

Lesson 12 – August 21

1 Samuel 26

RESPECT



LORD Sees the Heart



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS



1 Samuel

1.	June 5	Answered!	1-2	Hannah Prays, Vows, Samuel Born
2.	June 12	Called	3	Boy Samuel Clearly God Called
3.	June 19	Worthy!	4-7	Philistines Take Ark ... oooops!
4.	June 26	King?	8-11	Israel, "Give us a King!"
5.	July 3	Feared	12	Thunder and Rain ... to Obey?
6.	July 10	Judged	13-15	Samuel Regrets, Rejects King Saul
7.	July 17	Anointed!	16	David Anointed—Lord Sees the Heart
8.	July 24	Delivered	17	David Whips Goliath
9.	July 31	Faithful	18-20	David and Jonathan's Loyalty
10.	Aug. 7	Blinded	21-23	Saul Pursues David & Followers
11.	Aug. 14	Protected	24-25	Abigail's Wisdom Saves Home
12.	Aug. 21	Respect	26	David Spares King Saul's Life II
13.	Aug. 28	Victory	30-31	David Pursues Raiders & Saul Killed

RESPECT

Isaiah 55:3

Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure *mercies of David.*

Isaiah wrote that c. 740-698 B.C.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye! – drum roll

David's "**MERCIES**" were VERY well remembered *300 years later!*



Isaiah, c. 1508-12, by Michelangelo
Sistine Chapel ceiling, Vatican City

1 Samuel 26

Lesson Author's Theme

God is ultimately in charge of those who lead.

26:1-6 Saul Pursues David to Desert of Ziph

26:7-8 Opportunity Knocks – David Sneaks into Camp

26:9-12 Godly Respect – David Takes Saul's Spear

26:13-21 David Chastens Saul's General Abner

26:22-25 Trust in God – David Valued Saul's Life

INTERSTELLAR

In the Movie, Cooper said:

We've always defined ourselves by the ability to overcome the impossible. And we count these moments. These moments when we dare to aim higher, to break barriers, to reach for the stars, to make the unknown known. We count these moments as our proudest achievements. But we lost all that. Or perhaps we've just forgotten that we are still pioneers. And we've barely begun. And that our greatest accomplishments cannot be behind us, because our destiny lies above us.

THE ANSWER LIES ABOVE US

my friends ... don't stop dreaming
Do not lose faith
David never did



**3 Thumbs
Up on DRAMA**



**3 Thumbs
Up on FAMILY**



**2.5 Thumbs
Down on
Biblical Science**
No Time Travel

1 Samuel 26

Alternative Title

**Be a Man or Woman
after God's own HEART**



1 Samuel 26

Key Verse 26:24

David to King Saul

As surely as I valued **YOUR LIFE** today,
so may the LORD value **MY LIFE** and
deliver me from all trouble....



Yeah, **if only**, to be delivered from ALL trouble
only a dream ... after **SO MANY** years
to be able to go home in peace ... an impossible dream

Near the End



1 Sam. Chapter 26, David spares Saul's life **AGAIN**
To Know David ... let us briefly LOOK AHEAD

AFTER David spares King Saul's life here, chap. 26,
David is still not safe ... and he **KNOWS** he's **NOT** Safe

In chapters **27, 28, 29, 30**, and in our Last Lesson on **31**,
there is *much more* ... lying and killing

So, from the time **AFTER** Goliath and **AFTER** David enters
“**ALL the TOWNS**” in Glory 1 Sam. 18:6-7 ... victorious everywhere

- * David has been **Killing for the Kingdom** ... and
- * ladies sing of Saul slaying his **1,000s** and David his **10,000s**

AFTER 1 Sam. 18:7, David is ***RUNNING for his LIFE*** ...

So ... at the **END of Chapter 26**, David has a **BLEAK future** ... let's look

Near the End

1 Sam. 26, David spares Saul's life AGAIN ... then David says:

1 Samuel 27:1 - **David thought to himself** "One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand."

So very sad, David's BEST hope is to ESCAPE to Pagan Dagon Worshipers

Notice: Samuel died ... not SURE who authored latter parts 1 Samuel

Notice ... the literary subtlety ...

- * the author knows the **THOUGHTS** of David ...
- * the author knows the **INTENTIONS** of David ...
- * the author knew the most **INTIMATE** details of the life of David

**Lord DOES
See the Heart**

Careful history by Inspired Samuel ... and by those who KNEW David WELL

Near the End

1 Sam. 26, David spares Saul's life AGAIN ... then David says:

1 Samuel 27:1 – David thought, “One day ... Saul will KILL David.”

27:4 – When King Saul *heard where* David went—stopped pursuing

27:5 – King Achish gives territory of Ziglag to David, stays 1yr, 4 mons

✓ David **KILLS** Geshurites, Girzites, Amalekites—**ALL'em**

✓ David **LIES** to King Achish, saying he RAIDED Judah

CHAPTER

28 – King Achish makes David bodguard ... Saul visits Witch of Endor

29 – Philistines gather in North Israel, reject David ... David to Ziglag

30 – *Last Lesson:* David finds Amalekties raided ...

David **FIXES** them **DEAD** too!

31 –Saul fights Philistines ... loses ... kills himself on Mt. Gilboa

Do Not Underestimate Violence

We've seen, so many *killed* ... **KILLED**

To understand Israel in 1000 B.C. ...

✓ is to know **DEATH** at EVERY turn

✓ sword – spear – arrow ... **much BLOODSHED**

David spares King Saul **TWICE** ... *two times*

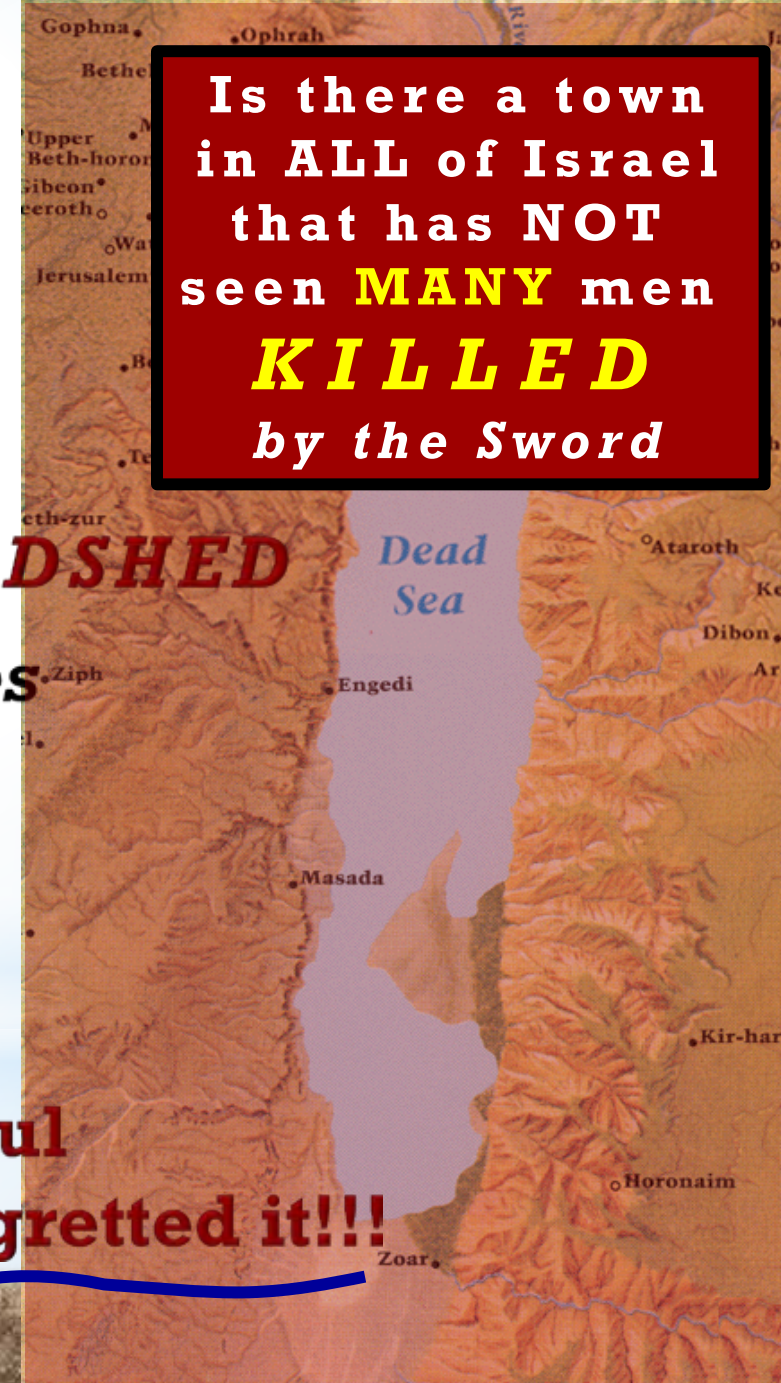
This is a story of David's **DEVOTION** ...

✓ David's devotion to **HONOR**

✓ David's devotion to **GOD**

✓ David truly believes **God Anointed Saul**
and God DID Anoint Saul ... and regretted it!!!

Is there a town
in ALL of Israel
that has NOT
seen **MANY** men
KILLED
by the Sword



Do Not Underestimate Violence

This is a story of David's devotion ...

- ✓ **David's devotion to HONOR**
- ✓ **David's devotion to GOD**

Through ALL ...

David LIES & KILLS many ... *KILLS* very *MANY*

... remember, God prevents David from building Temple

... David, after God's heart, *still TOO BLOODY* for God's Temple

Death—yet, in God's heart of hearts, GOD is **PEACEFUL**

see *FULL* revelation of God in Christ ... *1,000 years later*

**Is there a town
in ALL of Israel
that has NOT
seen MANY men
KILLED
by the Sword**

26:1-6 Saul to Desert of Ziph

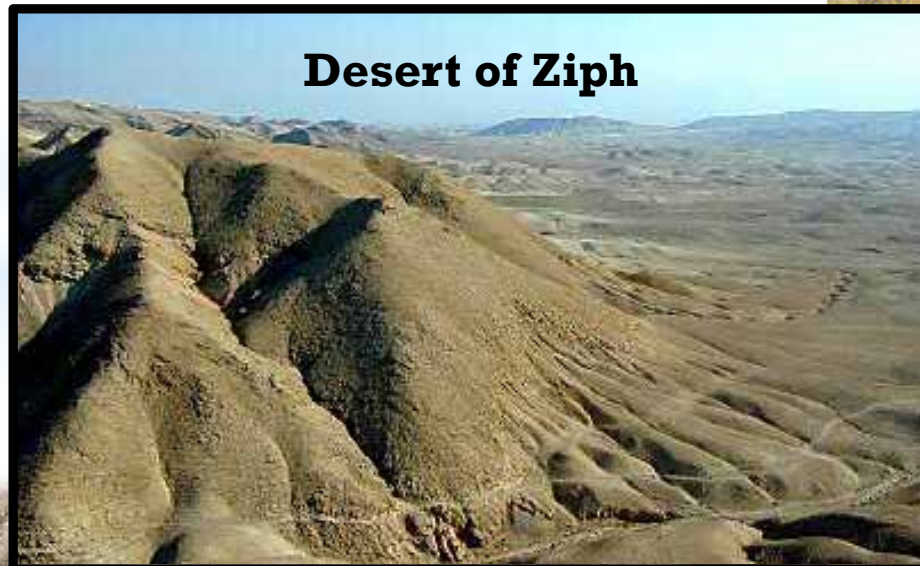
¹ The Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah and said, “Is not David hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which faces Jeshimon?”

Jeshimon = “Desert” ...

² So Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand select Israelite troops, to search there for David.

³ Saul made his camp beside the road on the hill of Hakilah facing Jeshimon –

i.e. *facing the desert*



26:1-6 Saul to Desert of Ziph

³⁻⁴ but David stayed in the **wilderness**.
When he saw that Saul had followed him there, he sent out scouts and learned that Saul had definitely arrived.



26:1-6 Saul to Desert of Ziph

⁵ Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped.

He saw where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of the army, had lain down. Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him.

⁶ David then asked Ahimelek the Hittite and Abishai (*ah-BISH-ay-eye*) son of Zeruah, Joab's brother, "Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?" "I'll go with you," said Abishai.

Who was this Abishai?

Let's look a little closer at this ***VOLUNTEER***



26:1-6 Saul to Desert of Ziph

When you're in the midst of trouble

When the chips are down

When evil is pursuing ...

pursuing you NIGHT and DAY

**And you MUST take a look at the danger
serious danger in the DESERT**



ever been in Danger in the Desert?

What better words to your ears than these?

“I’ll go with you,” said Abishai.

Who *WAS* this Abishai?

Let’s look closer at this *VOLUNTEER*

Gebeah



Ziph



**Desert
of Ziph**

Masada

15 Miles



26:1-6 Saul to Desert of Ziph

Abishai – “Father exists” – eldest of Zeruiah, David’s sister – Nephew to David

- ✓ Abishai was brother to Joab, David’s General
- ✓ Abishai commanded 3 divisions
- ✓ Abishai killed a Philistine giant who threatened David’s life
- ✓ Abishai’s brother Asahel could run like a **gazelle**
- ✓ After Asahel is killed by Abner, angry Joab **KILLS Abner** ... David laments death of Abner

look at this



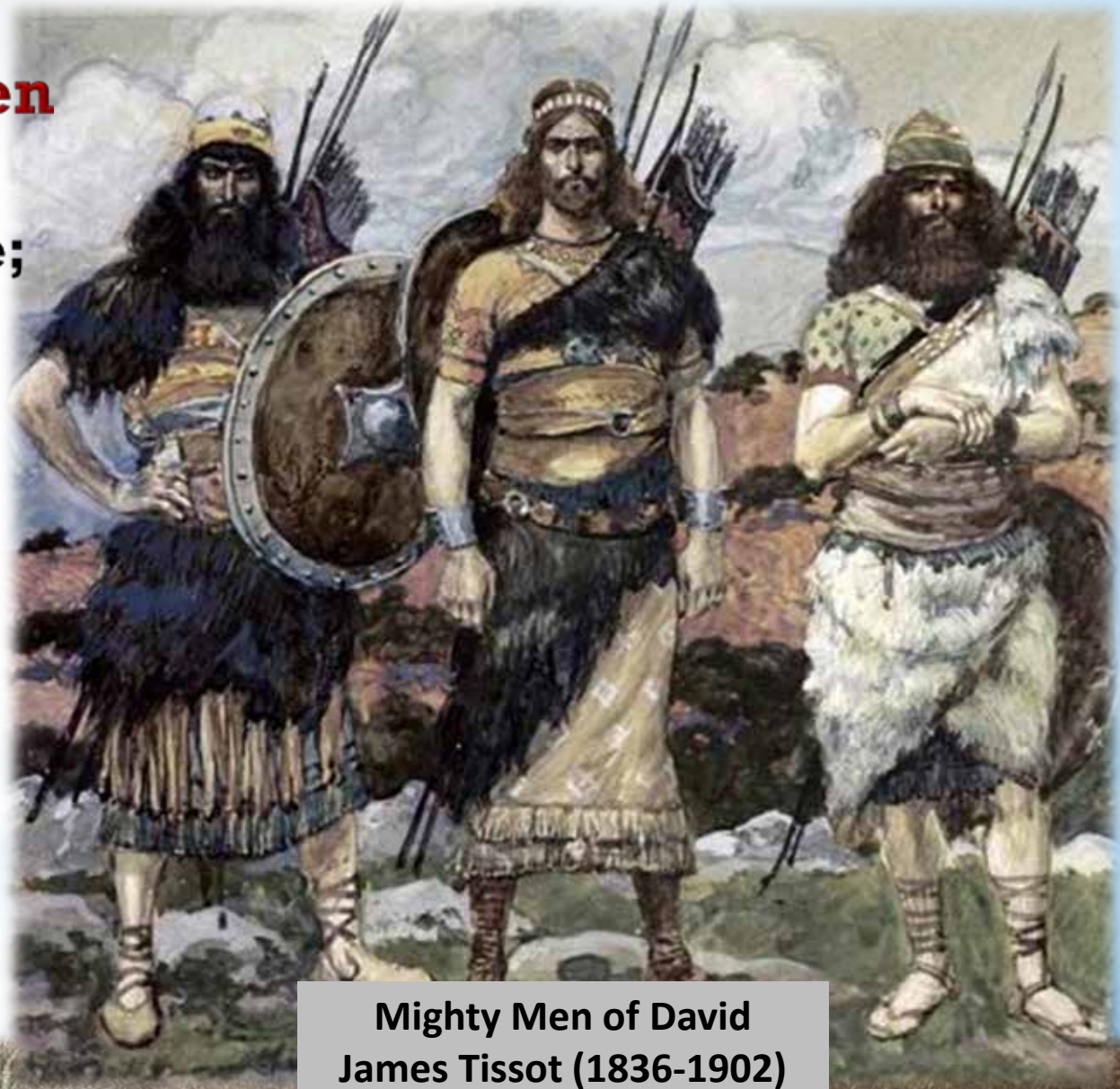
2 Samuel 23 - Abishai

⁸ David's **Three Mighty Men**

1st Josheb-Basshebeth, a Tahkemonite, Chief of the Three; with his spear he KILLED 800 men in one encounter.

2nd Eleazar, with David at Pas Dammim for battle. Israelites retreated, but Eleazar stood and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword.... Great Victory....

Troops returned to Eleazar, but only to strip the dead.



Mighty Men of David
James Tissot (1836-1902)

2 Samuel 23 - Abishai

3rd Shammah son of
Agee the Hararite.

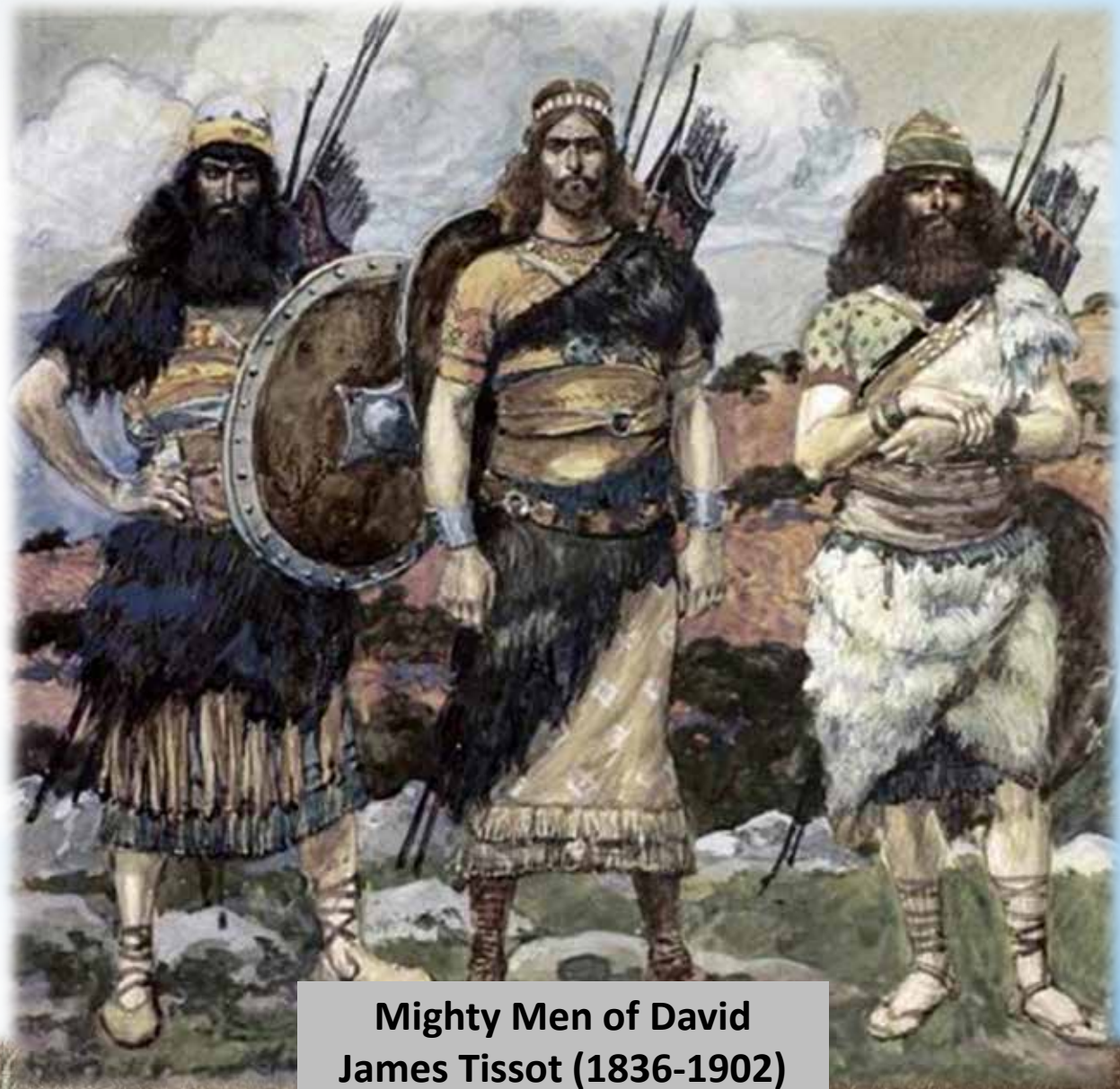
Philistines banded together at
a field full of lentils

Israel's troops fled from them.

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.

*Lot of KILLING as Great Victory
accredited to the LORD*



Mighty Men of David
James Tissot (1836-1902)

2 Samuel 23 - Abishai

During harvest time, **The Three** of the 30 chief warriors came down to David at the cave of Adullam, while a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

David longed for water ... **THIRSTY**

Three Mighty Men broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem ... back to David.

David refused, poured it out, said, "Far be it from me, LORD, to do this!" he said. "Is it not the blood of men who went at the risk of their lives?"

exploits of the **Three Mighty Men**.



Mighty Men of David
James Tissot (1836-1902)

2 Samuel 23 - Abishai

Abishai—not in greater honor than
The Three ... **became their commander**

Bonus ... Benaiah, son of Jehoiada

- ✓ Benaiah killed **Moab's TWO Mightiest Warriors**
- ✓ Benaiah—into a pit on snowy day & killed a **LION**
- ✓ Benaiah w/ **CLUB** kills huge **Egyptian** w/ spear
- ✓ Benaiah—as *famous* as the **Three Mighty Men**
- ✓ Benaiah was held in Greater Honor than the 30,
though **NOT** included among The Three
- ✓ David put Benaiah in charge of his bodyguard.



Benaiah Killing Man of Moab, 1829
by William Etty

Abishai—commander of Three Mighty Men
among **THIRTY** very Mighty Men

David's Mighty Men by James Tissot (1836-1902)



2 Samuel 23 - Abishai

Abishai

**Commander of Three Mighty Men
among 30 very Mighty Men**

Loyal and True

Nephew to David

Brother to Joab, David's General

Abishai, Joab, Azahel—THREE BROTHERS

Loyal in VERY Dangerous Times

Very Violent Times

Abishai



2 Samuel 23 - Abishai

When you're in the midst of trouble
When the chips are down
When evil is ...
pursuing you **NIGHT** and **DAY**
you're in Danger in the Desert
No **BETTER** words to your ears than these
"I'll go with you," said Abishai.
If you **HAVE** to be in desert
BESTEST of **ALL** to have with you
a Mighty Warrior

Abishai



26:7-8 Opportunity Knocks – David Sneaks into Camp

⁷ David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head.

Abner and the soldiers were lying around him.

⁸ Abishai said to David, “Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands.

O o o h ...

listen to what Abishai says **NEXT**



James Tissot had **NOT** read his Bible here

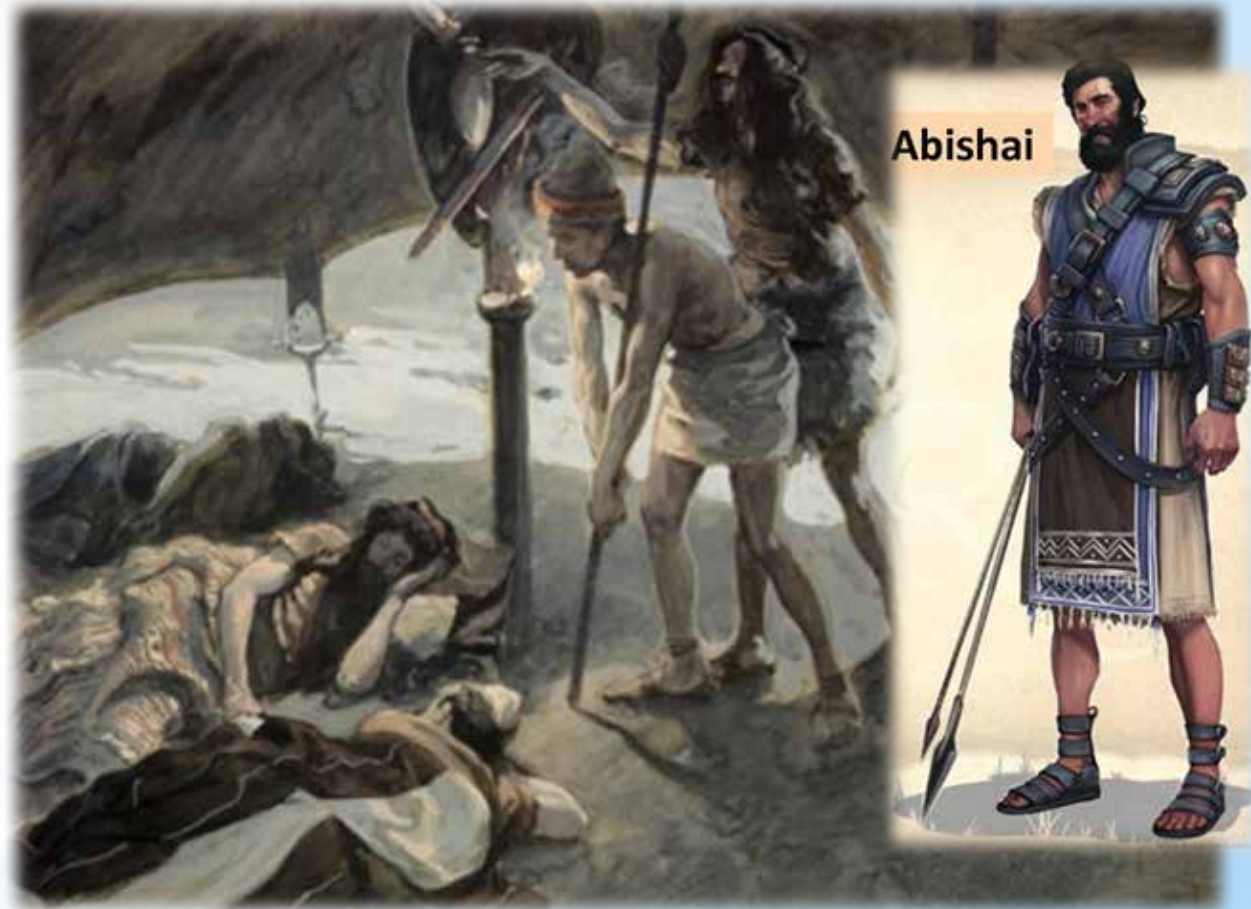
David Takes Saul's Spear and Water Bottle
James Tissot (1836-1902), Jewish Museum, NY

26:7-8 Opportunity Knocks – David Sneaks into Camp

⁸ Abishai said to David,
“Today God has delivered
your enemy into your hands.

Now let me pin him
to the ground with
ONE Thrust of the spear;
I won't
strike him twice.

In other words, “He’ll die quick,”
implied Abishai, “I promise you, Uncle David,
he won’t suffer ... or ... **MAKE A SOUND!**”



Abishai

26:9-12 Godly Respect – David Takes Saul's Spear

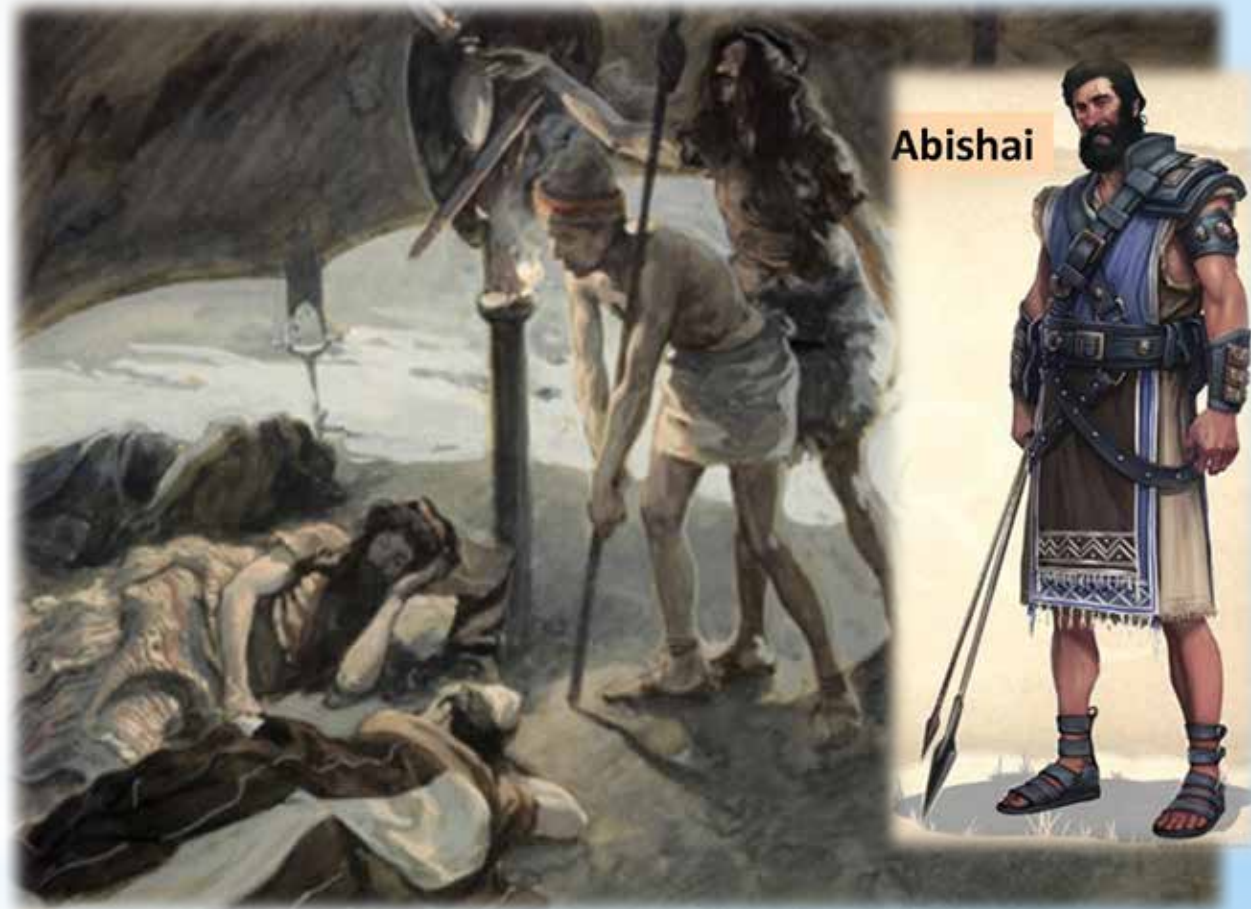
⁹⁻¹⁰ But David said to Abishai, “Don’t destroy him!

Who can lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed and be guiltless? As surely as the LORD lives,” ...

Then David says this, oddity: “LORD himself will strike him,

OR his time will come and he will die,

OR he will go into battle and perish.



David Takes Saul's Spear and Water Bottle
James Tissot (1836-1902), Jewish Museum, NY

26:9-12 Godly Respect – David Takes Saul's Spear

Abishai had a point

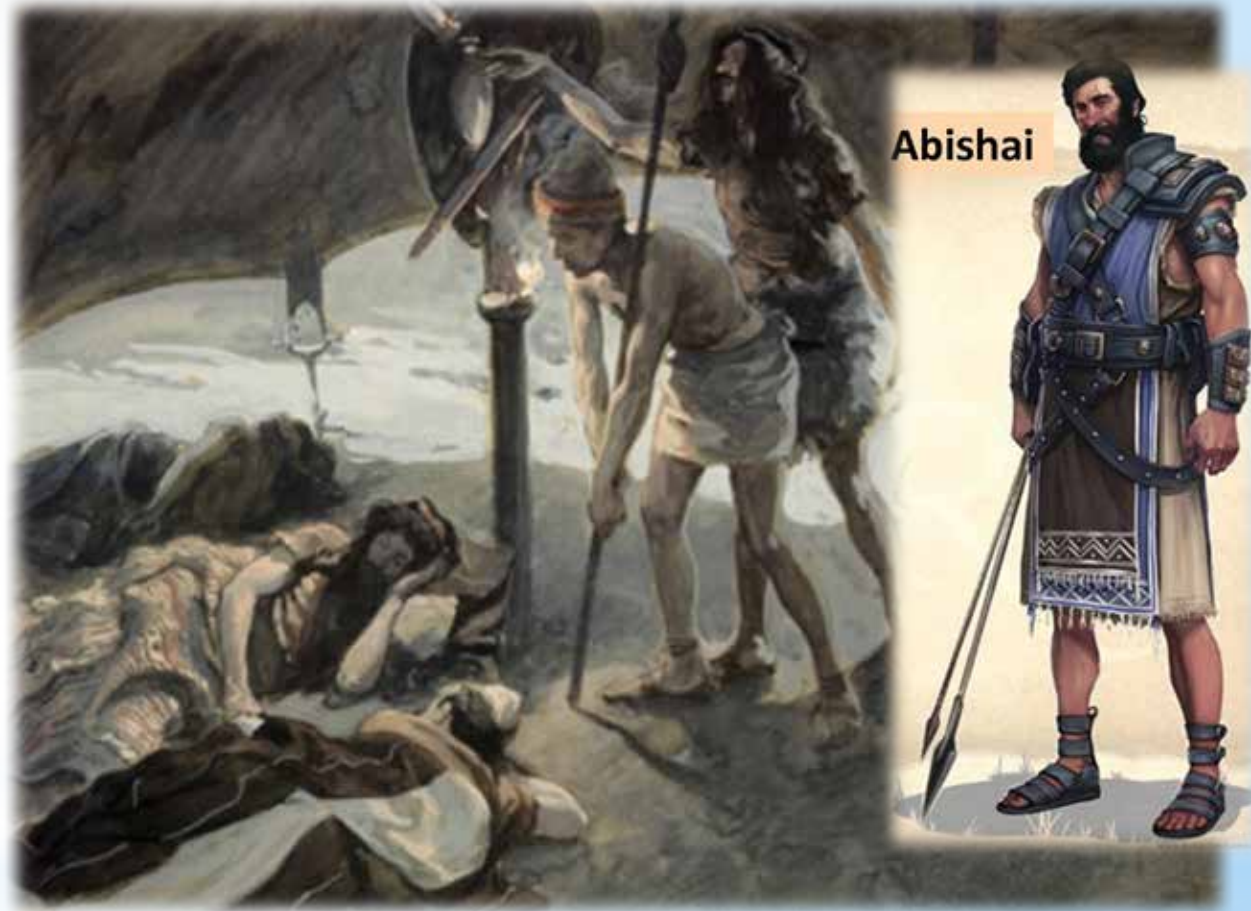
But David kept his word to Saul

Saul did NOT keep his word

**Higher notion of honor resides
in WHY David kept his word**

King Saul was Anointed by God

**Is David the ONLY one
concerned about God's work?**

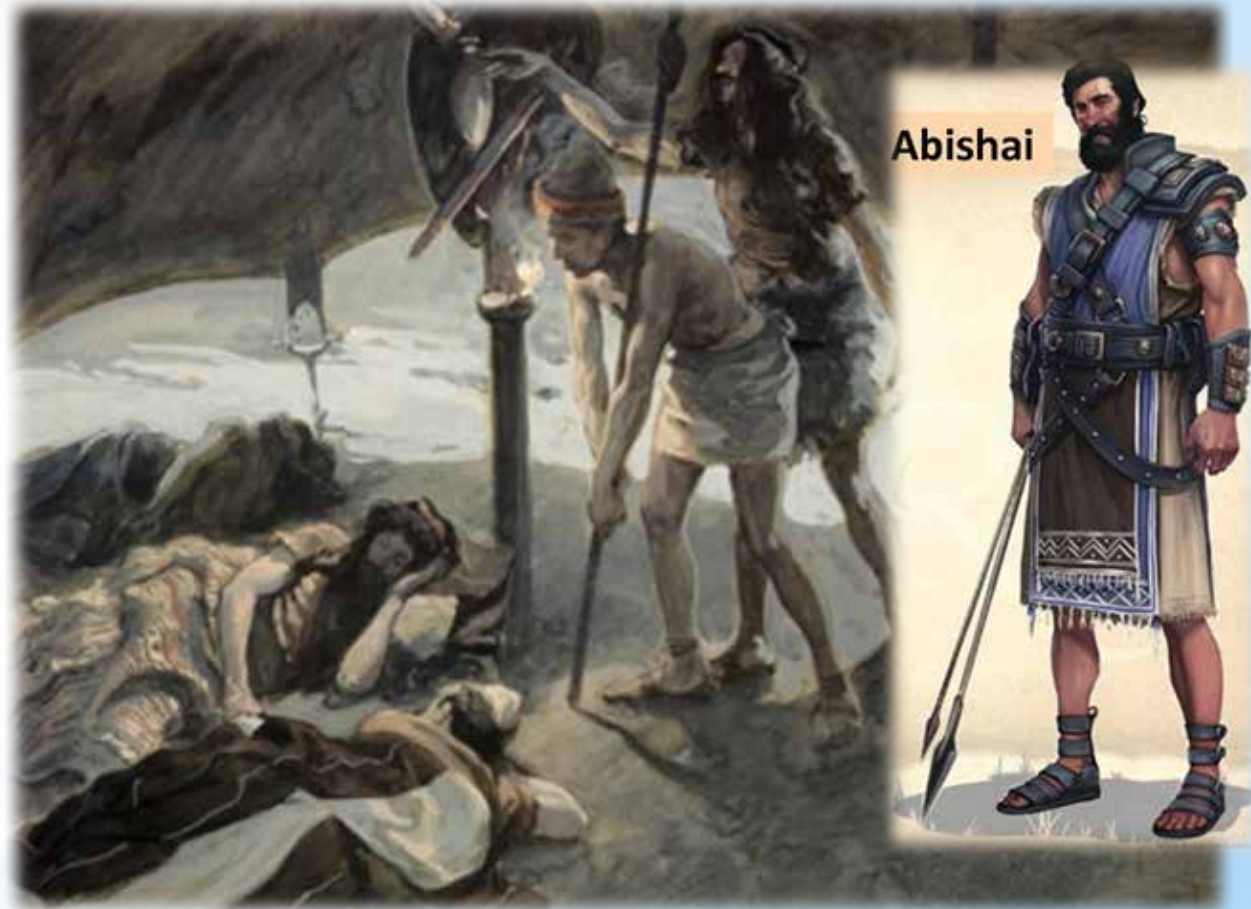


David Takes Saul's Spear and Water Bottle
James Tissot (1836-1902), Jewish Museum, NY

26:9-12 Godly Respect – David Takes Saul's Spear

¹¹ But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD's anointed. **Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go."**

¹² So David took the **spear** and **water jug** near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, **because the LORD had put them into a deep sleep.**



David Takes Saul's Spear and Water Bottle
James Tissot (1836-1902), Jewish Museum, NY

26:13-21 David Chastens Saul's General Abner

¹³ Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away; there was a **wide space between them.**



Desert of Ziph

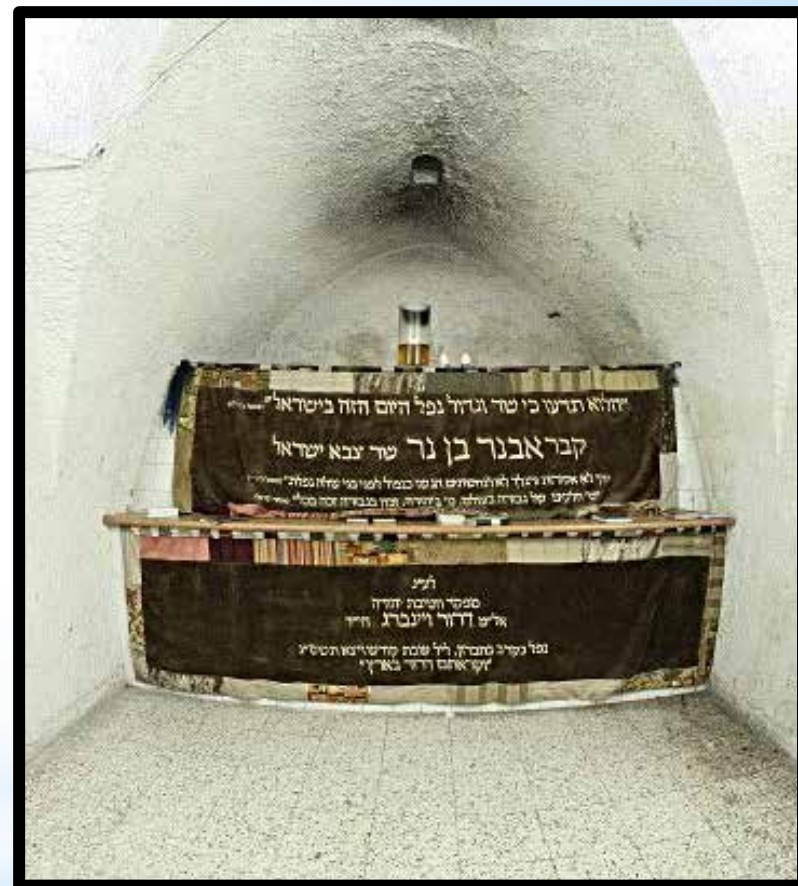
26:13-21 David Chastens Saul's General Abner

¹⁴ He called out to the army and to Abner son of Ner, "Aren't you going to answer me, Abner?" Abner replied, "Who are you who calls to the king?"

INTERLUDE from 2 Samuel 1-3

Who was Abner? – besides Saul's General

- ✓ King Saul's Uncle ...
- ✓ After Saul's death, Abner makes Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth, the Second King of Israel
- ✓ Asahel chases Abner ... Abner kills Asahel
- ✓ Long war between Houses of Saul and David ... **MEANS** long war between Abner and Joab



**Tomb of Abner in Hebron
killed in 2 Sam. 3**

26:13-21 David Chastens Saul's General Abner

INTERLUDE continued

Finally ... Joab **lures** Abner into a tent ...

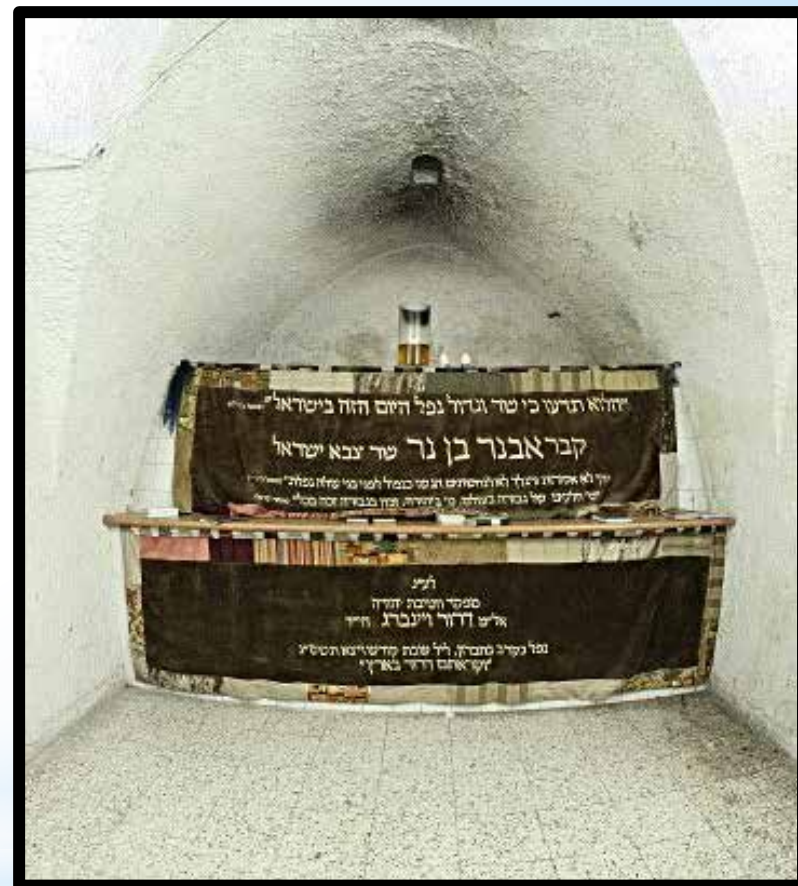
Joab stabs Abner in the chest, killing him

David LAMENTS ... Joab & Abishai avenged death of dear brother Azahel, killed by Abner

2 Samuel 3:31-32 – **Death of Abner:** “David said to all the people, ‘Rend your clothes and gird yourselves with sackcloth, and wail before Abner.’

They buried Abner in Hebron, and . . .

King David **raised his voice and wept on Abner's grave, and all the people wept.”**



**Tomb of Abner in Hebron
killed in 2 Sam. 3**

26:13-21 David Chastens Saul's General Abner

INTERLUDE – Part Two

Please ... please ... see what is going on

these people were HUNTING to

KILL DAVID

yet, WHO were these people

trying to KILL David?

WHO?—they were Men like Abner ... with whom

David HAD GROWN UP

26:13-21 David Chastens Saul's General Abner

15 David said to Abner, "You're a man, aren't you? And who is like you in Israel? Why didn't you guard your lord the king? Someone came to **destroy your lord the king.**

Clearly taunting General Abner

Hah – What is David guilty of? ... NOTHING

If anyone, ANYONE deserves *punishment* ...

Well then, PUNISH the Bodyguards who SLEPT

Clearly taunting General Abner



26:13-21 David Chastens Saul's General Abner

¹⁶ Furthermore, David said, "What you have done is **not good**. As surely as the LORD lives, **you and your men must die**, because you did not guard your master, the LORD's anointed. **Look around you**. Where are the king's spear and water jug that were near his head?"

Maness Loose-Leaf Translation:

HEY – JERKS – if there is ANY JUSTICE in the Land ... SEE who is TRULY guilty

Taunting General Abner's Failure

How many contests and challenges had Abner and David been in **TEN YEARS** earlier?



26:13-21 David Chastens Saul's General Abner

17-18 Saul knew, "Is that your voice, David my son?"

David said, "Yes, my lord the king. ... What have I done?"

19 Now ... listen ... If the LORD has incited you against me ... accept an offering. If people have done it, may they be cursed before the LORD!

20 Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the LORD. The king of Israel has come out to look for a FLEA—as one hunts a partridge in the mountains."

What do you bet? ... What do you BET?

Somewhere, sometime in the PAST ... maybe ten years ago

Abner & David ... or Saul & David

Hunted Partridges in the Mountains



26:13-21 David Chastens Saul's General Abner

Hunted Partridges ... how slick is David to recall that?

I suspect that caught King Saul's attention

**21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned.
Come back, David my son.
Because you **considered my LIFE**
precious today, I will **NOT TRYYY...**
> > > **WAIT** > > > **WAIT FOR IT**
not try to harm you again—A GAIN
Surely I have acted like a fool
and have been terribly wrong."**



David and Saul
Ernst Josephson, 1878

*David is thinking, "a fool – surely – **FOOL – INDEED!**"*

26:22-25 Trust in God

Saul said, "Come home, my son"

David thinks, "*YEAH, right!*"

22-23 "Here is the king's spear,"

David answered. "Let one of your young men come over and get it."

The LORD rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness. The LORD delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the LORD's anointed.

24 As surely as **I valued your life today**, so may the **LORD value my life** and deliver me from all trouble."



26:22-25 Trust in God

²⁴ **I valued your life today**, so may
the LORD value my life and deliver
me from all trouble.”

*How David **DREAMS** of no more trouble
dreams of **peace** and **justice** and **HOME**
but to **TRUST** King Saul the Pitiful ... **NO WAY***

²⁵ Then Saul said to David,
“May you be blessed, David my son;
you will do great things and surely triumph.”

**So David went on his way,
and Saul returned home.**



Trust in God

1 Samuel 27:1 – David thought to himself, “One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul.

The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines.

*to *#*!! Pagan Dagon Worshipers*

Then Saul will give up searching ... and I will slip out of his hand.”

David did just that ... with *sad heart* and wiser heart, believing God was there



Trust in God

knowing God was there

**David also knew, KNEW he could
NEVER, ever Trust King Saul again**

NEVER

But David trusted God ... all the way

What is MOST REMARKABLE ...

David did the RIGHT anyway

**TRUST really has *little* to do with
DOING RIGHT**



Trust in God

1 Sam. 13:14, Samuel said to Saul, “the LORD has **sought out a man after his own heart** and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the LORD’s command.”

David, a man after God’s own heart

Why—cause GOD is no respecter of persons

God will do *RIGHT* though all fail

Hear Ye—though ALL wanted him to KILL Saul

David said, “NO! ... NO!”



Trust in God

David, a man after God's own heart

Though ALL go the wrong way ...

David said, "*NO! ... NO!*"

David never trusted Saul again ...

But ... hear this ... in a violent time ...

**When it would have been *NATURAL* for
David to kill Saul**

When EVERYONE expected David to kill Saul

David stood strong ... Trust may come and go

But the Statues of the Lord Abide Forever ...

Like God, David *desired* peace and unity



Trust in God

1,000 years BEFORE Paul penned these words, **David was LIVING** them:

David was **LIVING** Romans 3:3-4

What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness? Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar.

Though ALL fail you, even hunt you down ...

You face & dispatch enemy after enemy ...

David remained FAITHFUL ... truly

a man after God's own heart



Trust in God

a man after God's own heart

- ✓ **but *still* on the run ...**
- ✓ ***still* could NOT go home ... *not go HOME***
- ✓ **Who—for David's bloodshed—
GOD would **NOT allow to build Temple****
- ✓ **Trusting God, though everyone around
him wondered WHY David let Saul live**

Saul goes to his home in Gibeah ...

**David leaves the Desert of Ziph to take his
chances with **Pagans, even Dagon Worshipers****

David leaves with an **impossible dream,
that one day he may achieve **peace ... go home ... BUT WHEN??****



**Trust in God
a man after God's own heart**

Oooh ... my friends ...

my friends ... my friends

Life is *NOT* fair ... no, Life is *NOT* fair

- ✓ ***Still ... YOU be fair ...***
- ✓ ***Still ... YOU do what is right***
- ✓ ***Still ... YOU look after your family***
- ✓ ***Still ... YOU look after God's will***

As David departed for Philistia ...

seeking *shelter among Pagans*



Just perhaps ... as David left ...

David felt like the “Man of La Mancha”

Musical rooted in **Cervantes’ 1605 classic *Don Quixote***

➤ “Man of La Mancha” musical first played in 1965

➤ Musical MUCH better if you’ve read ***Don Quixote***

➤ Author Cervantes is in prison ...

prisoners do a mock trial

➤ Prisoners take ALL of Cervantes’ property ...
all taken, but **NOT his *Don Quixote* manuscript**

➤ He performs the play, then **sings a nostalgic song**

➤ Lastly, he climbs staircase to **FACE the Spanish Inquisition**

➤ Prisoners, too, sing the song ... a **song of destiny**



Just perhaps ... as David left ...

Mitch Leigh the music to the song

Joe Darion wrote the lyrics to the song

The song has been sung by Richard Kiley, Frank Sinatra

Andy William ... Jim Nabors ... Cher

Elvis Presley ... Florence Ballard

**Musical, *Man from La Mancha*, first appeared in 1965,
a hit in nearly every decade ... this year **2016 in Barcelona****

**Musical has been translated into Dutch, French, German,
Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, Icelandic, Gujarati, Uzbek,
Hungarian, Serbian, Slovenian, Swahili, Finnish,
Ukrainian ... and *NINE* dialects of the Spanish**



Just perhaps ... as David left ...

Impossible Dream (the Quest)

*perhaps, just perhaps ... as David headed for Philistia
to Pagan Dagon Worshiping enemies ... not going home
He felt the meaning of this song in his bones ...*

**To dream the impossible dream ...
To fight the unbeatable foe
To bear with unbearable sorrow
And to run where the brave dare not go
To right the unrightable wrong
And to love pure and chaste from afar
To try when your arms are too weary
To reach the unreachable star**



Just perhaps ... as David left ...

Impossible Dream (the Quest)

**This is my quest ... To follow that star
No matter how hopeless ... No matter how far
To fight for the right ... Without question or pause
To be willing to march into hell ... for that heavenly cause**

**And I know ... If I'll only be true ... to this glorious quest
That my heart will lie peaceful and calm
when I'm laid to my rest**

**And the world will be better for this
That one man, scorned and covered with scars,
Still strove with his last ounce of courage
To reach the unreachable star**

David, left, sadly, yet *DETERMINED* to reach that unreachable *STAR*



**The STAR may seem unreachable, the road
rough, the path dark, the enemies many ...
yet never give up TRYING to be one**

after God's own heart

Like David,

who NEVER stopped trying

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS

