

1 **COOL WATER**

2 Samuel 5, 23

2 **WARRIORS & POETS**

- An expositional survey through the lives of the three kings of the United Kingdom period of Israel and Judah: Saul, David, and Solomon.
- Following the death of Saul after his defeat at the hands of a Philistine invasion, Israel descended into seven years of infighting and civil war.
- During this time they more or less left Israel alone: one of the sides of the conflict was being led by David, who they may have considered "one of their own" due to his affiliation with the Philistine city of Ziklag.

3 **A DIFFERENT KIND OF KING**

- But once David is made King of Israel and establishes himself at Jerusalem, the whole of the twelve tribes united under his rule, the Philistines realize that they are dealing with a very different and much more dangerous opponent than Saul.
- David had access to Philistine weapons, specifically iron. But what was more, David was a much more capable leader than Saul.

4 **THE VALLEY OF REPHAIM**

- It was the danger posed by David which finally precipitated two Philistine invasions of the Valley of Rephaim, a valley which began at Jerusalem and stretched for several miles to the southwest.
- The Valley of Rephaim happened to include a little shepherd village called Bethlehem.

5 **THE FIRST PHILISTINE INVASION**

- *When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. But David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. And David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?" And the LORD said to David, "Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand." And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, "The LORD has broken through my enemies before me like a breaking flood." Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim. (2 Samuel 5:17-20)*

6 **THE SECOND PHILISTINE INVASION**

- *And the Philistines left their idols there, and David and his men carried them away. And the Philistines came up yet again and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. And when David inquired of the LORD, he said, "You shall not go up; go around to their rear, and come against them opposite the balsam trees. And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then rouse yourself, for then the LORD has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines." And David did as the LORD commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer. (2 Samuel 5:21-25)*

7 **A DIFFERENT KIND OF KING**

- Perhaps better than anything else, David's defeat of the Philistine invasion at Baal-perazim shows just how different this new king is from the last one the Philistines defeated. As we

have already seen in last week's study:

- David consulted God before trying things his own way (contrast this to Saul's conduct at the battles of Gilgal and Micmash)
- David took the Philistine gods as captive (which is a reverse of what happened at the battle of Aphek-Ebenezer), but unlike his descendant, Amaziah, he does fall into idolatry

8 **THE WELL OF BETHLEHEM**

- But there is another incident, recorded for us in the account of David's Mighty Men, that sheds light not just on the kind of man that David was, but on the kind of king.
- The account of David's Mighty Men is found in 2 Samuel 23, placed there as a summary near the end of David's life. It is out of chronological order, since it recounts the deeds of the men David had surrounded himself with throughout his life.

9 **DAVID'S THIRST**

- *And three of the thirty chief men went down and came about harvest time to David at the cave of Adullam, when a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem. And David said longingly, "Oh, that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!" (2 Samuel 23:13-15)*

10 **TIME AND PLACE**

- Although the precise timing of this story is not given to us, since this chapter is comprised of snippets taken out of chronological order, we are given a couple of clues in the form of David's location ("the stronghold") and the location of the Philistine invasion (the "valley of Rephaim").
- The "Stronghold" here is clarified as being the Cave of Adullam.
- It is during the prelude to this battle with the Philistines at Rephaim that one of the most touching episodes in David's reign takes place.

11 **A MIDNIGHT RUN**

- *Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and carried and brought it to David. But he would not drink of it. He poured it out to the LORD and said, "Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did. (2 Samuel 23:16-17)*

12 **THE WELL OF BETHLEHEM**

- During the prelude to the battle, David is heard wishing for a drink of cool water from the well at Bethlehem – water from the well he had known as a boy.
- Eager to please their king, three of his mighty men decide to get him a drink of water from his favorite well. There's just one problem: Bethlehem is in the valley of Rephaim, smack-dab in the middle of the Philistine lines.

13 **THE THREE**

- Stealing behind enemy lines by night, David's three mighty men risk their lives on a recovery mission that would be ludicrous were it not for the devotion that they had for their king: to get David a drink from the well of Bethlehem.
- So who were these three mighty men, for them to undertake such a dangerous mission for

the pleasure of their king?

– The short answer is: We're not sure, really.

14 **THE THREE**

- This passage (as well as its parallel in 1 Chronicles 11) lists a trio of warriors known as the "Three," and then another group of warriors, David's main group of mighty men, known as the "Thirty."
- According to the text, this daring escapade was carried out by: "...*three of the thirty chief men...*"
- There are differing opinions about whether the Three were part of the Thirty, or separate and distinct from it, or whether there was a second Three that was part of the Thirty.

15 **JOSHEB-BASSHEBETH**

- *These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-basshebeth a Tahchemonite; he was chief of the three. He wielded his spear against eight hundred whom he killed at one time. (2 Samuel 23:8)*
- This individual is also known in 1 Chronicles as Jashobeam, where he is credited with the killing of three "hundreds."
- "Hundred" in the Old Testament often refers to a company of men, rather than an actual number. Either way, Jashobeam is an impressive warrior.

16 **ELEAZAR**

- *And next to him among the three mighty men was Eleazar the son of Dodo, son of Ahohi. He was with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel withdrew. He rose and struck down the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clung to the sword. And the LORD brought about a great victory that day, and the men returned after him only to strip the slain. (2 Samuel 23:9-10)*

17 **SHAMMAH**

- *And next to him was Shammah, the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines gathered together at Lehi, where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the men fled from the Philistines. But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and struck down the Philistines, and the LORD worked a great victory. (2 Samuel 23:11-12)*
- Joshabeam, Eleazar, and Shammah are the "Three" – while it is unknown if they are the same Three featured in this story, given the order of the story it seems likely.

18 **DAVID'S SACRIFICE**

- *But he [David] would not drink of it. He poured it out to the LORD and said, "Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?"*
- David refers to this water as the "blood of the men who went" – in other words, it is something sacred of which he does not feel himself to be worthy, and so to honor the sacrifice of his men, David makes a sacrifice of his own: He pours it out as an offering to Jehovah.

19 **DAVID'S SACRIFICE**

- By pouring out the libation to Jehovah, David was essentially making a statement that only Israel's first and highest King was worthy of the kind of sacrifice that David's men had just

made.

- Far from an act of ingratitude, David was demonstrating great humility and a sense of perspective about himself (which is the mark of humility) which tells us a lot about the kind of man David was during his early reign.

20 **1) WE SERVE A KING WHO IS WORTHY**

- David was a king who inspired great devotion from his followers.
 - The kind of devotion that makes men sneak behind enemy lines to get a drink of water from a well
 - The kind of devotion that makes men want to climb down after a lion in a pit on a snowy day
- Why did David inspire this kind of devotion?
 - Because people saw that God was with him
 - Because David was never afraid to put himself in danger
 - Because David valued the lives of his men so highly

21 **1) WE SERVE A KING WHO IS WORTHY**

- *Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."* (Revelation 5:1-5)

22 **1) WE SERVE A KING WHO IS WORTHY**

- Jesus valued the lives of his enemies so highly that He was slain for them – that He gave Himself so that no other sacrifice would ever need to be made. And thousands of thousands sing:
- *"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"* (Revelation 5:12-13)

23 **2) WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN GREAT GIFTS**

- We ought to be like David's men and seek to bless and serve our worthy King, but we also should be like David: humbly mindful that we do not deserve the gifts that are given to us.
- It is worth remembering that a great gift was brought to us from Bethlehem, too – a Water that, if any drinks of it, he will never be thirsty again.
- Someone had to steal behind enemy lines for that gift, too, and it came at the literal price of His blood.

24 **2) WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN GREAT GIFTS**

- The gift David received came to him because his men believed him to be deserving of honor.
- Our Gift came to us because we were found deserving of wrath.
- You serve a Great King who has given Himself to you as the Greatest Gift.