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## Lesson 100

## David's Mighty Men

## **Story Elements**

Text: 2 Sam. 23:8-39; 1 Chron. 11:11-47
Setting: between 970 and 1010 B.C.
Main Characters: God, David, and

David's Mighty Men

Plot: The amazing exploits of David's most elite troops are described.

Key word(s): "

Climax: 2 Sam. 23:16 "And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Beth-lehem, 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."

T'	'he Three"
	As the Bible narrative nears the end of David's life, a parenthetical passage is inserted that reviews the brave men that served in David's army. (23:8) The first of David's mighty men to be mentioned is <b>Adino</b> the Eznite (also called Joshebeam in 1 Chr. 11:11). He was chief of the three, or the greatest of the greatest. He was renowned for slaying men in one battle.  (a) (23:9-10) Next was <b>Eleazar</b> , the son of Dodo. He was known for continuing in battle when all others had retreated. He swung his sword for so long that his hand clung to the
	(b) (23:11-12) The third of The Three was <b>Shammah</b> , a man who alone defended a field of lentils and barley against a force of Philistine
	<ul><li>(23:13-17) Years earlier, while David was on the run from Saul and hiding in the cave of Adullam (1 Sam. 22:2), these three mighty men joined his motley crew.</li><li>(a) During that time, David longed for a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, but a garrison of Philistines had invaded the city. Why do you think David would have desired such a thing?</li></ul>
	(b) The Three, at risk of their own lives, showed their valor and loyalty by breaking through the Philistine garrison and fetching back to David a drink from his boyhood well. David, in a holy expression of gratitude, poured the water out. Why would he do that?
3.	The Thirty" (23:18-19) Below The Three was The Thirty, led by Abishai, Joab's brother. Abishai
	famously slew men in one battle.

4.	(23:20-23) Next was <b>Benaiah</b> , who was renowned for slaying two lion-like men of Moab. He also killed a lion in a pit. In a fight against a colossal Egyptian soldier, Benaiah disarmed him with only a and the slew the Egyptian with his own spear.
5.	(23:24-39) A list of all the mighty men is given. The Three, plus Abishai and Benaiah, and the other thirty-two names makes thirty-seven in all the Hittite is mentioned last – a sober reminder of the darkness of David's sin with Bathsheba.
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6.	Eleazar's amazing victory and Shammah's unequaled bravery are attributed to the LORD (2 Sam. 23:10, 12) - a good reminder that even the greatest of men are only great according to the gifts and of God.
	2 Corinthians 10:17 But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.
7.	David's actions with the water fetched by his Three Worthies shows he God above all things; that which was most precious to David he most gladly gave to his God. We must ask ourselves, "Is God my greatest treasure? What do I hold back from him?"
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**Answer Key:** Key word(s): mighty men • 1. 800; a) handle; b) marauders • 2. a) David was probably homesick and wanted to taste the water he had known as a boy; b) David considered the water his men's blood because they were willing to sacrifice themselves for it. Such an act was a common way to make a drink offering. (Gen. 35:14) • 3. 300 • 4. staff • 5. Uriah • 6. mercies • 7. treasured

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the Story Elements section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the Answer Key. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the Notes section.