

# GOODNEWS LETTER

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## The Wisdom of Joab

Joab is known for his courage on the battle ground. But, his special gift was helping David out of more than one "un-kingly-like" kinds of attitudes.

It was as if God was speaking directly through Joab; fulfilling his given name of "Jehovah is his name."

A son of David's half sister, Joab was close to the king. He was "captain of the hosts" during David's entire reign (2 Sam 2:23; 10:7; 11).

### GENERAL JOAB FIGHTS THE AMMONITES AND THEIR HIRED SYRIAN ARMY -

Poor advice was given to Hunun, the new king of the Ammonites, causing David's servants to suffer humiliation. "... Hanun took David's servants and cut off the one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away" (2Sam 10:4).

Joab's wisdom was too much for the coalition armies. First, Joab chose choice men and put them in array against the Syrians. Next, he delivered the rest of the warriors in the hand of Abishai his brother and put them in array against the Ammonites.

Joab's instructions were: "If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me: but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee," 2Samuel 10:11.

THE TIME WHEN KINGS GO FORTH TO BATTLE - David sent Joab to fight and destroy the children of Ammon. "But David tarried still at Jerusalem" (2Sam 11:1).

Again we see Joab's wisdom and, his loyalty. When he took the royal city Joab sent messengers to David telling him to gather the rest of the people and take the city: "lest I take the city, and it be called after my name," 2Sam 12:28.

JOAB'S WISDOM OFF THE BATTLE FIELD - Satan provokes David to number Israel. "And Joab answered, The Lord make his people a hundred times so many more as they be: but, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? why then doth my lord require this thing? Why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel? (1st Chron. 21:3).

**JOAB'S WISDOM CONCERNING ABSALOM'S RETURN** - Absalom committed a horrid sin in Israel and fled to Geshur. Yet, Joab perceived that the king's heart was toward Absalom. He sent to Tekoah and fetched a wise woman to speak to David a "**made up**" story about a tragedy in her family. David acted wisely saying he would protect her living son. **Then...**

"...the woman said, Wherefore then hast thou thought such a thing against the people of God? for the king doth speak this thing as one which is faulty, in that the king doth not fetch home again his banished" (2Sam 14:13).

After learning that Joab sent the woman, the king said to Joab, "...Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again," 2 Samuel 14:21.

**JOAB'S WISDOM IN CONFORTING DAVID AFTER ABSALOM'S DEATH** - David utters his well known cry over his sons death: "O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!" (2 Sam 19:4).

When Joab heard of the king's mourning, he came to the house and said, "Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters..." (Verse 5).

"... for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died this day, then it had pleased thee well" (verse 6).

David listened and returned to Jerusalem as King.

**JOAB'S END** - In light of Joab's loyalty to the king and his courageous acts on the battle field, it seems sad that he dies at the hand of Solomon, David's son.

Perhaps, Joab was too caught up in himself; even in the beginning. That was Solomon's thinking. "And the Lord shall return his blood upon his own head, who fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, my father David not knowing thereof, to wit, **Abner** the son of Ner, and **Amasa** the son of Jether, captain of the host of Judah" 2 Kings 2:32.

Joab was a kind of man that did what it took to get the job done. In the end, Joab backed Adonijah as king, along with Abiathar, the priest. It was a choice that ended his wisdom. Adonijah was slain, Abiathar lost his priesthood and was banished and, Solomon ordered that Joab be put to death (1st Kings 2:17-25).

Although, Joab is not listed among the 30 mighty men of the king, he remained a close and obedient servant during all of David's reign. Joab is one of the most interesting; yet, puzzling persons of the Old Testament.