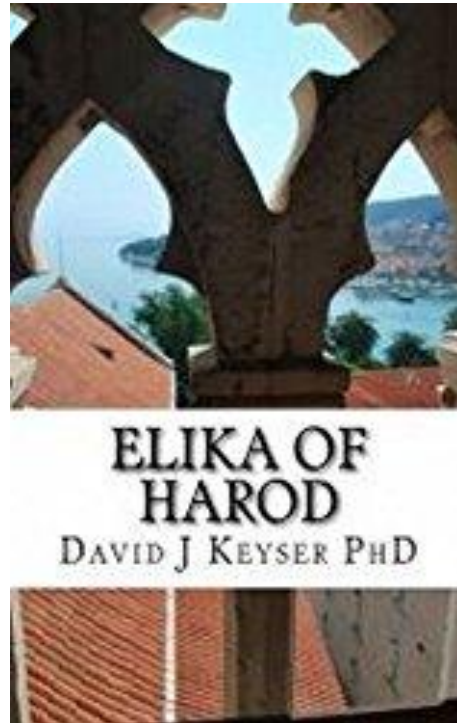


Elika Of Harod: Biblical Fiction
138 Pages - Print \$9.95 – eBook \$4.95
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B008G2LV66>
© David J. Keyser PhD 2015 All Right Reserved



This book is not actually about Elika of Harod, it is fictitiously written BY Elika. It is about King David and his family and his mighty men. David and all around him are but a foreshadow of the Messiah and His eternal and earthly kingdoms. Elika is merely the story teller here.

Elika Of Harod was one of the Mighty Men of King David of Israel, David the warrior king.

Elika is listed as one of the Mighty Men in II Samuel. In I Chronicles, which was compiled later, he is omitted. Did he fall from favor with the young king? This fictionalized account is fascinating.

David Ben Jesse, King of Israel, had 37 mighty men and numerous relatives. This is a fictionalized account of the people and events of David's time based on scripture in the form of the diary of one of the mighty, Elika of Harod.

The Players In This Sacred Drama

- 1-Aleph-The King's Mighty Men
- 2-Beth- The King's Siblings
- 3-Gimel- The King's Wives
- 4-Daleth- The King's Children
- 5-He- The King's Allies
- 6-Vau- The Aliens

Important Stories

- 7-Zain- Destiny
- 8-Cheth- Glory
- 9-Teth- Trials
- 10-Jod- The King's End
- 11-Caph- The New King

1-Aleph- David's Mighty Men

- 1. Joab, The Captain Of The Host
The Three
- 2. Adino, The Chief Captain
- 3. Eleazar
- 4. Shammah

The Two

- 5. Abishai, Captain Of The Thirty (Joab's Brother)
- 6. Benaiah – Captain of the Guard

The Others

- 7. Asahel (Joab's Brother)
- 8. Elhannan
- 9. Shammah of Harodite
- 10 Elika the Harodite, Myself
- 11.Helez
- 12.Ira, the Tekoite
- 13.Abiezer
- 14.Mebunnai
- 15.Zalmon
- 16.Maharai
- 17.Heleb
- 18.Ittai
- 19.Benaiah, the Pirathonite
- 20.Hiddai
- 21.Abi-albon

22. Azmaveth
23. Eliahba
24. Jonathan
25. Shammah, the Haraitite
26. Ahiam
27. Eliphelet (not David's son)
28. Eliam
29. Hezro
30. Paarai
31. Igal
32. Bani
33. Zelek
34. Naharai
35. Ira, the Ithrite
36. Gareb
37. Uriah

2-Beth- The King's Siblings

The Sons of Jesse (David's Brothers)

1. Eliab
2. Abinadab
3. Shimma or Shammah, and his son Jonathan.
4. Nethanel
5. Raddai
6. Ozem
7. David Himself, the youngest.

3-The Daughters of Jesse (David's Sisters)

1. Zeruah and three sons, Abishai, Joab, Asahel, The "hard" brothers.
2. Abigail and a son Amasa.

4-Gimel- The King's Principal Wives

1. Michal, Princess of Israel, Daughter of Saul.
2. Ahinoam of Jezreel
3. Abigail widow of Nabal of Carmel
4. Maacah, Princess, daughter of Talmai King of Geshur,
5. Haggith
6. Abital
7. Eglah
8. Bathsheba

5-Daleth- The King's Children

-Those born in Hebron-

1. Amnon, son of Ahinoam
2. Chileab, son of Abigail widow of Nabal of Carmel.
3. Absalom, son of the Princess Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, King of Geshur.
4. Adonijah, son of Haggith.
5. Shephatiah, son of Abital.
6. Ithream, son of Eglah.

-Those born in Jerusalem-

7. Shammuah or Shimea, the son of Bathsheba the widow of Uriah the Hittite whom David ordered killed in battle. The baby died at birth by the judgment of God.
8. Solomon, son of Bathsheba.
9. Shobab, son of Bathsheba.
10. Nathan, son of Bathsheba.
11. Eliphelet, who died in infancy.
12. Eliphelet II
13. Ibhaz
14. Elishua
15. Nepheg
16. Japhia
17. Elishama
18. Eliada or Beeliada
19. Nogah
20. Tamar, a daughter of the Princess Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, King of Geshur

ALEPH - THE KING'S MIGHTY MEN

I, Elika of Harod, joined David Ben Jesse in the hills of Ziph when the second group went out to him. I did not go with the first 400 because, at that time, I thought them to be rascals. I went with the 200, we thought we were better, but he soon taught us otherwise. I was with him as he fled from King Saul. I stayed with him in the wilderness. I was there when he began to reign over Judah at Hebron. I was there seven and a half years later when all Israel came to make him King over them; what a glorious day that was. I went out with him during Absalom's rebellion and returned with him after the boy was killed. I stood with Nathan the prophet and the warriors when Adonijah tried for the throne and that with my Lord David on his deathbed; I stood although my joints cried out with pain as I got from my own bed to stand the last time for his will. Now Solomon reigns and I am old. He does not favor me; I shall probably be forgotten.

I record here my personal remembrances of this great King and soul. I also record some instances concerning others who surrounded us. I do not bring hearsay to these pages. I set down as fact only those things told to me by trustworthy witnesses; such as Sarah, the wife of my youth, the lady Abigail and a few of my fellow warriors. Much information came to me, I pass on only a portion. However, the reader will probably view this largely as the scribal wanderings of a tired old man. Perhaps I have become a frustrated cleric in my dotage.

I remember the first time that I met the King. He was young and powerful and graceful. He had, as he always did, a ruddy head and beard. You could always find him in the masses with that redness in his hair. He greeted me with a smile that day, me a dissident debtor in search for a leader I could believe in. His smile was sincere, disarming and almost innocent. I knew from this first encounter that I would follow this man all of my life. At first I wondered if he had really been anointed by Samuel. By the time I was sure of this I no longer cared.

ALEPH - THE KING'S MIGHTY MEN

Adino was the first to start referring to David as the King. I suppose that many of us had this thought and desire for some time. We did not understand why Samuel did not do more to establish David as the King of Israel. Was he not the King maker? the prophet of the most High God? Adino and Eleazar and Benaiah had come with the first four hundred. Some said that they were the first after David's family to come or even that they came with Shammah and his other brothers at the very beginning.

Adino was dark and swarthy; taller than most but not as tall as Saul. He was, I would say, a whole head taller than David himself. He was thickly built and powerful and carried himself with a great confidence. It was rumored that he did not come after David because he was in debt or beleaguered by King Saul. He came, it was said, from a satisfied and stable situation with the

simple and true desire to make David King over Israel. No one knew how he first heard of David or what occasioned his joining him. Adino did not often share his thoughts with any man. Adino approached battle as farmer approached his fields or a vine dresser approached his vineyard. He merely strapped on his armor, picked up his weapon and departed for battle as a man leaves for work. Usually he would use a sword, sometimes a broad spear or even a battle ax, there seemed to be no reasoning as to why he picked the weapon that he did. But whichever weapon, it always was most effective against the enemy.

One reason that Adino was always so effective in battle was because he always slept well the night before the battle. Many of us would do well if we were taken by surprise and had to fight. But if we knew that we might die in the morning, most of us did not sleep at all. Such was not the case with Adino. It was as if he knew; knew that he would live, knew that he would be victorious, and knew that David would be King. It always seemed to me that in Adino's mind David was already King.

It was at a captain's meeting when we were fugitives from King Saul that I first heard Adino say it. Most of us were advising an early frontal attack on the Philistines, but David could not hear it. Tempers began to rise but no one wanted to openly defy David. I remember David leaning back in his camp chair and looking at all of us. Adino rose slowly, purposefully.

"Very well, my King. We do it your way," he said. David did not move. Not even his eyes moved. It seemed that he stopped breathing for an instant. Everyone was very silent.

Then Eleazar stood, then Shammah, Joab, Abishai, then others including myself until we all stood. It was very peaceful in the camp.

David finally leaned forward over the sheep skin map before him on the small table and pointing to a hill and wadi with his dagger gave his strategy. Then followed questions, answers, agreement.

From that day it was settled in everyone's mind and heart. Right or wrong we were following David. Either to the throne or to the grave. Some days it did not seem to matter which. When the sun was broiling you in your armor and you were wounded and bleeding and had a terrible thirst, you just went on because you knew of nothing else to do.

Also, from that day on most slept the night before a battle. Death no longer frightened us. I now think that I understand why this was so. In the first place we were confident that each of us would not die until our mission was fulfilled. Then we would be content to sleep with our fathers. Our goal and our loyalty to our King gave us our sense of purpose and a contentment and a new freedom to be ourselves. I soon began to realize that as long as we were so united we could not be defeated. Deep inside ourselves we knew that we were on Jehovah's side. If Adino had boldly declared David the King of Israel or even just of Judah it would not have been more effective. However, David would probably have rebuked such a declaration while Saul lived. But Adino merely declared David his King. That was allowed. And that we all

could do; for we were masters of our own lives if nothing else and if we wished to declare David our own liege Lord that was the business of each man there.

Shammah and Eleazar soon began the same practice. "Aye, my King," became the usual answer. Then most of us did the same. At first we said it constantly, even over the smallest of matters. But then David would seem displeased. From then on we were careful not to use it too often. The new recruits caught on quickly. In the end, some said that this was how David actually became King, first over Judah and then over all Israel; not by an inheritance or by popular acclaim but by the allegiance of one man at a time. There never was a Kingdom such as this on the face of the earth. How would there ever be another

GIMEL – THE KING’S WIVES

The day David met Abigail the sun was bright. It needed to be else her beauty would have outshone everything else. Samuel had just died and the land was not at rest. The old seer had been the spiritual leader of most of us. He had not judged for years, not since he had anointed Saul King. But that old man heard from God. And we were always hungry to hear those words. Now he was gone and who was to replace him? There was not another like him. Certainly no one would follow Saul in spiritual things. I thought that David could be both King and prophet. But I did not speak it.

In the confusion that was upon the land during the mourning for Samuel David had moved us to the wilderness of Paran. I thought one hill was as good to hide in as another. The fool Nabal was from Maon and kept his many goats and sheep near Carmel. For a long time we had camped near his men. Some weeks they were always in view. Other times we would see them every few days. Because of our presence thieves were afraid to steal from Nabal.

We were very short of supplies. We had taken nothing from Saul's camp when we were there except a piece of his own skirt to show what we could have done. David would not strike him. Some were grumbling that a victory was forfeited and now we had no food for the children's mouths. We had been moving around a great deal and many of us now had women and children to feed. David sent a message to Nabal reminding him of our protection and as King if he would send us some food. Nabal acted in his usual manner. He said that he had no regard for David. That many rebels were leaving their masters these days. Obviously referring to our necessary departure from Saul. He sent no food.

When our messengers returned and told him David got very angry. I did not blame him but it made me uneasy.

"Put on your swords," he roared. "We will put an end to this worthless fellow." And we were off to Carmel. We did not even send the scouts first to locate any of Saul's troops. Some remarked that David was getting reckless.

As we descended and made a bend in the road just outside Carmel David was still complaining against this man. We knew that there would be trouble. Nabal was a dead man and had not learned it yet. Then there was a wondrous sight. There must have been twenty five donkeys loaded with food; bread, hundreds of loaves, wine, roasted grain in sacks, we scooped it out by the handfuls, clusters of raisins and more fig cakes than we could count, and prepared sheep, still warm and succulent smelling. And behind the servants and all this food was Abigail the wife of Nabal.

As soon as she saw David she dismounted her donkey and hurried to kneel before him. None of us could take our eyes from her. She had a great deal of dark brown hair which had a pleasant wavy nature. She was dressed as a rich man's wife who had departed in haste; the old coat was not as fine as her dress and it hung loose and open. She was an excellent figure of a woman, robust and strong. She moved gracefully and with purpose and showed a great deal of womanly humility but at the same time great character. That day she did not smile. We learned later that she did smile often and when she did all around her would smile.

"It was my fault, my lord," she said. "I was not there when your servants came."
David just looked at her and listened. We knew from his eyes that he felt as we did.

"Please listen to me," she begged without seeming to beg. "You are very close to the heart of the Lord, Please don't waste your anger and take your own revenge on a man like Nabal. The servants told me how he acted toward your messengers. And as soon as I heard I brought you this food. Do not take your own revenge, my lord. You are too great a man for that. You will rule all Israel one day. Please remember me when you do."

Then she looked up at him with those large brown eyes. She was very gentle and she did not blink. There was a long silence. I looked at the King; he took a deep breath and became much calmer. He did not take his eyes from her for some time. Then he spoke.

"Thank God you have stopped me woman," David said. "I was proceeding unwisely and in the heat of anger." We were all relieved. We took the food with the donkeys and departed. After we had returned to camp and unloaded David sent the donkeys back.

We heard about two weeks later that Nabal had been told of David's intentions and had died of fear. David sent immediately for Abigail and she came to our camp to stay as his third wife. No matter how discouraged we would get after that her encouragement and her smile would always warm us.