

SAUL, DAVID, & SOLOMON

Lessons In Faith





II SAMUEL



DAVID'S
Mighty Men



The writer of
2 Samuel
presented us in
Chapter 23
a catalogue or record of
David's great soldiers.



In scripture they are often called . . .

DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN.

They were vicious warriors, equipped with armor, skilled in weapons of war, and loyal to their king.





David himself trained them in the art of war and set them an example of conduct and courage. In 2 Samuel 23 they are honored for their part in bringing David to the throne, enlarging his conquests, and for protecting him from his many enemies.

2 Samuel 23

8 These be the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite: he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.

9 And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away:

10 He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and the people returned after him only to spoil.

11 And after him was Shammah the Hararite, one of the three mighty men: he slew the Philistines, and the people returned after him full of lentiles: and the people fled in the valley of Rephaim.

12 But he stood in the midst of the battle, and slew the Philistines, and brought it to David:

13 And three of the thirty chief warriors followed him, and he would not drink it. These things did he and his three companions, and he had the name among three.

14 And David was then in an hold, and the three mighty men came down also and slew a lion in the hold of the Egyptian's hand, and

15 And David longed, and said, O that I had a drink, even of the water that is in the well of the Egyptian's hand, and I might drink.

16 And the three mighty men brake through the camp of the Philistines, and drew up water to David out of the well: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but cast the water out, and said, Be it far from me that I should drink this water: for I would not drink it. These things did he and his three companions, and he had the name among three.

17 And he said, Be it far from me that I should drink this water: for I would not drink it. These things did he and his three companions, and he had the name among three.

18 And Abishai, the brother of Joab the commander in chief, was one of the three mighty men.

19 Was he not most honourable of the thirty? He slew a lion in the day of battle, and he had the name among three.

20 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was one of the three mighty men: he slew a lion in the day of battle, and he had the name among three.

21 And he slew an Egyptian, a giant five cubits high, and he had the name among three.

22 These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he had the name among the three mighty men.

23 He was more honourable than all the thirty, and he had the name among the three mighty men.

24 Asahel the brother of Joab the commander in chief, was one of the three mighty men.

25 Shammah the Harodite, Elikai the Hararite, and Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkai the Netophathite, Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebushai the Bethlehemite, Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite, Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai the Gilonite, Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaai the Baharite, Eliahba the Shaalbonite, of the Zebulunites, Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the Gilonite, Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Enam the son of Amnonite the Gilonite, Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite, Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite, Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah, Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite, and Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all.

2 Samuel 23

THE THREE RANKS OF DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN

2 Samuel 23

8 These be the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite: he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.

9 And after him was Eleazar the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away.

10 He arose, and smote the Philistines, until he was weary, and fell upon his face; but he arose again, and slew the Philistines, until he was weary, and the people returned after him only to spoil.

11 And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines.

12 But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.

First Rank – Verses 8 - 12

14 And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.

15 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!

16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.

17 And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.

18 And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was in among three: and he lifted up his spear against three hundred, and slew them, and he was named among three.

19 Was he not most honourable among the thirty? He was the chief among the thirty, and he was named among the thirty.

20 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lionlike men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow:

21 And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.

22 These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three mighty men.

23 He was more honourable than the thirty, but he attained not to the first three. And David set him over his guard.

Second Rank – Verses 13 - 23

25 Shammah the Harodite, Elika the Harodite,

26 Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,

27 Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,

28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,

29 Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin,

30 Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash,

31 Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,

32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Isobabbonai,

33 Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Issachar,

34 Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Ehan the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,

35 Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,

36 Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,

37 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah,

38 Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite,

39 Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all.

Third Rank – Verses 24 - 39

2 Samuel 23

8 These be the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite: he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.

9 And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away.

10 He arose, and smote the Philistines, until he was weary, and fell upon his face; but he rose up again, and slew the Philistines, and the people returned after him only to spoil.

11 And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines.

12 But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD was with him, and brought him to victory.

14 And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.

15 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is between the two camps.

16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, which is between the two camps, and brought it to David:

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**The first rank had only 3 men—
Adino, Eleazar, and Shammah**

These three men had done the greatest exploits and thereby gained the greatest reputation, yet we do not read of them or of their actions anywhere in all the story of David. Most assuredly, David's career was more illustrious than the account we have recorded for us.

Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all.

The Three Men Of The 1st Rank

2 Samuel 23:8-12

“⁸These be the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was . . . **Adino** the Eznite: he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time. ⁹And after him was:

Eleazar . . . one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away: ¹⁰He arose, and smote the Philistines, and was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and he brought down a great victory that day; and the people returned after him was . . .

Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines. ¹²But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.”

Adino slew 800 at once with his spear.

Eleazar defied the Philistines with great bravery. When other men of Israel had gone away, he not only kept his ground but arose and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and yet it clave to his sword. As long as he had any strength remaining he held his weapon and followed his blow.

Eleazar . . . one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away: ¹⁰He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil. ¹¹And after him was . . .

Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines. ¹²But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.”

1st Rank Of David's *Mighty Men*

2 Samuel 23:8-12

“⁸These be the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was . . .

Adino the Eznathite, chief among the thirty; he slew the Philistines three hundred, whom he slew at one time. ⁹

Eleazar . . . of the tribe of Judah, he and his brethren were with David when they defied the Philistines that party of the enemy that were gathered together, and the men of Israel were gone away foraging and defeated them. Eleazar and his brethren were with him until his hand was weary, and his feet were cold, and he held his sword against the Philistines until the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil. ¹¹And after him was . . .

Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines. ¹²But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.”

2 Samuel 23

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10 He arose, and smote the Philistines, and slew them, and heave unto the LORD a great victory that day: and the people returned after him only to spoil.

11 And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines.

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First Rank – Verses 8 - 12

14 And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.

15 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!

16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.

17 And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.

18 And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was in among three: and he lifted up his spear against three hundred, and slew them, and he was in among three.

19 Was he not most honourable among three? as the LORD was with him, and he was not slain.

20 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two nonlike men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow:

21 And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.

22 These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada among three mighty men.

23 He was more honourable than the thirty: he was in among three. And David set him over his guard.

Second Rank – Verses 13 - 23

In the second of the three ranks only two are named, Abishai and Benaiah

They were dignified above, “the thirty,” but did not achieve the level of the first three (Adino, Eleazar, and Shammah). They risked their lives to get water for David.

David's Mighty Men
risked their lives to get
water for him.



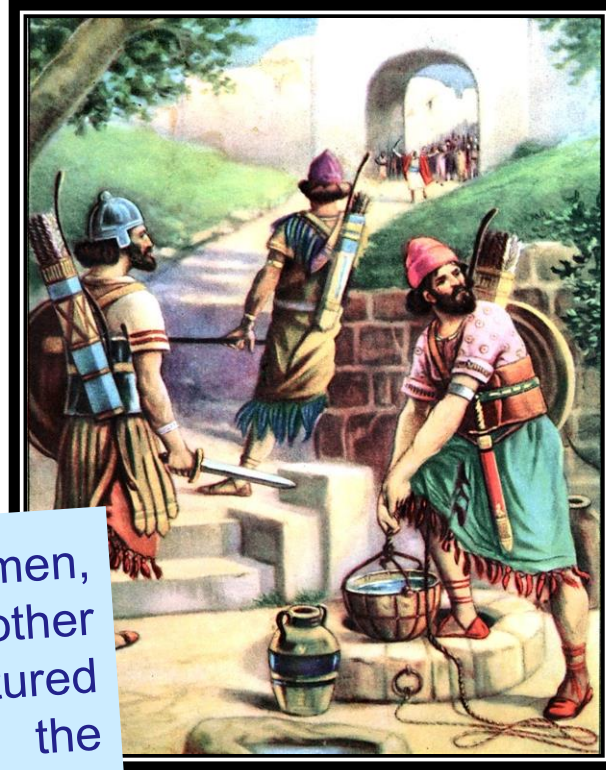
2 Samuel 23

“¹³And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam: and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim. ¹⁴And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. ¹⁵And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!”

2 Samuel 23

“¹⁶And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.”

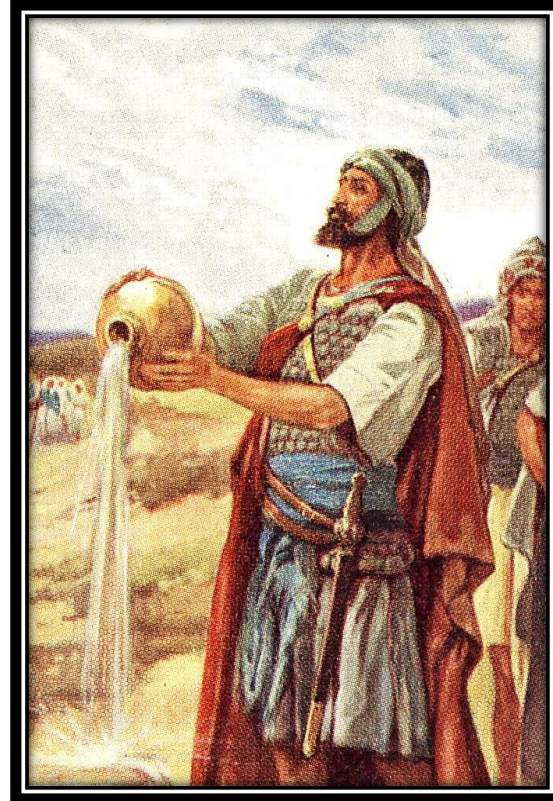
These three mighty men, Abishai, Benaiah, and another not named, bravely ventured through the camp of the Philistines upon the very mouth of danger and fetched water from the well of Bethlehem without David's knowledge.



2 Samuel 23

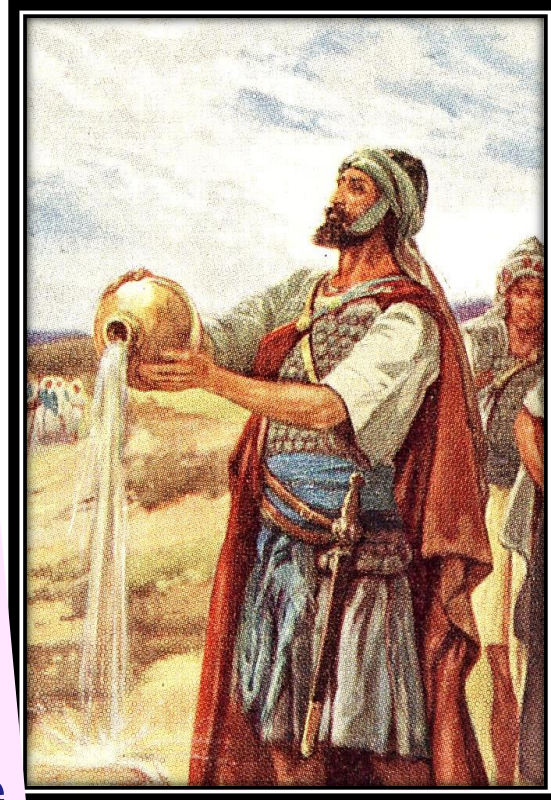
“¹⁷And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.”

David was so horrified that they risked their lives for something so trivial for him that he poured it out before the Lord to show the tender regard he had for the lives of his soldiers.



2 Samuel 23

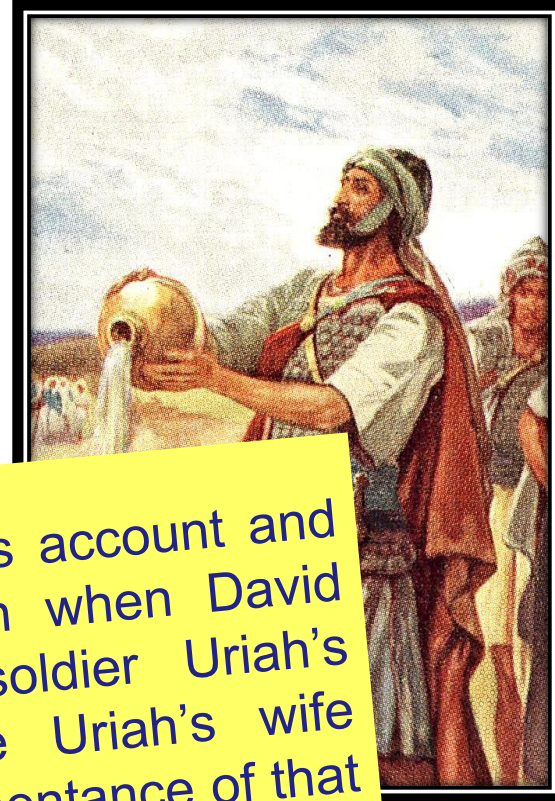
“¹⁷And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.”



When he wished for water he was far from desiring that any of his men should venture their lives, but those three did it to show how much they valued David and with what pleasure they could run the greatest hardships in his service.

2 Samuel 23

“¹⁷And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.”



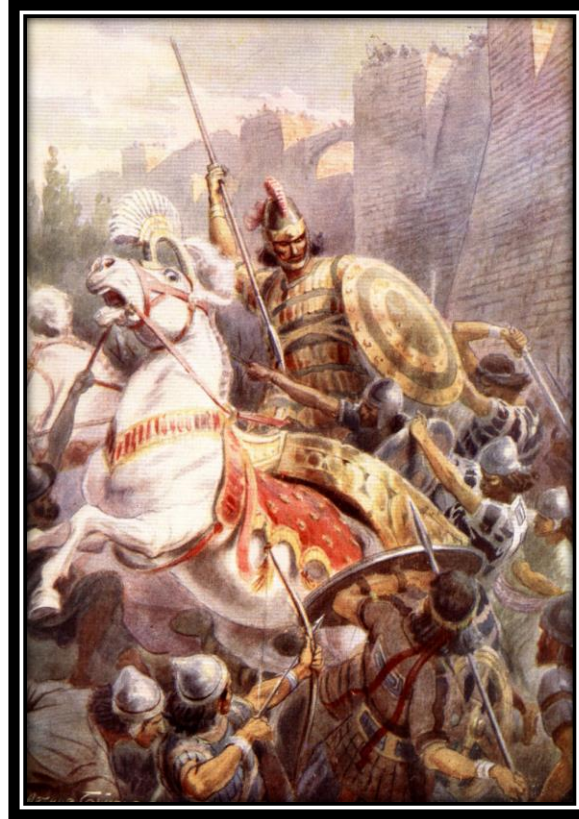
What a contrast between this account and the earlier account of Uriah when David purposefully ordered the soldier Uriah's death that he might have Uriah's wife Bathsheba !! His sincere repentance of that sin is here demonstrated by the respect he shows for his men by pouring out the water.

Other brave actions of these two men

Abishai slew 300 men at once, and Benaiah did many great things—

He slew two Moabites that were lion-like men, so bold and strong, so fierce and furious.

He slew an Egyptian, on what occasion it is not said; he was well armed, but Benaiah attacked him with no other weapon than a walking staff, wrested his spear out of his hand, and slew him with it.



2 Samuel 23:24-39

**The third of the three ranks
is a long list of names.**

The names seem to have been taken
from the places of their birth or habitation.

- 25 Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite,
26 Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,
27 Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,
28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,
29 Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin,
30 Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash,
31 Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,
32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Ishai, Jonathan,
33 Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Ishai of the Gittites,
34 Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Ehim the son of Ahithophel the Gilomite,
35 Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,
36 Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,
37 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah,
38 Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite,
39 Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all.

Third Rank – Verses 24 - 39

Bathsheba's husband **Uriah** the Hittite is in the list. How sad that a man who was so loyal and courageous was treated so badly by his king.

Joab is not mentioned. He was David's Commander-in-Chief, yet, obviously, the writer of 2 Samuel considered Joab to have lost his honor by slaying Absalom. Joab was loyal to David, but too often rejected David's judgment and disobeyed him.

Third Rank – Verses 24 - 39

- 25 Shammah the Harodite, Elika the Harodite,
- 26 Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,
- 27 Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,
- 28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,
- 29 Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin,
- 30 Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash,
- 31 Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,
- 32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Ishbah the Gonaite,
- 33 Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Issachar of the Geraizites,
- 34 Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Ehan the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,
- 35 Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,
- 36 Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,
- 37 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah,
- 38 Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite,
- 39 Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all.



THE END
Of
2 Samuel 23

DAVID'S
MIGHTY MEN

The image features a central yellow rectangular area containing the text "THE END". This central area is framed by a thick black border. The top and bottom sections of the image are filled with a complex, abstract pattern of overlapping red and pink geometric shapes, including rectangles and trapezoids, all outlined in black. The colors transition from a deep red to a lighter pink, creating a sense of depth and movement.

THE END