

A Soldier to Remember

“Be A Man about it”

2 Samuel 23:20-22

20 **Benaiah** *was* the son of **Jehoiada**, the son of a **valiant man** from Kabzeel, who had done **many deeds**.

He had **killed** two **lion-like heroes** of **Moab**. He also had **gone down** and **killed** a **lion** in the **midst of a pit** on a **snowy day**.

21 **And he killed an Egyptian**, a **spectacular** man. The **Egyptian** *had* a **spear in his hand**; so he **went down** to him **with a staff**, *wrestled the*

*spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and **killed him** with *his own spear*.*

22 **These *things*** Benaiah the son of Jehoiada **did**, and **won a name** among **three mighty men**.

Introduction:

Every now and then when we come to the scripture we have a desire to look for **warriors** who build for us a memoir worth following.

Today we want to study a man who has demonstrated that he is more than an average leader.

He is truly a model for us of what it looks like to be passionate about leadership...

He is a faithful **soldier** who models what it looks like to constantly deal with the three enemies of the church.

1. The enemy of the world
2. The enemy of the flesh
3. And the Satanic foe who all simultaneously launch attacks against the children of the living God.

We are grateful today for examples like His... ... so let us re-examine this person and find out how we too can be victorious in this fallen world.

Background:

Our hero of today is a man named **Benaiah**! He is a warrior under the leadership of King David.

He has a track record of faithfully serving the king, loving the king, and protecting all that the king was ruling over.

- He is a soldier to remember.
- He is a man to immolate, support, celebrate and look up too.
- He is a warrior with a resume and everyone in the neighborhood knew who he was and what he did on behalf of the king.

Can I introduce you to him?

There are three things I want to show you about this man....

Let's look at **Benaiah's Pedigree** as a soldier, **Benaiah's Prowess** as a soldier and **Benaiah's Power** as a soldier.

I. Benaiah's Pedigree

²⁰ **Benaiah** *was* the son of **Jehoiada**, the *son of a valiant man* from Kabzeel, who had done **many deeds**.

He had **killed** two **lion-like heroes** of **Moab**. He also had **gone down** and **killed** a **lion** in the **midst of a pit** on a **snowy day**.

Note:

When we arrive at this portion of the narrative we learn that Benaiah was the son

of **Jehoiada**, a Hebrew-father and true warrior himself....

He was from the hood of Kabzeel,
[Southern ghetto on the South -side of Judah] It was affectionately known as the gathering place!

Jehoiada had a reputation for putting in work against the enemies of that day....

As a daddy he was no Joke. He was known in the hood. He could “sling those things with the best of men...”

He could’ve been a shot caller and a baller according to the record.

The text is telling us that **Benaiah** *was born into a reputation, and had a name that preceded him before he got here....*

Can I say some more...

Benaiah was a man who did not have a record of hundreds of kills, but rather a he had a record of distinct feats of bravery, and leadership!

His **bravado** and **warfare** mark for us an intimate look into the life of a leader.

The first thing we learn about him in the biblical text is that he is a **fierce-fighter**, protector, warrior and defender of the kingdom.

The bible describes him like this.... “He had **killed** two **lion-like heroes** of **Moab**.”

Notice:

These killings are unlike any other...he was matched up against two of Israel's greatest enemies....**the Moabites**.

They were a ruthless people and they are known in the scriptures to **represent the flesh** and the **carnal nature** of man...

The moabites were descendants of Lot, and the offspring of the incestuous relationship from him and his daughters....

Anytime you read about the moabites they give you a picture of those who are living in **rebellion against God!**

Therefore this particular battle can also be looked at as a the mighty man of God in a battle with the flesh!

Look at it again...

The text says that it was **two ‘lion-like men’... That means they were ferocious killers both capable of doing harm to Benaiah**

These men were operating from the disposition to do harm, to kill and destroy...

They really represent the **evil desires of the flesh**, positioned to war against the child of God with the intent to destroy....

In other words **Benaiah** was in the fight of his life...

Question:

Is there anybody here that knows that your flesh is like two killers...always ready to assassinate...devour...attack...and destroy the witness, the walk, and the work of the christian?

Benaiah, had a fight on his hand...but, according to the word, he defeated the Moabites...

- He got victory over the enemy of his soul.
- He was able to deliver himself from the lurking evil that was opposed to him.
- Because he did the text names his victory...

Did you catch it?

The bible is trying to teach us that he was one of Davids mighty men, because he had victory over the flesh....

Here it is....

He could handle the most diabolical attack of his nature and live a life of service and victory unto the King.

He was incredibly brave as a soldier in the kings army...

He was the kind of soldier the king could depend on.

We have looked at **Benaiah's pedigree**, as a soldier. Let's look now at **Benaiah's prowess** as a soldier.

II. Benaiah's Prowess

²⁰ **Benaiah** *was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds.*

He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab.

He also had **gone down** and **killed a lion** in the **midst of a pit** on a **snowy day**.

Notice:

According to this second portion of the text, we see **the prowess** of the man called **Benaiah**.

The word prowess means, to have a certain **skill or expertise** in a **particular activity or field**, and to **have bravery** in battle...

In other words there was no soldier like **Benaiah**. He was skilled at what he did and he was exceptionally brave, in life-threatening situations.

Can I turn the light on for you?

The background of this particular act is not given to us by the writer of this book, so I am left to have to use **my sanctified imagination, to fill in the gaps...**

Perhaps he was serving watch over David's shepherds of Israel, and trying to keep the Kings sheep safe from predators...

It was not uncommon for shepherds to set traps to capture and destroy vicious prey in order to keep their flocks safe from devour....

...AND Perhaps this event happened during the winter hunting seasons, when lions would make their way into pastures to try and get sheep for their devour

I don't know how this Lion fell into the pit, but I am **assuming** that he did so because **the pit was a trap** and it was a trap set by a hunter....

A hunter, who was warrior-shepherd trying to protect his flock...

Here it is...

When Benaiah saw that the shepherds of the King had captured the Lion, according to the text he did what was necessary to **protect the kings shepherds and flocks...**

He went **down** into the pit.....and **killed** a **lion** on a **snowy day**.

Observation:

Here is where and why the author of the book tells this narrative about **Benaiah**...

As a leader in David's army he has a victory that no body has ever captured....

1. No other warriors have this story...
2. No other warriors risked their life on a snowy day, fighting in a snowy pit with a **Carnivorous cat!**
3. No other warriors had a reputation like this...

The text doesn't say how he killed it, or with what he used to kill it...all it says is that he

jumped into the pit...with a vicious lion....
{the king of the jungle} and killed it

Benaiah was courageous.... His prowess is
second to none....

- This took total commitment.
- This took total confidence.
- This took total creativity.
- This took total concern and care.
- This took total calling and conviction.

This took every thing he had to complete
this mission!

Anything could've happened as he fought in
the snow....

- One slip and the fight could change...
One slip and the lion could get
advantage...
- One slip and the warrior could be history...
- One slip and the mouth of the lion could
devour Benaiah...

But, because he was a warrior and fearless
of the enemy....

He would be victorious...

- This makes him a man to remember!
- This makes him a man to immolate!
- This makes him a man to follow!
- This makes him a man to identify with!
- This makes him a man to think about!

- This makes him a man to resemble!
- This makes him a man who could model the way!
- This makes him a man of sacrifice.
- This makes him a man of principle.
- This makes him a man ready to be a man.
- This makes him a man who could hold his own.
- This makes him a man who wasn't afraid to be a man.
- This makes him a man who took risk.
- This makes him a man who fought off enemies.

- This makes him a man who stood alone, thought alone, took the heat alone, and got the victory alone....

Application:

We can learn a lot from this man...

The kingdom of heaven needs a man like this.

We need some fathers who are willing to jump in the pits for their families and do battle with the evil one....

We need some fathers who are willing to jump in the pit to slay the satanic lies of the evil one...

We need some fathers who are willing to jump in the pit to fight off the satanic suggestions in your minds...

- **We need some fathers** who are willing to jump in the pit and kill the **satanic text messages** subtly sent by the serpent...
 - **We need some fathers who are lion killers.....**
 - **We need to hear it in their preaching...**
 - **We need to hear it in their praying...**
 - **We need to hear it in their teaching...**
- ...and **we need to see it in their leading** while they are serving God's People despite us being in a global pandemic?

Can I get a witness?

We have looked at **Benaiah's pedigree** as a soldier...and **Benaiah's prowess** as a

soldier. Let me show you now **Benaiah's power** as a soldier.

III. Benaiah's Power

21 And he killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man. The Egyptian *had* a spear in his hand; so he went down to him with a staff, *wrestled the* spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.

Note:

When we come to this final portion of the text....the Bible say's that he had one more victorious battle he was known for...

This battle is different from the other two....

- It too was a face to face conflict...
- It too was a hand to hand battle...
- It too was an up close struggle with the enemy of his soul....
- It was another report of intimate warfare....

This was no ordinary enemy....

This was with a specialized killer...who was specialized in murder...

He is from the country of **Egypt**, which is symbolic in bible comparisons to the worldliness that opposes the christian...

Here it is...

It is a significant picture of the warrior engaged in warfare against that which

desires to kill every
believer....WORLDLINESS!

Did you catch it?

- Worldliness threatens every believer everyday.
- Worldliness makes you deny God and give your flesh what it wants...
- Worldliness makes you do what the culture says you should do instead of what the Spirit demands that you do...
- Worldliness makes you want what God hates.....
- Worldliness is the enemy of the child of God...

Can I turn the light on right here?

Dr. E.K Bailey said...

“Worldliness makes you go in debt... to buy stuff you don’t need... to impress people you don’t like... [I believe that’s right]

The text says ...

- **This Egyptian was Spectacular ...**
- He was exceptional....there was no enemy like him....
- He was in a class all by himself...
- He had never been beaten...and everybody knew how bad of a brutha he was...

*And the text says he had a **spear in his hand;***

Secondly, we discover, that he had a skill using his weapon, and was prepared to kill Benaiah....

Here it is....

Worldliness is just like this....

Wordliness against the believer is skilled at doing you harm...

Don't fool yourself...

- It takes skill... to kill the christian desire to obey God...
- It takes skill... to kill the christian faith and turn them against God...
- It takes skill... to oppose the heart of the believer and cause them to turn on the people of God.

- It takes skill... to make the christian forsake the word of God.
- It takes skill... to make the christian rebel against God and disobey the Holy spirit.
- Worldliness is incredibly powerful and even spectacular to witness when its in full effect!

Can I say some more?

The text says..... “**Benaiah went down** to him **with a staff**, *wrestled the spear out of the Egyptian’s hand*, and **killed him** with *his own spear*.

Notice:

Because the Egyptian was skilled with a spear...Benaiah took a weapon of his own

choice and went down to do battle with him....

The bible said that he took a **staff**....

[**shepherds stick**] and he wrestled the spear out of the Egyptians hand, and Killed him with his own spear.....

Here it is...

Because of Benaiahs skill, power, training, courage, and knowledge of warfare he was able to defeat the enemy of his soul.... **with a Shepherds stick!**

Can I get a witness?

Don't misunderstand the power of the stick!

It was the stick that knocked the spear out of his hands....

It was the stick that disarmed the Egyptian...

It was the stick that defeated him.....

God has been using sticks since the beginning of time to make a difference in the lives of his people in the midst of warfare....

Moses had a stick, that brought misery to the Egyptians....

David had a stick that brought misery to his enemies....

Jesus had a stick that defeated Satan, the flesh and the world...

The Cross is the stick of Victory that still works when your tempted with worldliness...

[Can I get a witness]

Don't underestimate the power of the stick.....

Application:

What the church needs today is a few men who still go to the stick!

What the church needs today is a few Men who know how to wield the stick...

What the church needs today is a few Men who would lay down their lives with the stick!

What the church needs today is a few Men who would go to battle in honor of the king...

We need a few men who know how to fight with the stick to defeat **worldliness** in the hearts of believers....

I'm closing now....

The final thing I learned about this brother is that his name was fitting for the office that he held in the kings army....

You see his name means “**the Lord has built it**”....[Benaiah]

- Its the name of conclusion...
- Its the name of assurance...
- Its the name of affirmation....
- Its the name that says, **the Lord has affirmed** the work and put his stamp on it...

I stopped by to tell you that what the lord needs in the house today are some **Benaiah's** who can handle the ministry....

“The Lord has done this”.....

1. God is still calling **Benaiah's** who can fight the twin towers of the flesh....
2. God is still calling **Benaiah's** who can defeat the evil one in the pit....
3. God is still calling **Benaiah's** who can slay worldliness when it comes against the soul.....
4. God is still calling **Benaiah's** who can model sacrificial leadership...
5. God is still calling **Benaiah's** who you could appreciate...

6. God is still calling **Benaiah's** who can strengthen the brotherhood...
7. God is still calling **Benaiah's** who can be a true warrior ...
8. God is still calling **Benaiah's** who can imitate Jesus in every area of his life....
9. God is still calling **Benaiah's** who can handle the stick.....

Here it is....

There ought to be some evidence in this house today.... of his pedigree... his prowess and his power....

...Where are the Benaiahs today...?

Every time they preach, he uses the stick...

I've heard him say....

One Friday on a hill call Calvary, Jesus died....

[On the stick] He set us free...

The Cross is the stick of Victory that still works when your tempted with worldliness...

- He died on the stick to give you victory!
- He died on the stick, to give you power!
- He died on the stick to get you access to God!
- He died on the stick to defeat all of your enemies!

And after the stick... he went into the tomb and conquered death, hell and the grave.

...And early Sunday morning he rose with
all power of heaven and earth in his
hands....

**He left us the stick... to use in the battle
for our souls....**