

# DAVID'S MIGHTY HEROES CONDENSED

Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.

*Excerpt from Apples of Gold*

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” Proverbs 25:11

Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col. (1) - the ranking of mighty heroes 2 Sam. 23, Col. (2) – verse reference, Col. (3) - their order of rank comparing 2 Sam 23 & 1 Ch 27, Col. (4) - monthly captains recorded 1 Ch 27 & 1 Ch 11.
2 Sam. 23 Order   Verse		Order of Rank	1 Ch 27 Captain by Month	<b>Joab</b> , the son of Zeruiah... <b>was chief</b> (1 Ch 11:4-6, = general over army 27:34, David's nephew).
1.	8	<b>The First 3</b>	1	<b>(Jashobeam) The Tachmonite</b> ; [= wise, <i>called</i> Adino the Eznite (= spearman of the spearmen) <i>because</i> he speared 800 in one battle: 300 in another] of Judah's Hachmonite clan (1 Ch 27:2-3).
2.	9		2	<b>Eleazar</b> : son of Dodo (1 Ch 11:12-14): he & David defended a barley field from the Philistines
3.	11			<b>Shammah</b> , son of Agee the Hararite: defended lentil field from Philistines by himself
4.	18	<b>The Next 3</b>		<b>Abishai</b> , brother of Joab the son of Zeruiah: nephew to David—slew 300 and Ishbibenob (giant)
5.	20		3	<b>Benaiah</b> the son of Jehoiada (a “chief priest”, 1 Ch.27:5-6), the son of a valiant man of Zabdeel
6.				<b>Ismaiah</b> the Gibeonite (Benjamin), ... and <b>over the thirty</b> (1 Ch 12:1, 2, 4) “ <i>Also the valiant men of the armies were:...</i> ” (1 Ch 11:26)
7.	24	1	4	<b>Asahel</b> the brother of Joab, one of <u>the thirty</u> ; (1 Ch 11:27) and was David's nephew,
8.	24	2		<b>Elhanan</b> son of Dodo of Bethlehem (if Jair is another name of Dodo's, Elhanan slew a giant)
9.	25	3	5	<b>Shammah</b> the <u>Harodite</u> , (1 Ch 27:8; an Izrahite born in Harod)
10.	25	4		<b>Elika</b> a Harodite (not in 1 Ch 11: perhaps dishonored himself after David died & name removed?)
11.	26	5	7	<b>Helez</b> the Paltite, (of Ephraim, 1 Ch.27:10)
12.	26	6	6	<b>Ira</b> the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, (1 Ch 27:9)
13.	27	7	9	<b>Abiezer</b> the Anethothite, (Anathoth of Benjamin, 1 Ch.27:12)
14.	27	8	8	<b>Sibbecai (= Mebunnai)</b> the <u>Hushathite</u> , (Zerahite; slew a giant-2 Sam.21:18; 1 Ch.11:29, 27:11)
15.	28	9		<b>Zalmon</b> the <u>Ahohite</u> , (of Benjamin)
16.	28	10	10	<b>Maharai</b> the Netophathite of the Zerahites (in Judah, 1 Ch.27:13)
17.	29	11	12	<b>Heleb</b> the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, (lineage of Othniel of Judah; 1 Ch.27:15)
18.	29	12		<b>Ittai</b> the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin,
19.	30	13	11	<b>Benaiah</b> the Pirathonite, (in Ephraim; 1 Ch.27:14)
20.	30	14		<b>Hiddai</b> of the <u>brooks of Gaash</u> , (in Ephraim)
21.	31	15		<b>Abialbon</b> the <u>Arbathite</u> , (in Judah)
22.	31	16		<b>Azmaveth</b> the Barhumite, (son of Adiel; 1 Ch.27:25)
23.	32	17		<b>Eliabba</b> the Shaalbonite,
24.	32	18		<b>Bene-Jashen</b> (? , of the sons of Jashen) the Gizonite (see Keil-Delitzsch, 2 Sam. 23, p. 499)
25.	33	19		<b>Jonathan</b> , son of Shammah (David's brother, he slew a giant) a <u>Hararite</u> , (1 Ch.11:34, 20:6-7)
26.	33	20		<b>Ahiam</b> the son of Sharar the Hararite,
27.	34	21		<b>Eliphelet</b> the son of Ahasbai, the son of the <u>Maachathite</u> ,
28.	34	22		<b>Eliam</b> the son of <u>Ahithophel</u> the Gilonite (Eliam was the father of Bathsheba, 2 Sam. 11:3)
29.	35	23		<b>Hezrai</b> the <u>Carmelite</u> ,
30.	35	24		<b>Paarai</b> the Arbite,
31.	36	25		<b>Igal</b> the <u>son of Nathan</u> of Zobah, (& brother of Nathan Jr., 1 Ch 11:38)
32.	36	26		<b>Bani</b> the <u>Gadite</u> ,
33.	37	27		<b>Zelek</b> the <u>Ammonite</u> ,
34.	37	28		<b>Naharai</b> the Beerothite, <u>armourbearer to Joab</u> the son of Zeruiah,
35.	38	29		<b>Ira</b> an Ithrite,
36.	38	30		<b>Gareb</b> an Ithrite,
37.	39	31		<b>Uriah the Hittite</b> : — <b>thirty and seven in all.</b>

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David’s “thirty” probably began as an actual number. However due to deaths, severe wounds or advanced age as well as confrontations in which an unusual number of acts of heroism took place, its current active membership at any given time could have consisted of fewer or more than 30. Later it became a title of honor like the “Ring or Legion of Honor” (proof: cp. 2 Sam.23:13a & 23:39). Over time, the enrollment would include the names of the dead as well as those who for one reason or another could no longer go to battle and thus far exceed thirty. Although not listed in 2 Sam. 23, Ismaiah the Gibeonite (Benjamin, 1 Ch.12:1, 2, 4) was also “over the thirty”. Perhaps Ismaiah achieved no single feat equal to those of the 5 but rather did many great deeds of lesser note or he was slain in some encounter before David was enthroned and his position in the second “3” was left unfilled (e.g., his jersey was retired) as no one else ever distinguished himself to be so elevated to fill this place.

Many varied solutions were obtained in the outworking of this problem. In the end, the procedure deemed most logical was to take 2 Sam. 23 as the standard and fit 1 Ch.11 to it. The reasons for this determination were: (1) it was the original document from David’s mouth and nearly 500 years more ancient than the Chronicles data, and (2) the 2 Sam 23 record told us the precise number of names recorded (i.e., 37, see vs. 39). Further, a simple straightforward listing of the names given there yielded 37 individuals (with only the defensible addition of Ismaiah the Gibeonite who was also said to be “over the thirty” in 1 Ch. 12:1-2). Experience has taught that the simplest solution is usually the correct one.