

~ITTAI 1 (60)

(It'tai) [shortened form of Ithiel]

- A Gittite warrior, presumably from the Philistine city of Gath, who was very loyal to David. When David and his attendants were fleeing Jerusalem because of Absalom's rebellion, 600 Gittites, including **Ittai**, came along.
- David tried to dissuade **Ittai** from leaving the city, but the warrior expressed his great devotion in these terms.
- And all his servants were crossing at his side, and all the Cherethites and all the Pelethites and all the Gittites, six hundred men that had followed him from Gath, were crossing before the king's face. (2 Samuel 15:18)
- Then the king said to **Ittai** the Gittite; Why should you yourself also go with us? Go back and dwell with the king, for you are a foreigner and, besides, you are an exile from your place. (2 Samuel 15:19)
- Yesterday was when you came and today shall I make you wander with us, to go when I am going wherever I am going? Go back and take your brothers back with you, and may Yehowah exercise toward you loving-kindness and trustworthiness! (2 Samuel 15:20)
- But **Ittai** answered the king and said; As Yehowah is living and as my lord the king is living, in the place where my lord the king may come to be, whether for death or for life, there is where your servant will come to be! (2 Samuel 15:21)
- At that David said to **Ittai**; Go and cross over. So **Ittai** the Gittite crossed over, and also all his men and all the little ones that were with him. (2 Samuel 15:22)
- After numbering his forces, David appointed this non-Israelite **Ittai**, along with Joab and Abishai, as chiefs, each over one third of the army.
- Further, David sent one third of the people under the hand of Joab and one third under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah,

Joab's brother, and one third under the hand of **Ittai** the Gittite. Then the king said to the people; I myself also shall without fail go out with you. (**2 Samuel 18:2**)

- And the king went on to command Joab and Abishai and **Ittai**, saying; Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom. And all the people themselves heard when the king commanded all the chiefs over the matter of Absalom. (**2 Samuel 18:5**)
- But the man said to Joab; And although I were weighing upon my palms a thousand pieces of silver, I should not thrust my hand out against the king's son, for in our hearing it was that the king commanded you and Abishai and **Ittai**, saying; Watch, whoever you are, over the young man, over Absalom. (**2 Samuel 18:12**)