

~PELETHITES (112) **(Pel'e-thites)**

- Loyal fighters for King David, always mentioned with the Cherethites. When David fled from Jerusalem because of Absalom's rebellion, which a major portion of the army supported, the **Pelethites** went along with David across the Kidron.
- 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**)
- And all the people of the land were weeping with a loud voice, and all the people were crossing over, and the king was standing by the torrent valley of Kidron, and all the people were crossing over upon the open road to the wilderness. (**2 Samuel 15:23**)
- They also helped put down the rebellion of Sheba.
- Accordingly the men of Joab and the Cherethites and the **Pelethites** and all the mighty men went out after him, and they went on out of Jerusalem to chase after Sheba the son of Bichri. (**2 Samuel 20:7**)
- And later they supported David's choice of Solomon as his successor, instead of siding with Adonijah as Joab did.
- And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and the Cherethites and the **Pelethites** proceeded to go down and make Solomon ride upon the she-mule of King David, and then brought him to Gihon. (**1 Kings 1:38**)
- So the king sent with him Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and the Cherethites and the **Pelethites**, and they made him ride upon the she-mule of the king. (**1 Kings 1:44**)
- The Cherethites and **Pelethites** were not part of the regular army but were a separate division in the service of King David, for Joab is

called the head of the army, but, separately, Benaiah was over the Cherethites and **Pelethites**.

- And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the **Pelethites**. As for the sons of David, they became priests. (2 Samuel 8:18)
- And Joab was over all the army of Israel, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and over the **Pelethites**. (2 Samuel 20:23)
- And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the **Pelethites**, and the sons of David were the first in position at the side of the king. (1 Chronicles 18:17)
- Since the **Pelethites** were not mentioned either before or after the reign of David, it may be concluded that they were his personal servants, rather than a permanent group serving the regal office.
- And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the **Pelethites**. As for the sons of David, they became priests. (2 Samuel 8:18)
- These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and he had a reputation like the three mighty men. (2 Samuel 23:22)
- Although he was distinguished even more than the thirty, to the rank of the three he did not come, but David appointed him to his own bodyguard. (2 Samuel 23:23)
- The lack of any positive identification of the **Pelethites** has given rise to numerous suggestions, among which are two primary schools of thought. (1) The great similarity in Hebrew between the two names **Pelethites** and **Philistines** is the basis for saying that they are of the same background, or perhaps that the **Pelethites** were a branch of the **Philistines**.
- Some object to this suggestion that **Philistines** comprised David's personal bodyguard, but this possibility should not be wholly discounted. (2) On the other hand, the names Cherethites and **Pelethites** may perhaps be terms designating duty or ranks of service performed by David's bodyguard, the Cherethites serving as executioners, the Pelethites as runners. Such a division of runners is mentioned during the reigns of Saul and later kings.

- **With that the king said to the runners stationed about him. Turn and put to death the priests of Yehowah, because their hand also is with David and because they knew that he was a runaway and they did not disclose it to my ear! And the servants of the king did not want to thrust out their hand to assault the priests of Yehowah. (1 Samuel 22:17)**
- **And in the seventh year Jehoiada sent and then took the chiefs of hundreds of the Carian bodyguard and of the runners and brought them to himself at the house of Yehowah and concluded a covenant with them and made them swear at the house of Yehowah, after which he showed them the son of the king. (2 Kings 11:4)**
- **Accordingly the runners with the letters from the hand of the king and of his princes went throughout all Israel and Judah, even according to the commandment of the king, saying; You sons of Israel, return to Yehowah the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, that he may return to the escaped ones that are left of you out of the palm of the kings of Assyria. (2 Chronicles 30:6)**
- **This second view, however, is less widely held than the first.**