

OT-OV

Lesson 91

1. Last week I finished teaching the book of Second Samuel. We are now ready for an overview of the Book of 1st Kings which begins with the rule of Solomon.
2. Before beginning a study of the Doctrine of Solomon, I want to teach what the Bible says (at least in part) of Abishai, a man who was loyal to David and a great military hero; he is listed as one of the thirty and one of the three mighties.
3. How could we neglect such a man.

The Doctrine of Abishai

1. A grandson of Jesse and cousin of David, being the son of David's half sister Zeruah who bore three sons, Abishai, Joab, and Asahel.

1Ch 2:16 Whose sisters were Zeruah, and Abigail. And the sons of Zeruah; Abishai, and Joab, and Asahel, three.

2. Abishai appears to have been a capable soldier completely devoted to David as the Lord's anointed. In (1Sa 26:6-9)

1Sa 26:6 Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee.

1Sa 26:7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him.

1Sa 26:8 Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.

1Sa 26:9 And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?

3. Abishai went with David by night into the camp of the sleeping Saul and was restrained from killing Saul.
4. He joined his brother Joab in pursuing the hapless Abner, who was forced to kill their brother Asahel during a skirmish.

2Sa 2:18 And there were three sons of Zeruah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel was as light of foot as a wild roe.

2Sa 2:19 And Asahel pursued after Abner; and in going he turned not to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner.

2Sa 2:20 Then Abner looked behind him, and said, Art thou Asahel? And he answered, I am.

2Sa 2:21 And Abner said to him, Turn thee aside to thy right hand or to thy left, and lay thee hold on one of the young men, and take thee his armor. But Asahel would not turn aside from following of him.

2Sa 2:22 And Abner said again to Asahel, Turn thee aside from following me: wherefore should I smite thee to the ground? how then should I hold up my face to Joab thy brother?

2Sa 2:23 Howbeit he refused to turn aside: wherefore Abner with the hinder end of the spear smote him under the fifth rib, that the spear came out behind him; and he fell down there, and died in the same place: and it came to pass, that as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still.

5. There are numerous examples of Abishai's devotion to David and his character as a military hero.

5.1 Facing the Ammonites and the Syrians before and behind, Joab divided his army giving his brother Abishai the less heroic warriors to fight Ammon while Joab fought the Syrians; both experienced victory.

2Sa 10:8 And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate: and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ishtob, and Maacah, were by themselves in the field.

2Sa 10:9 When Joab saw that the front of the battle was against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice men of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians:

2Sa 10:10 And the rest of the people he delivered into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put them in array against the children of Ammon.

2Sa 10:11 And he said, 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.

2Sa 10:12 Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good.

2Sa 10:13 And Joab drew nigh, and the people that were with him, unto the battle against the Syrians: and they fled before him.

2Sa 10:14 And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, then fled they also before Abishai, and entered into the city. So Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem.

5.2 It took an army and the forceful General Abishai to slay 18,000 Edomites in the valley of salt and put up garrisons in Edom.

1Ch 18:12 Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruiah slew of the Edomites in the valley of salt eighteen thousand.

1Ch 18:13 And he put garrisons in Edom; and all the Edomites became David's servants. Thus the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

6. He was wholly the soldier in his thinking; treason deserved death. When the Benjamite Shimei cursed the exiled David, Abishai wanted to slay him immediately. "Why should this dead dog curse my lord my king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head."

6.1 David looked on this misfortune as of the Lord (2Sa 16:7-14). Later, (2Sa 19:21) when David forgave Shimei, once again it was Abishai who called for execution.

7. Abishai commanded one of the three regiments of David's army-in-exile which brought the Absalom rebellion to a swift conclusion.

8. In the Sheba rebellion, Joab and Abishai took command from their ill-chosen cousin Amasa and pursued after the rebel to the frontier settlement Abel-beth-maachah, whence Sheba's head was thrown over the wall to them (2Sa 20).

9. In David's later years Abishai delivered the king out of the hand of a Philistine giant, after which David no longer went out to battle.

2Sa 21:15 Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David waxed faint.

2Sa 21:16 And Ishbibenob, which was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David.

2Sa 21:17 But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succored him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David swore unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel.

10. According to 2Sa 23:15-18, Abishai seems to have been the leader of the three mighty men who risked their lives to bring David a drink from the well in Bethlehem. Here also we are told he slew 300 with his spear.

2Sa 23:15 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!

2Sa 23:16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, 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.

2Sa 23:17 And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.

2Sa 23:18 And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief among three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, and slew them, and had the name among three.

11. The only negative in the Scripture concerning Abishai is found in 2Sa 3:37-39. David recognizes that Joab and Abishai are out of control.

2Sa 3:37 For all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner.

2Sa 3:38 And the king said unto his servants, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?

2Sa 3:39 And I am this day weak, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah be too hard for me: the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness.

12. And now we are ready for the Book of 1st Kings, 2nd Kings, 1Chronicles and 2nd Chronicles. These books will cover a genealogy of Israel, a summary of David's rule, Solomon and his rule over David's undivided Empire and 19 Kings ruling Israel and 20 Kings ruling Judah.

12.1 1st Kings - The book was written between 588 to 536 B.C. by some Jewish captive living in the area of Babylon. This book is a history of several Kings of Israel. Jewish tradition regards Ezra as the author.

12.2 2nd Kings - The book was written between 588 and 536 B.C. by some Jewish captive living in the area of Babylon. Again Jewish tradition regards Ezra as the author. It begins with Ahab's death and ends with Zedekiah's painful exile to Babylon.

12.3 1st Chronicles - Based on the internal evidence of the Book we can reasonably conclude it was written somewhere between 500 B.C. and 450 B.C. by Ezra. The book begins with a genealogy of Israel and ends with the death of David.

12.4 2nd Chronicles - We do not know as a certainty when and by whom the book is written. Based on the internal evidence of the Book we can reasonably conclude it was written somewhere between 500 B.C. and 450 B.C. by Ezra. The Book begins with a recount of Solomon's reign and ends with Cyrus' authorization to return to the land.

13. The best way to begin our study is to review the Doctrine of Solomon.

Solomon

1. The name of Solomon occurs 300 times in the OT and 12 times in the NT.

1.1 Examples of New Testament uses are:

Mat 1:6 And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Uriah;

Mat 1:7 And Solomon begat Rehoboam; and Rehoboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;

Mat 6:29 "And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Luk 12:27 "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Luk 11:31 "The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here."

Joh 10:23 And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.

Acts 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch).

2. The colonnade of Herod's temple known as Solomon's porch was a covered walk along the east side of the court of the Temple (Joh 10:23; Acts 3:11; 5:12; Jos Ant. xv. 11; xx.9.7). It was here in Solomon's porch that teachers and rabbis would seat themselves with their backs to one of the pillars and instruct the people seated in front of the teachers in a circle. (Joh 10:23; Acts 3:11; 5:12)

3. Solomon, the "man of sunset and shadows," was the second son of David by Bathsheba.

2Sa 12:24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him;

3.1 Their first son died soon after birth. (2Sa 12:18)

2Sa 12:18 On the seventh day the child died. David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, "While the child was still living, we spoke to David but he would not listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate."

2Sa 12:19 David noticed that his servants were whispering among themselves and he realized the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" he asked. "Yes," they replied, "he is dead."

2Sa 12:20 Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.

2Sa 12:21 His servants asked him, "Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!"

2Sa 12:22 He answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.'

2Sa 12:23 But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

3.2 Solomon was the fourth son born to King David in Jerusalem. (2Sa 5:14)

2Sa 5:14 These are the names of the children born to him there at Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

2Sa 5:15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia,

2Sa 5:16 Elishama, Eliada and Eliphelet.

3.3 The third king of Israel, Solomon reigned for 40 years. (960-922 B.C.)

4. He was also known as Jedidiah, meaning "beloved of Jehovah."

2Sa 12:25 and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

5. Early Life:

5.1 Little is known of the early life of Solomon.

5.2 He was the son of King David's wife Bathsheba, an intelligent, charming woman who wielded tremendous influence over the king and exerted power in the court.

5.2.1 Bathsheba was also a great woman of doctrine and the granddaughter of the very influential Ahithophel, her dad being the great general and war hero Eliam.

End Lesson