

## ~ABISHAI (158)

(A-bish'ai) [possibly, Father Is, Exists]

- The son of David's sister or half sister Zeruiah and brother of Joab and Asahel.
- Now the three sons of Zeruiah happened to be there, Joab and **Abishai** and Asahel, and Asahel was swift on his feet, like one of the gazelles that are in the open field. (2 Samuel 2:18)
- Ozem the sixth, David the seventh. (1 Chronicles 2:15)
- And their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail, and the sons of Zeruiah were **Abishai** and Joab and Asahel, three. (1 Chronicles 2:16)
- **Abishai** came to be more distinguished for his prowess than the 30 mighty warriors over whom he served as chief, his reputation even rivaling those of David's three most mighty men, for he once struck down 300 of the enemy single-handed, but to the rank of the first three he did not come.
- As for **Abishai** the brother of Joab the son of Zeruiah, he was the head of the thirty, and he was brandishing his spear over three hundred slain ones, and he had a reputation like the three. (2 Samuel 23:18)
- Although he was distinguished even more than the rest of the thirty, and he came to be their chief, to the rank of the first three he did not come. (2 Samuel 23:19)
- **Abishai** loyally supported his uncle David in all his military campaigns but tended to be impulsive and ruthless and on occasion had to be restrained. For example, when he and David stole into Saul's military camp by night he would have pinned sleeping Saul, the anointed of Yehowah, to the earth with Saul's own spear had not David restrained him.
- Then David answered and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and **Abishai** the son of Zeruiah, the brother of Joab; Who will go down with me to Saul into the camp? To this Abishai said; I myself shall go down with you. (1 Samuel 26:6)

- And David made his way with **Abishai** to the people by night, and, look! Saul was lying asleep in the camp enclosure with his spear stuck into the earth at his head, and Abner and the people were lying all around him. (1 Samuel 26:7)
- **Abishai** now said to David; God has today surrendered your enemy into your hand. And now let me, please, pin him to the earth with the spear just once, and I shall not do it to him twice. (1 Samuel 26:8)
- However, David said to **Abishai**; Do not bring him to ruin, for who is it that has thrust his hand out against the anointed of Yehowah and has remained innocent? (1 Samuel 26:9)
- When Absalom rebelled, **Abishai** had to be held back twice from executing king-cursing Shimei. However, David was not able to prevent **Abishai** from collaborating in the death of Abner.
- As for Joab and **Abishai** his brother, they killed Abner over the fact that he had put Asahel their brother to death at Gibeon in the battle. (2 Samuel 3:30)
- Finally **Abishai** the son of Zeruiah said to the king; Why should this dead dog call down evil upon my lord the king? Let me go over, please, and take off his head. (2 Samuel 16:9)
- But the king said; What do I have to do with you men, you sons of Zeruiah? Thus let him call down evil, because Yehowah himself has said to him; Call down evil upon David! So who should say; Why did you do that way? (2 Samuel 16:10)
- And David went on to say to **Abishai** and all his servants: Here my own son, who has come forth out of my own inward parts, is looking for my soul, and how much more now a Benjaminite! Let him alone that he may call down evil, for Yehowah has said so to him! (2 Samuel 16:11)
- At once **Abishai** the son of Zeruiah answered and said; In return for this should not Shimei be put to death, in that he called evil down upon the anointed of Yehowah? (2 Samuel 19:21)
- But David said; What do I have to do with you men, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should become today a resister of me? Will

anyone today be put to death in Israel? For do I not well know that today I am king over Israel? (**2 Samuel 19:22**)

- Then the king said to Shimei; You will not die. And the king went on to swear to him. (**2 Samuel 19:23**)
- **Abishai** was noted for his taking the lead in striking down 18,000 Edomites and, again, in leading in the rout of the Ammonites. He also cooperated in putting down the rebellion of Sheba, a good-for-nothing Benjaminite. In David's last recorded battle had it not been for **Abishai**, he would have lost his life at the hand of a Philistine of great stature.
- As for **Abishai** the son of Zeruiah, he struck down the Edomites in the Valley of Salt, eighteen thousand. (**1 Chronicles 18:12**)
- And the rest of the people he gave into the hand of **Abishai** his brother, that they might draw up in formation to meet the sons of Ammon. (**1 Chronicles 19:11**)
- And he went on to say; If the Syrians become too strong for me, you must also serve as a salvation for me, but if the sons of Ammon themselves become too strong for you, I must also save you. (**1 Chronicles 19:12**)
- Be strong, that we may show ourselves courageous in behalf of our people and in behalf of the cities of our God, and as for Yehowah, what is good in his own eyes he will do. (**1 Chronicles 19:13**)
- Then Joab and the people that were with him advanced before the Syrians to the battle, and they took to flight from before him. (**1 Chronicles 19:14**)
- As for the sons of Ammon, they saw that the Syrians had fled, and they themselves also took to flight from before **Abishai** his brother and then came into the city. Later Joab came into Jerusalem. (**1 Chronicles 19:15**)
- Now there happened to be there a good-for-nothing man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri a Benjaminite, and he proceeded to blow the horn and say; We have no share in David, and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Every one to his gods, O Israel! (**2 Samuel 20:1**)

- Then David said to **Abishai**; Now Sheba the son of Bichri will be worse for us than Absalom. You yourself take the servants of your lord and chase after him, that he may not actually find for himself fortified cities and escape before our eyes. (**2 Samuel 20:6**)
- And the Philistines came to have war again with Israel. Accordingly David and his servants with him went down and fought the Philistines, and David grew tired. (**2 Samuel 21:15**)
- And Ishbi-benob, who was among those born of the Rephaim, the weight of whose spear was three hundred shekels of copper and who was girded with a new sword, got to think of striking David down. (**2 Samuel 21:16**)
- At once **Abishai** the son of Zeruiah came to his help and struck the Philistine down and put him to death. At that time the men of David swore to him, saying; You must not go out with us to the battle anymore, that you may not extinguish the lamp of Israel! (**2 Samuel 21:17**)