

A MACEDONIAN MOMENT

MACEDONIAN REVERSERS

²² Benaiah son of Jehoiada, a valiant fighter from Kabzeel, performed great exploits. He struck down Moab's two mightiest warriors. He also went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion. ²³ And he struck down an Egyptian who was five cubits tall. Although the Egyptian had a spear like a weaver's rod in his hand, Benaiah went against him with a club. He snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear. ²⁴ Such were the exploits of Benaiah son of Jehoiada; he too was as famous as the three mighty warriors. ²⁵ He was held in greater honor than any of the Thirty, but he was not included among the Three. And David put him in charge of his bodyguard.

I Chronicles 11:22-25

- I. Warrior priests/A Benaiah company is rising. / Balance is emerging in the earth.
 - A. Benaiah, "Jehovah has built," served David for 40 years in utter loyalty as the captain of his bodyguard. (II Samuel 8:18;20:23)

[2Sa 8:18 NIV] ¹⁸ Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the Kerethites and Pelethites; and David's sons were priests.

[2Sa 20:23 NIV] ²³ Joab was over Israel's entire army; Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the Cerethites and Pelethites;

B. He was born to serve as a priest. (I Chronicles 27:5) His family was from the tribe of Levi, the priestly line of Aaron.

⁵ The third army commander, for the third month, was Benaiah son of Jehoiada the priest. He was chief and there were 24,000 men in his division.

C. His father, Jehoiada, “Jehovah knows,” was a priest whose own father was a valiant man. Jehoiada had brought 3700 men to Hebron in order to help make David King. (I Chronicles 12:27)

D. Priests became prophets in the scriptures. (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, John the Baptist)

E. Benaiah, alone, in the Bible is a priest who became a warring general.

F. Benaiah knew God, knew the ways of God, and he knew the Scriptures.

G. Benaiah was a third generational priest. In him, priestly sympathies were added to unflinching warrior traits. This created a man who could not be stopped.

H. Psalm 110, the most often quoted Psalm in the New Testament, portrays the Messiah and his followers as soldier-priests.

I. There is a perfectly balanced blend of priestly sympathies and warrior traits coming forth in this season.

II. Three exploits only warrior-priests can accomplish

A. He struck down two of Moab’s best men. / Brilliant counterfeits are coming down.

1. A prolonged fight is a lost fight.
2. Living in fear means minimizing risks. Living by faith means taking risks.
3. Moab was the living image of counterfeit life, love, and purpose. Genesis 19:37,38 records the fact that Moab was a child conceived through incest with Lot's oldest daughter.

³⁷ The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites of today. ³⁸ The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the Ammonites of today.

4. Moab was related to, yet the enemy of, Israel—always attacking, hindering, taking back ground gained, relentless at undermining victories, a thorn in the flesh. In-laws but out-laws. Always stands in hostile relation to the authentic.
5. There is a new discernment to see what is on the border, related to you, but is not an authentic blessing.

B. Benaiah killed a lion in a pit on a snowy day. / It's a season to defy all odds.

1. Benaiah met the worst of enemies (a lion) in the worst of places (a pit) under the worst of conditions (a snowy day)-and he won!
2. Discipline - you have to. Duty - you ought to. Debt – I owe you. Delight - I get to!

3. Benaiah's son, Ammizabod, inherited, in his stead, control of 24,000 men. His son, Jehoiada, took the place of Ahithophel under Solomon.
4. Impossible odds set the stage for amazing miracles.
5. We pray for God to reduce the odds. God wants to stack the odds against us so that he can show up and show off.
6. God-given opportunities often come disguised as man-eating lions.
7. Lions were 500 pounds, could run 35 miles an hour, leap 36 feet; their roar was heard 5 miles away. They could crush a skull with one swipe.
8. Benaiah chases the lion, jumps down into the pit on a snowy day with glaring light and all the odds against him.
9. The topographical and meteorological odds were against him; a lion's eyesight is five times better than our 20/20 vision.
10. Sometimes the right place seems like the wrong place.
11. Two sets of tracks lead up to the edge of the pit; one set of footprints.
12. Benaiah emerges unharmed with a lion skin jacket.
13. It's time to kill the lion, not feed the lion.
14. David was his example, so Benaiah was not afraid of lions.

C. Benaiah struck down an Egyptian who was 7 and a half feet tall. / It is a season for audacious action.

1. This mighty warrior would have been about 500 pounds.
2. His spear was as large as a weaver's beam. He would have had a 12-inch wrist.
3. Benaiah audaciously attacks the Egyptian with his staff, knocks the spear out of his hand, and kills him with his own spear. Like his hero David killed Goliath!
4. This is like beating a man to death with his own shoes.
5. Anytime we see Egypt in scripture, it is used as a picture or metaphor of the world.

III. Benaiah - a warrior priest who destroys all enemies of God's kingdom.

- * Benaiah killed Joab, Adonijah and Shimei. The remaining enemies of Solomon's reign.