

David's Mighty Men

2 Samuel 21:18-22

2 Samuel 23:8-39

1 Chronicles 11:10-47

1 Chronicles 20:4-8

by Don Falkos

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David's mightiest warriors were a group called The Three. The leader of The Three had once used his spear to kill eight hundred men in a single battle. The other two had performed similarly astounding feats.

David also had an elite group of warriors known as The Thirty. They were led by Abishai, the brother of Joab. All of them had done incredible things. Once, on a snowy day, one of them chased a lion into a pit and killed it. Another time, armed only with a club, he killed an Egyptian warrior who was seven and a half feet tall and who was armed with a spear as thick as a weaver's rod. He wrenched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with it. David made this man captain of his bodyguard.

During the time of harvest, David was staying in the cave of Adullam, The Stronghold, across the valley from Bethlehem. The Philistines had occupied Bethlehem and their army was camped in the valley between David and his beloved hometown.

The Three went to visit David, and in their presence he remarked, "Oh, how I would love a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem."

Without David's knowing anything about it, The Three broke through the Philistine lines, drew some water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem, and brought it back to David. But he refused to drink it. Instead, he poured it out on the ground as an offering to the Lord. "Lord," he said, "I would never drink this water. It would be like drinking the blood of these mighty men who risked their lives going into Bethlehem to get it."