

23[1] And these are the last words of David. The utterance of David, son of Jesse, and the utterance of the man raised up. The anointed of the Gods of Jacob, and the pleasant songs¹ of Israel. [2] “Yehvah's spirit spoke in me, and his speech was on my tongue. [3] Gods of Israel, Rock of Israel, said to me, 'He who rules among men should be righteous, ruling in fear of Gods. [4] And as light in morning, a Sun rising, a morning without clouds, from brightness, from rain, grass from earth.' [5] Though my house is not so with God,² yet an everlasting covenant he set for me, ordered and secured in all, for all my salvation and all delight, though he will not cause to grow.³ [6] And Belial⁴ as a thornbush is chased away, all of them, because they take⁵ not in hand. [7] A man who touches them should be filled with iron and a wood spear. And they shall surely be burned in the fire⁶ in the dwelling place.”

[8] These are the names of the mighty men who were to David: Josheb-Basshebeth⁷ a Tachmonite,⁸ head of the captains.⁹ He was Adino¹⁰ the Ezno¹¹ because of eight hundred slain at one time. [9] And after him was Eleazar, son of Dodi,¹² son of an Ahohite,¹³ among three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for the battle and Israel's men went away. [10] He arose and struck among the Philistines until his hand was weary and his hand stuck to the sword, and Yehvah worked great salvation on that day. And the people returned after him only to plunder.

[11] And after him was Shamma,¹⁴ son of Agee¹⁵ the Hararite.¹⁶ And Philistines were gathered to the company, and there was a portion of the field filled with lentils.

1 זְמִירוֹת (zemirot) “songs” YLT (plural); “psalmist” NKJV – “Psalm” is of the same root, מִזְמוֹר (mizmor) e.g. Ps. 3.

2 Psalm 12:1; Proverbs 20:6

3 כִּי־לֹא יַצְמִיחַ (kiy-lo' yatsmiyach) “though he will not cause to grow”; YLT “He hath not caused *it* to spring up”; KJV “although he make *it* not to grow”; NKJV “Will He not make *it* increase?” - meaning uncertain

4 בְּלִיעַל (beliyya`al) “Belial” (see footnote for Deuteronomy 13:13) – a reference to Satan to which all the ungodly are subject (Acts 26:18; Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9).

5 יִקָּחֻ (yiqqâchu) “they take” (active verb); NKJV, etc. “be taken” (passive); NLT “they tear” (active) – typically translated as a passive, but it is not passive but active.

6 i.e. hell – Psalm 11:6; 21:8-9; Isaiah 33:12; 66:24.

7 יוֹשֵׁב בַּשֶּׁבֶת (yoshêv bashevet) “Josheb-Basshebeth” (= “sitting in the seat” YLT) NKJV, NAS; “that sat in the seat” KJV - only here – see also 1 Chronicles 11:11.

8 תַּחְמוֹנִי (tachkemoniy) “Tachmonite” - only here – see also 1 Chronicles 11:11.

9 שְׁלִישִׁי (shâlishiy) “captains” NKJV, etc.; “three” Green, etc.; BDB “best explained as *third* man (in chariot)” - Used variously for “captains” or “officers” (e.g. Exodus 14:7; 15:4; 2 Kings 7:2, 17, 19; etc.); “musical instruments” (e.g. 1 Samuel 18:6); a “third” (YLT) “measure” (NKJV e.g. Psalm 80:6). See also 1 Chronicles 11:11.

10 אֲדִינוֹ (`adiyno) “Adino” (meaning unknown) - only here – see also 1 Chronicles 11:11.

11 Written עֲצֵנוֹ (`etsno) “Ezno” (meaning unknown) - only here; read עֲצֵנִי (`etsniy) “Eznite” - only here.

12 Written דוּדִי (dodiy) “Dodi” = either “my beloved” or “my uncle,” see footnote for Judges 10:1; read דוּדוֹ (dodo).

13 אַחֹחִי (`achochiy) “Ahohite” - found also in 2 Samuel 23:28; 1 Chronicles 11:12; 29; 27:4.

14 שַׁמָּא (shammâ) “Shamma” LEB; “Shammah” NKJV, yet this same exact name is also in 1 Chronicles 7:37

“Shamma” (NKJV), and there is also “Shammah” שַׁמָּה (shammâh) e.g. in 1 Samuel 17:13.

15 אֲגֵעִי (`âgê) “Agee” - only here.

And the people fled from before Philistines. [12] And he stationed himself in the midst of that portion and delivered her and struck Philistines. And Yehvah worked a great salvation.

[13] And three¹⁷ from the thirty heads went down and came down at harvest to David to a cave of Adullam,¹⁸ and a company of Philistines were camped in Rephaim¹⁹ valley. [14] And David was then in the stronghold and the Philistines' garrison was House of Bread. [15] And David desired and said, "Who will give me a drink of water from a well of House of Bread which is by the gate?" [16] And the three mighty men broke through Philistines' camp and drew water from House of Bread's well which was by the gate. And they carried and brought to David. And he was unwilling to drink it,²⁰ and poured it out to Yehvah. [17] And he said, "Far be it for me, Yehvah, from me doing this, the blood of the men who went with their souls."²¹ And he was unwilling to drink it. These things the three mighty men did.

[18] And Abishai, Joab's brother, son of Zeruah, he was head of the third.²² And he lifted his spear upon three hundred slain, and to him was a name among the three. [19] From the three, was he surely honored most? And he was to them for a leader, and unto the three he did not come.²³

[20] And Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, son of a lively²⁴ man of many deeds from Kabzeel, he struck two lions of God²⁵ of Moab. And he went down and struck the lion in the midst of the pit on the day of the snow. [21] And he struck an Egyptian man who²⁶ was a sight! And in the hand of the Egyptian was a spear. And he went down to him with the rod and wrestled the spear from the hand of the Egyptian and killed him with his spear. [22] These things Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, did, and to him was a name among the three mighty men. [23] From the thirty he was more honored, and to the three he did not come. And David put him to his guard.

[24] Asahel, Joab's brother, was among the thirty, Elhanan, son of Dodo, of House of Bread, [25] Shammah the Harodite,²⁷ Elika²⁸ the Harodite, [26] Helez²⁹ the

16 הַרְרִי (hârâriy) "Hararite" - found also in 2 Samuel 23:33; 1 Chronicles 11:34-35.

17 Written שְׁלוֹשִׁים (sheloshiym) "thirty"; read שְׁלוֹשָׁה (sheloshâh) "three"

18 See 1 Samuel 22:1.

19 רֶפְאִים (rephâ'iyim) "Rephaim" - see footnote for Genesis 14:5.

20 Water being plural in Hebrew, this "it" and the second "it" are both plural (i.e. "them").

21 In other words, they risked their lives.

22 Written שְׁלוֹשִׁי (sheloshiy) "third"; read שְׁלוֹשָׁה (sheloshâh) "three" - a "third" is used for a company of soldiers in e.g. 2 Samuel 18:2 where Abishai is over a third of the army.

23 In other words, there was *another* three.

24 Written חַי (chay) "lively"; read חַיִּל (chayil) "valiant"

25 אַרְיֵל ('ari'êl) "lions of God" EHV; "lion like men" YLT; "lion-like heroes" NKJV; "sons of Ariel" NAS - used in this same way in 1 Chronicles 11:22, אַרְיֵאֵל ('ariy'êl). This is also a name for Jerusalem (Lion of God/Ariel) in Isaiah 29:1-2, 7, and also a man's name in Ezra 8:16. This can also be translated "Lion of power," since "God" is used in that sense; see footnote for Genesis 31:29.

26 Written אֲשֶׁר ('asher) "who"; read אִישׁ ('iysh) "man" (i.e. a man of appearance)

27 חַרְדִּי (charodiy) "Harodite" - only in this verse.

28 אֵלִיקָא ('eliyqâ) "Elika" - only here.

29 חֶלֶץ (chelets) "Helez" - found also in 1 Chronicles 2:39; 11:27; 27:10.

Paltite,³⁰ Ira, son of Perverse,³¹ the Tekoite,³² [27] Abiezer the Anathothite,³³ Mebunnai³⁴ the Hushathite, [28] Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai³⁵ the Netophathite,³⁶ [29] Fat,³⁷ son of Baanah the Netophathite, Ittai son of Ribai³⁸ from Hill³⁹ of sons of Benjamin, [30] Benaiah a Pirathonite, Hiddai⁴⁰ from brooks of Gaash, [31] Abi-Albon⁴¹ the Plainite,⁴² Azmaveth⁴³ the Barhumite,⁴⁴ [32] Eliahba⁴⁵ the Shaalbonite⁴⁶ of sons of Jashen,⁴⁷ Jonathan, [33] Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam,⁴⁸ son of Sharar⁴⁹ the Hararite, [34] Eliphelet, son of Ahasbai,⁵⁰ the son of the Maachathite, Eliam, son of Ahithophel the Gilonite, [35] Hezro⁵¹ the Carmelite, Paarai⁵² the Arbite,⁵³ [36] Igal, son of Nathan from Zobah, Bani⁵⁴ the Gadite, [37] Zelek⁵⁵ the Ammonite, Naharai⁵⁶

30 פַּלְטִי (paltiy) “Paltite” - only here.

31 עֵקֶשׁ (‘iqqêsh) “Perverse” (e.g. Deuteronomy 32:5 “perverse” NKJV); “Ikkesh” NKJV – for this man also found in 1 Chronicles 11:28; 27:9.

32 = someone from Tekoa, e.g. 2 Samuel 14:4.

33 עֲנַתְתִּי (‘annetotiy) “Anathothite” - found also in 1 Chronicles 11:28; 12:3; 27:12; Jeremiah 29:27. An Anathothite is someone from Anathoth (Joshua 21:18).

34 מֵבֻנַּי (mevunnay) “Mebunnai” - only here.

35 מַהְרָי (mahray) “Maharai” - found also in 1 Chronicles 11:30; 27:13.

36 נֶטֹפָתִי (netophâtiy) “Netophathite” - found also in 2 Samuel 23:29; 2 Kings 25:23; 1 Chronicles 2:54; 9:16; 11:30; 27:13, 15; Nehemiah 12:28; Jeremiah 40:8. A Netophathite is someone from “Netophah” (Ezra 2:22), which was near Jerusalem (Nehemiah 12:28-29).

37 חֶלֶב (chêlev) “Fat” (= “fat” e.g. 2 Samuel 1:22) – only here. In 1 Chronicles 11:30 his name is “Heled” חֶלֶד (chêled).

38 רִיבֵי (riyvay) “Ribai” - found also in 1 Chronicles 11:31.

39 גִּבְעַת (giv`at) “Hill”; NKJV, etc. “Gibeath” - see footnote for Joshua 15:57.

40 הִדַּי (hidday) “Hiddai” - only here.

41 אָבִי־עֲלֹבֹן (‘aviy-`alvon) “Abi-Albon” (= “My father-?”) - only here.

42 עֲרָבִי (‘arvâtiy) “Plainite” (i.e. from “Plain” see Joshua 18:18); NKJV, etc. “Arabah”

43 עֲזְמוֹת (‘azmâvet) “Azmaveth” - found also in 1 Chronicles 8:36; 9:42; 11:33; 12:3; 27:25; Ezra 2:24, and a location near Jerusalem in Nehemiah 12:29, and “House of Azmaveth” in Nehemiah 7:28.

44 בַּרְחֻמִּי (barchumiy) “Barhumite” - only here.

45 אֱלִיחַבָּא (‘elyachbbâ) “Eliahba” (= God hides) - found also in 1 Chronicles 11:33.

46 שַׁעֲלֹבַי (sha`alv) “Shaalbonite” - found also in 1 Chronicles 11:33.

47 יָשֵׁן (yâshên) “Jashen” (= “he sleeps” or “sleepy” or “sleeper”) - only here for a name.

48 אַחִיאָם (‘chiy`âm) “Ahiam” - found also in 1 Chronicles 11:35.

49 שָׂרָר (shârâr) “Sharar” - only here.

50 אַחַסְבַּי (‘achasbay) “Ahasbai” - only here.

51 Written חֶצְרוֹ (chetsro) “Hezro” - found also in 1 Chronicles 11:37; read חֶצְרַי (chetsray) “Hezrai” LXX Ἀσαραί (Asarai) - only here.

52 פַּעְרֵי (pa`aray) “Paarai” - only here.

53 אַרְבִּי (‘arbiy) “Arbite” - only here. Arbite = someone from “Arab” אַרָב (‘arav), Joshua 15:52.

54 בַּנִּי (bâniy) “Bani” - found also in 1 Chronicles 6:46[H31]; 9:4; Ezra 2:10; 10:29, 34, 38; Nehemiah 3:17; 8:7; 9:4-5;

the Beerothite, carriers⁵⁷ of the equipment of Joab, son of Zeruah, [38] Ira the Ithrite,⁵⁸ Gareb⁵⁹ the Ithrite, [39] Uriah the Hittite, all thirty seven.

10:13-14[H14-15]; 11:22.

55 צֶלֶק (tseleq) “Zelek” - found also in 1 Chronicles 11:39.

56 נַחְרַי (nachray) “Naharai” - found also in 1 Chronicles 11:39.

57 Written נושְׂאֵי (nos'êy) “carriers”; read נושֵׂא (nosê') “carrier”

58 יִתְרִי (yitriy) “Ithrite” - found also in 1 Chronicles 2:53; 11:40.

59 גַּרְבֵּ (gârêv) “Gareb” - found also in 1 Chronicles 11:40; Jeremiah 31:39.