

1 Chronicles 12

King James Version (KJV)

(This chapter came before chapter 11 chronologically. These are the men that joined David's army early on; while King Saul was still trying to kill David)

12 Now these are they that came to David to Ziklag, while he yet kept himself close because of Saul the son of Kish: and they were among the mighty men, helpers of the war. (Saul is still alive and trying to kill David. These are the men who came to help David. They remained loyal to him during his reign. They were constantly on the run from Saul and his army at this time)

(Ziklag was originally allocated to Simeon, but later it fell to the Philistines. The Philistines temporarily gave David refuge there because they hated Saul, who was trying to kill David. They had a common enemy in Saul)

²They were armed with bows, and could use both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows out of a bow, even of Saul's brethren of Benjamin. (Benjamites were skilled archers. They could shoot with the right hand or the left)

(Saul was becoming more and more mentally unbalanced. He was leading the nation away from God, toward idolatry. Many Benjamites joined David's army because of that)

³The chief was Ahiezer, then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; and Jeziel, and Pelet, the sons of Azmaveth; and Berachah, and Jehu the Antothite. (Antothite – from Anathoth – one of the sanctuary cities; Gibeathite – from Gibe – Saul's home town)

⁴And Ismaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty; and Jeremiah, and Jahaziel, and Johanan, and Josabad the Gederathite,

⁵Eluzai, and Jerimoth, and Bealiah, and Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite,

⁶Elkanah, and Jesiah, and Azareel, and Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korhites, (These men were descendants of Korah, cousin to Moses. God killed Korah and his followers because he tried to usurp power from Moses and Aaron) Numbers 16:31-33

⁷ And Joelah, and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.

⁸ And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, and men of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains; (buckler = a short stabbing spear carried in a sheath on the back of the soldier) (like the faces of lions – they were fierce as lions) (roes = deer)

(Although David's army was small in numbers, it was comprised of battle hardened warriors. David was always faithful to God, so He gave David's army the victories over much larger enemy armies)

(Gadites – from the tribe of Gad)

⁹ Ezer the first, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third,

¹⁰ Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,

¹¹ Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,

¹² Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,

¹³ Jeremiah the tenth, Machbanai the eleventh.

¹⁴ These were of the sons of Gad, captains of the host: one of the least was over an hundred, and the greatest over a thousand. (The least could fight 100 of the enemy, the greatest could fight 1000 – better translation. This was a figure of speech, used to describe how capable they were against the enemy)

¹⁵ These are they that went over Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all his banks; and they put to flight all them of the valleys, both toward the east, and toward the west. (Gad was on the east side of Jordan. These men crossed the river during flood season to surprise the enemy)

(They fought their way through the allies of Saul, in order to make their way to Ziklag to meet up with David)

¹⁶ And there came of the children of Benjamin and Judah to the hold unto David. (hold = stronghold)

¹⁷ And David went out to meet them, and answered and said unto them, If ye be come peaceably unto me to help me, mine heart shall be knit unto you: but if ye be come to betray me to mine enemies, seeing there is no wrong in mine hands, the God of our fathers look thereon, and rebuke it. (David was concerned about possible allies of Saul, among the Benjamites. Saul was offering rewards for David's head)

(David had many opportunities to kill Saul. He refused to do it or allow others to do it; because Saul was anointed by God as first king. David would let God deal with Saul for what he had done)

¹⁸ Then the spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band. (The spirit came upon Amasai = the Spirit of God came upon him)

(David's army grew as time went on, but they were still greatly outnumbered by Saul's army)

¹⁹ And there fell some of Manasseh to David, when he came with the Philistines against Saul to battle: but they helped them not: for the lords of the Philistines upon advisement sent him away, saying, He will fall to his master Saul to the jeopardy of our heads. (There fell some of Manasseh to David – these were deserters from Saul's army. More and more men saw that Saul was mentally unbalanced and moving away from God)

(but they helped them not – David's army did not help the Philistines. They sent him away from the battle because they feared that David would side with Saul once the battle began) see 1Samuel-29

²⁰ As he went to Ziklag, there fell to him of Manasseh, Adnah, and Jozabad, and Jediael, and Michael, and Jozabad, and Elihu, and Zilthai, captains of the thousands that were of Manasseh. (When David went off to battle, he left Ziklag undefended. Marauders burned it and took the goods and the people as slaves. These men of Manasseh helped David recover the people and the goods that were looted by the Amalakite marauders) 1Samuel-30

²¹ And they helped David against the band of the rovers: for they were all mighty men of valour, and were captains in the host.

²² For at that time day by day there came to David to help him, until it was a great host, like the host of God. (More and more men joined David's army as time went on)

(23-on: David is back in Hebron) -----

²³ And these are the numbers of the bands that were ready armed to the war, and came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD. (This is years later, when David had a great army, just before he took Jerusalem. Hebron was now David's capital. David now ruled Judah, but not the rest of Israel)

²⁴ The children of Judah that bare shield and spear were six thousand and eight hundred, ready armed to the war.

²⁵ Of the children of Simeon, mighty men of valour for the war, seven thousand and one hundred.

²⁶ Of the children of Levi four thousand and six hundred. (Even the Levites joined David, because of Saul's idolatry)

²⁷ And Jehoiada was the leader of the Aaronites, and with him were three thousand and seven hundred; (These are the priests)

²⁸ And Zadok, a young man mighty of valour, and of his father's house twenty and two captains. (Zadok was the high priest at Gibeon, where the Mosaic Temple was at this time. Abiathar was another high priest, with David at Hebron, because Judah was ruled by David, and Israel was still ruled by Saul)

²⁹ And of the children of Benjamin, the kindred of Saul, three thousand: for hitherto the greatest part of them had kept the ward of the house of Saul.

³⁰ And of the children of Ephraim twenty thousand and eight hundred, mighty men of valour, famous throughout the house of their fathers.

³¹ And of the half tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, which were expressed by name, to come and make David king. (Those on the west side of Jordan)

³² And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their

commandment. (People were fed up with Saul's corruption. So each day, more and more people wanted to follow David)

³³ Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: they were not of double heart. (which could keep rank- a figure of speech – they were battle tested and disciplined) (not of double heart - single minded to follow David)

(The people were disgusted at how Saul had corrupted his reign and the nation of Israel. After Samuel died, Saul fell into idolatry and witchcraft. God disowned him and cursed him for it)

³⁴ And of Naphtali a thousand captains, and with them with shield and spear thirty and seven thousand.

³⁵ And of the Danites expert in war twenty and eight thousand and six hundred.

³⁶ And of Asher, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, forty thousand.

³⁷ And on the other side of Jordan, of the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and of the half tribe of Manasseh, with all manner of instruments of war for the battle, an hundred and twenty thousand. (The East side of Jordan)

³⁸ All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king. (perfect= mature)

³⁹ And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking: for their brethren had prepared for them. (David's army numbered over 330,000 at this time) (The tribe of Judah provided food and support, because this feast was held on their land)

⁴⁰ Moreover they that were nigh them, even unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, and meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly: for there was joy in Israel. (even - was added in by the translators) (The nearby tribes also helped support the army)

(This chapter is chronologically before chapter 11. Saul is still alive, and David is at Ziklag. Saul then dies and David is asked to lead all of Israel. Saul was unsuccessful against the Philistines because God stopped blessing him after all his trespasses. David will be successful because he follows God's laws and God blessed him for it)