

JOAB: David's General

study #6



THE LIFE OF DAVID: Cultivating a Heart for God

Every king must have a field marshal - a military general who serves as his right-hand man in matters of national defense. In David's time there was tremendous conflict. The Philistines were a constant threat from without. From within, David fought battles against not only Saul's house but against David's own sons as well.

The man who served him for most of his reign was Joab, a blood relative. They were in constant contact for 40 years. What was it like for them to work together? What kind of man was Joab?

MINI-BIO

JOAB: UP CLOSE & PERSONAL !

(Use a Bible Dictionary.)

Joab was the eldest son of... _____, David's... _____.

Therefore, Joab was David's... _____.

Joab was from the tribe of... _____.

Joab's brothers were... _____ & _____.

Extra credit: Joab once lost a battle. *True or False?*

Complete the chart below by reading the appropriate Scripture and making observations:

Major Events in Joab's Life that Reveal His Character

	Passages	What Happened?	Character Traits Revealed
JOAB & Abner	<i>2 Samuel 2 - 3</i>		
JOAB & Absalom	<i>2 Samuel 15 - 19</i>		
JOAB & Amasa	<i>2 Samuel 19 - 20</i>		
JOAB & the Census	<i>2 Samuel 24</i>		
JOAB & Adonijah	<i>1 Kings 1 - 2</i>		

How did Joab rise to power?

What patterns of behavior do you see in Joab's life?

What do you think of Joab's counsel to David in 19:4-7?

Has anyone ever exhorted you in a similar way?

Who would be a modern-day Joab?

If you were going to cast someone to play Joab in a movie, who would you choose?

Would you say that Joab was a man after God's heart?
Why or why not?

“This period of history was harsh and primitive, and Joab was a product of his age. He was a decisive, fearless, and intrepid fighter, and a brilliant military strategist. He served his king and his country devotedly. He was generous and loyal to his friends, but utterly ruthless and vindictive toward his foes. He was not completely devoid of religious sentiment, but it played no decisive part in his conduct. He died as he had lived - by the sword.”

Zondervan Pictorial
Encyclopedia of the Bible

