

~ASAHEL 1 (162)

(As'a-hel) [God Has Made]

- A son of David's sister or half sister Zeruiah and the brother of Abishai and Joab, hence, David's nephew.
- 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**)
- Honored as among the 30 outstanding warriors under David, **Asahel** was particularly noted for his fleetness, like one of the gazelles that are in the open field.
- 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**)
- **Asahel** the brother of Joab was among the thirty, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem. (**2 Samuel 23:24**)
- This proved to be his undoing. Following the test struggle at the Pool of Gibeon and the subsequent rout of the Israelite forces under Abner, **Asahel** doggedly pursued the fleeing Abner. After pleading twice with **Asahel** to desist, the powerful Abner rammed the butt end of his spear through **Asahel's** abdomen, and **Asahel** died on the spot.
- Though **Asahel's** brother Joab finally called off the Judean forces in response to Abner's remonstrations, **Asahel's** death caused bitterness within Joab so that at a later opportunity he craftily maneuvered into position to put Abner to death by the sword.
- In time Abner the son of Ner and the servants of Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. (**2 Samuel 2:12**)
- As for Joab the son of Zeruiah and the servants of David, they went out and later met together by the pool of Gibeon, and they kept sitting, these on this side of the pool and those on that side of the pool. (**2 Samuel 2:13**)

- Finally Abner said to Joab; Let the young men rise up, please, and let them put on a combat before us. To this Joab said; Let them rise up. (2 Samuel 2:14)
- So they rose up and went across by number, twelve belonging to Benjamin and Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, and twelve from the servants of David. (2 Samuel 2:15)
- And they began grabbing hold of one another by the head, with the sword of each one in the side of the other, so that they fell down together. And that place came to be called Helkath-hazzurim, which is in Gibeon. (2 Samuel 2:16)
- And the fighting came to be extremely hard on that day, and Abner and the men of Israel were finally defeated before the servants of David. (2 Samuel 2:17)
- 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)
- And Asahel went chasing after Abner, and he did not incline to go to the right or to the left from following Abner. (2 Samuel 2:19)
- At length Abner looked behind him and said; Is this you, Asahel? to which he said; It is I. (2 Samuel 2:20)
- Then Abner said to him; Veer to your right or to your left and seize one of the young men as yours and take what you strip off him as yours. And Asahel did not want to turn aside from following him. (2 Samuel 2:21)
- So Abner said to Asahel yet again; Turn your course aside from following me. Why should I strike you down to the earth? How, then, could I raise my face to Joab your brother? (2 Samuel 2:22)
- But he kept refusing to turn aside, and Abner got to strike him in the abdomen with the butt end of the spear, so that the spear came out from his back, and he fell there and died where he was. And it came about that all those who came to the place where Asahel fell and then died would stand still. (2 Samuel 2:23)
- And Joab and Abishai went chasing after Abner. As the sun was setting they themselves came to the hill of Ammah, which is in

front of Giah on the way to the wilderness of Gibeon. (2 Samuel 2:24)

- And the sons of Benjamin went collecting together behind Abner, and they came to be one company and kept standing upon the top of one hill. (2 Samuel 2:25)
- And Abner began to call to Joab and say; Is the sword going to eat endlessly? Do you not really know that bitterness is what will develop at last? How long, then, will it be before you say to the people to turn back from following their brothers? (2 Samuel 2:26)
- At that Joab said; As the true God is living, if you had not spoken, then only by the morning would the people have been withdrawn, each one from following his brother. (2 Samuel 2:27)
- Joab now blew the horn, and all the people came to a halt and did not continue chasing after Israel anymore, and they did not renew the fighting anymore. (2 Samuel 2:28)
- And here David's servants and Joab were coming from a raid, and the spoil that they brought with them was abundant. As for Abner, he was not with David in Hebron, for he had sent him off, and he was on his way in peace. (2 Samuel 3:22)
- And Joab and all the army that was with him came in, and they now reported to Joab, saying; Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he proceeded to send him off, and he is on his way in peace. (2 Samuel 3:23)
- So Joab went in to the king and said; What have you done? Look! Abner has come to you. Why was it that you sent him off so that he successfully went away? (2 Samuel 3:24)
- You well know Abner the son of Ner, that it was to fool you that he came and to get to know your going out and your coming in and to get to know everything that you are doing. (2 Samuel 3:25)
- With that Joab went out from David and sent messengers after Abner, and they then had him return from the cistern of Sirah, and David himself did not know of it. (2 Samuel 3:26)

- When Abner returned to Hebron, Joab now led him aside inside the gate to speak with him quietly. However, there he struck him in the abdomen, so that he died because of the blood of **Asahel** his brother. (**2 Samuel 3:27**)
- Fourth for the fourth month was **Asahel**, Joab's brother, and Zebadiah his son after him, and in his division there were twenty-four thousand. (**1 Chronicles 27:7**)
- **Asahel** is listed as a divisional commander of the month-by-month arrangement of troops. Since **Asahel** died before David became king over all Israel, his mention here may be rather with reference to his house, represented in his son Zebadiah, who is referred to in the text as **Asahel's** successor.
- A further suggestion is that given by **The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible** [edited by G. A. Buttrick, 1962, Vol. 1, p. 244]: It is possible that we may have here the prototype of the Davidic militia, organized early in the Judean rule of the king, and that this original list has been brought up to date by the inclusion of Zebadiah, son and successor of Asahel in this command. (**1 Chronicles Chapter 12**)