water. He poured out His life that we might drink. v. 17 Mark 14:24 II Co. 8:9 Heb. 10:5ff
 3. Jesus is a leader Who should inspire your complete devotion. v. 13 Rom. 12:1-2 John 12:1-8 13:1ff Phil. 1:21 2:7,17 II Tim. 4:6
 4. There is no black mark in the life of Christ. v. 39 Heb. 4:15 9:14 I Pe. 1:19
 5. While it is good to appreciate those who faithfully serve, we should not exalt our earthly leaders, but Christ. I Co. 1:10-17 3:1
 6. Are you as loyal to the LORD's anointed (Jesus) as David's men were to him? v. 15-16 John 14:15 15:14-15 Mark 8:34ff
 7. A call to enlist.

Discussion questions

1. What does David's experience teach us about how we should view our old age? 21:15-16
2. How do the giant killers demonstrate the effect of David's leadership example in Israel? 21:15-22
3. How does the conquest of the four giants point us to Christ?
4. What battles do we fight?
5. Why do you think Uriah is the last on the list of David's Mighty Men? 23:39
6. How do the exploits of the Mighty Men illustrate how God works through us? 23:10,12
7. How should we apply the story of David's men risking their lives to get him a drink from the well in Bethlehem? 23:13-17 Does this mean we should do whatever our pastor says?
8. Who are God's Mighty Men today?
9. To Whom do God's Mighty men owe their ultimate loyalty?
10. How can we express our loving loyalty to Jesus?