

BE OF GOOD COURAGE

⁹ *Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:*
Joel 3:9 KJV

¹ *For the director of music. Of David. A psalm. A song. May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him.*
Psalm 68:1 NIV

I. God had to encourage Joshua to be courageous four times.

A. Be courageous the people are watching. (Joshua 1:6)

⁶ *Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.*

B. Be courageous you are watching. (Joshua 1:7,8)

⁷ *“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

C. Be courageous God is watching. (Joshua 1:9)

⁹ *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

D. Be courageous your enemies are watching. (Joshua 1:18)

¹⁸ Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey it, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!”

II. David’s mighty men / Three portraits of courage.

A. Adino the Eznite / A man who fought against Immeasurable odds. (II Samuel 22:8)

⁸ These are the names of David's mighty warriors: Josheb-Basshebeth, a Tahkemonite, was chief of the Three; he raised his spear against eight hundred men, whom he killed in one encounter.

* Adino, “His adorned one,” was his nickname. He was also called Josheb-Basshebeth and Jashobeam an Hachmonite.

1. Under David he was in charge of the first division of 24,000 men on duty for the first month of the year. (From a list in I Chronicles 27)

2. He was a descendent of Pharez of Judah.

3. He killed 800 men with his spear. He would do what was right, even when the odds were against him.

4. Shamgar killed 600 with an ox goad. (Judges 3:31)

³¹ After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath, who struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad. He too saved Israel.

5. Samson killed 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey. (Judges 15:15)

¹⁵ Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.

6. David knew Adino was ready and prepared.
 7. David knew Adino could handle any situation without being overwhelmed.
 8. David knew Adino was always prepared for a fight.
 9. David knew Adino could figure his way out of any situation.
 10. David knew Adino would not quit or run when the enemy threatened.
 11. Adino teaches us that one man with God is a majority.
- B. Eleazar, the son of Dodo the Ahohite / A man who fought in indefinable fatigue. (II Samuel 22:9,10)

⁹ Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite. As one of the three mighty warriors, he was with David when they taunted the Philistines gathered at Pas Dammim for battle. Then the Israelites retreated, ¹⁰ but Eleazar stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day. The troops returned to Eleazar, but only to strip the dead.

1. Eleazar, “my God has helped,” was from the tribe of Benjamin. (I Chronicles 8:4)
- ⁴ Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah,*
2. Eleazar’s enemies were many, and he fought an extended battle alone.
3. Eleazar teaches us that mighty men stand their ground.
4. Eleazar teaches us that mighty men put their King first.

5. Eleazar teaches us that mighty men take risks.
6. Eleazar teaches us that mighty men turn problems into opportunities.
7. Eleazar teaches us that mighty men put others ahead of themselves.
8. Eleazar teaches us that mighty men can fight in the minority, unseen and unhelped. (2 Timothy 4:16-18)
*¹⁶ At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.
¹⁷ But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*
9. Eleazar teaches us that some battles drag on for an extended period of time.
10. Eleazar's hand became one with his weapon in the heat of battle.
11. Eleazar had no reserve; he gave all he had and held nothing back. (Ephesians 6:13)
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.
12. It is in the heat of the battle, in utter fatigue, that God's power comes causing great victories.

13. Eleazar was gracious with all the people of God who had run away.

C. Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite / The man who fought for an insignificant reward. (II Samuel 23:11,12)

¹¹ *Next to him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them.* ¹² *But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the LORD brought about a great victory.*

1. Shammah, whose name means “Desolation,” refused to allow the Philistines to destroy the harvests of Israel. The land belonged to the Lord, not the Philistines. (Leviticus 25:23) The land was given to Israel to use for God's glory. (Leviticus 18:24-30)

[Lev 25:23 NIV] ²³ “*The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers.*

[Lev 18:24-30 NIV] ²⁴ “*Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled.* ²⁵ *Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.* ²⁶ *But you must keep my decrees and my laws. The native-born and the foreigners residing among you must not do any of these detestable things,* ²⁷ *for all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled.* ²⁸ *And if you defile the*

land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you. ²⁹ “‘Everyone who does any of these detestable things--such persons must be cut off from their people. ³⁰ Keep my requirements and do not follow any of the detestable customs that were practiced before you came and do not defile yourselves with them. I am the LORD your God.’”

2. Shammah was aware that the enemy stole the harvest crops every year, attacking when the people were most vulnerable in the fields.
3. Shammah refused to run when all of Israel ran away.
4. Did Shammah defend a useless field? No, he foresaw that the enemies were trying to destroy the food supply so that God's people would once again be slaves.
5. Never despise the day of small things, and never demean what might appear to you to be an insignificant field or reward.

THE SPEAR OF DESTINY



ROMAN GLADIUS

