

Joab

Who Was Joab?

- Joab was the son of Zeruah, a sister of David, making Joab David's nephew (2 Samuel 2:13)
- Joab had 2 brothers, Abishai and Asahel (1 Chronicles 2:16)
- Joab was commander of David's army (2 Samuel 8:16; 20:23; 1 Chronicles 11:6; 18:15; 27:34), and led the campaigns against Syria, Ammon, Moab, and Edom

Joab's Brothers

- Abishai
 - Accompanied David when David entered Saul's camp (1 Samuel 26:5-12)
 - Commanded one of the three divisions of David's army in the battle against Absalom (2 Samuel 18:2, 5, 12)
 - He was the commander of the second rank of the three mighty men (2 Samuel 23:18,-19; 1 Chronicles 11:20-21)
 - On one occasion he slew 300 men with his spear (2 Samuel 23:18)
 - He slew the Philistine giant Ishbi-benob (2 Samuel 21:15-17)
 - Assisted Joab in the murder of Abner (2 Samuel 3:30)
- Asahel
 - Known for his fleetness afoot (2 Samuel 2:18)
 - Pursued Abner at the battle of Gibeon until Abner was compelled to kill him (2 Samuel 2:18-19)
 - One of David's thirty valiant men (2 Samuel 23:24; 1 Chronicles 11:26)

The Life of Joab

- The battle at the pool of Gibeon and Asahel's death (2 Samuel 2)
- The murder of Abner (2 Samuel 3)
- Joab defeats the Jebusites, and becomes chief and captain of the army (2 Samuel 5:6-8; 1 Chronicles 11:4-7)
- Joab defeats the Syrians (2 Samuel 10)
- Joab assists David in the murder of Uriah the Hittite (2 Samuel 11:14-25)
- Joab allows David to take credit for the taking of the Ammonite city of Rabbah (2 Samuel 12:26-27)
- Joab arranges for Absalom to return to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 14:3-23)
- Joab help Absalom regain David's good favor (2 Samuel 14:28-33)
- Joab led David's army against Absalom's rebellion (2 Samuel 18)
- Joab rebukes David for mourning Absalom's death (2 Samuel 19:1-8)

The Life of Joab

- David makes Amasa commander of Israel's army in Joab's place (2 Samuel 19:9-15)
- Joab uses the rebellion of Sheba to assassinate Amasa, and regain control of the army (2 Samuel 20:1-13)
- Joab crushes Sheba's rebellion (2 Samuel 20:14-22)
- Joab reluctantly conducts a census of Israel for David (2 Samuel 24:1-9)
- As David neared death Joab supported Adonijah's attempt to usurp Solomon's claim to the throne (1 Kings 1)
- David charges Solomon with executing justice upon Joab (1 Kings 2:5-6)
- Joab is killed before the altar at the tabernacle in Jerusalem (1 Kings 2:26-34)

Lessons

- Joab was a valiant soldier. Joab also possessed good judgement in many ways. But Joab's character was seriously flawed. Ecclesiastes 10:1
- Joab demanded vengeance, even when vengeance was not just (Romans 12:17-21; Leviticus 19:18; James 1:19-20)
- Respect for authority
 - Joab was frequently insubordinate (Psalms 111:9; Matthew 6:9)
 - Joab was obedient to David only when it suited Joab's own purposes (Matthew 23:23; Matthew 16:24; John 6:26, 60-66; Luke 9:57-62; Matthew 13:20-22)
 - Other examples
 - King Saul
 - Jehu
 - Matthew 15:1-9; Matthew 7:13-29
 - Joab was loyal to David only when it suited Joab's own purposes (Matthew 10:33)
 - What about us today?

Lessons

- Respect for authority
 - Being faithful sometimes (2 Samuel 10:12) does not offset being unfaithful other times
 - We will not be judged with a balance
 - Respect for God's authority, and reverence for Him means giving Him our best all the time (Matthew 22:37; Galatians 6:9)

Lessons

- Joab was willing to commit murder to take what he wanted (Matthew 16:26)
- Joab evidently had little or no conscience (Ephesians 4:17-19; 1 Timothy 4:1-2)
- Joab was not a true friend to David
 - Proverbs 27:5-6
 - Proverbs 17:17; 18:24
- The consequences of sin
 - Judgment is certain (Hebrews 9:27; 10:23-31)
 - Punishment for sin is certain (Galatians 6:7-8; Hosea 8:7)
- Pleading for mercy without repentance is useless
 - Matthew 3:2
 - Matthew 12:41
 - Luke 3:8
 - Acts 2:38