

# THE MIGHTY PEN & THE MIGHTY MEN

**TEXT:** II Sam.23 (Please read this chapter before continuing.)

**INTRO.:** A. Someone said *"The pen is mightier than the sword."* In this world both are used & necessary. The pen can influence & conquer men's minds. The sword can enslave & capture men's bodies. Both may be used to wage war or peace. Both are the subjects of the passage before us.

B. The first seven verses deal with **"The Mighty Pen"** & the remainder of the chap. deals with **"The Mighty Men"**. With his **"mighty pen"** David speaks prophetically & poetically of the coming Messiah, as well as of his **"mighty men"** who otherwise would have gone unknown & unnoticed.

**TRANS.:** Let's take heed to **the Mighty Pen** of the *"sweet psalmist of Israel"* as he writes...

## I. INSPIRED PROPHECY:

A. Inspired Words: v.1-3

1. All the words of the Bible are both men's words (*"the last words of David"*) & the words of God. v.1-3
2. The word *"said"* (v.1) is the Heb. word *neum* which is used exclusively of divine speaking.
3. V.2 clarifies it even further: God's Spirit & God's servant were both speaking.

**ILLUS.:** Here we have a classic example of the doctrine of inspiration. God is speaking but using David's vocabulary, personality, thoughts & vocal cords (& pen) but they are nonetheless the very words of God!

4. V.2 & 3 speak clearly of the Trinity: *"The Spirit of the Lord...The God of Israel (&)...the Rock of Israel (Christ)."*
5. David also speaks of **"the Divine Right of Kings"** in v.3!

**NOTE:** Any Biblical monarchy must adhere to this principle. All in govt. would be advised to read & heed this statement, for they will give an account to the ultimate King of Kings upon Whose shoulders the govt. ultimately rest.

B. Important Words: v.4-7

1. David speaks of Someone here who shall reign w/out the flaws of his own Kingdom. (v.4,5 *"Although my house be not so w/God...!"*)
2. David then speaks of the *"everlasting covenant"* God had made w/Him

**cf. 2Sam. 7:12** *And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.*

a. Here then are inspired, important words dealing w/that King who shall replace David w/a perfect reign & absolute authority.

**ILLUS.:** The "iron curtain" of the U.S.S.R. is gone, but the *"rod of iron of the Absolute, Benevolent Dictator is yet to come.*

**Is.9:6-7** *6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (KJV)* (My personal favorite verses in God's Word. P.F.)

**Rev.12:5** *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. (KJV)*

**Rev.19:15** *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. (KJV)*

b. David also speaks of the doom of *"the sons of Belial"* or the unbelievers who refuse to submit to the righteous leadership of the King of Kings. v.6,7

**TRANS.:** The focus now shifts from **The Mighty Pen to The Mighty Men**...from the pen to the sword...from prophetic words to heroic deeds...

## II. HEROIC BRAVERY: v.8-39

### A. David's Military Machine:

1. Each month a fresh corps of 24,000 men were appointed to protect & serve the nation; Israel's National Guard! ( a 288,000 man standing army).
2. David also was surrounded by a personal bodyguard - the Cherethites & the Pelethites (their names indicate that they were executioners & couriers).
3. David's "*special forces*" consisted of 400 men who were "*in distress...in debt...& discontented*". **I Sam. 22:2**

**NOTE:** From these ranks David mentions select men whom he refers to as his "*mighty men*"...

### B. David's Mighty Men:

1. The Big Three: v.8-12
  - a. Edino...slew 800 men in one battle... "*chief of the captains*" v.8
  - b. Eleazar...the man who refused to quit. v.9,10
  - c. Shammah...the "pea patch protector" v.11,12

**PRINCIPLE:** These men stood in spite of the overwhelming opposition!

### 2. The Three Valiant Men: v.13-23

- a. This is the "*well of Bethlehem*" incident.
- b. Some suggest that David did not thirst for the literal water of Bethlehem, but for the Messiah who would be born in Bethlehem who would have the water of life!
- c. David felt himself unworthy of such loyalty & directed their devotion to the Lord by pouring out their sacrificial gift.

**PRINCIPLE:** These men stood in spite of exhaustion & because of loyalty.

- d. Abishai, Joab's brother was one of these 3 & slew 300 men. v.18,19
- e. Benaiah the brave, killed two fierce Moabites & slew a lion as well as a giant Egyptian. (7 1/2 ft. tall. I Chrn.11:23) v.20-23

### 3. The Other Mighty Men: v.24ff

- a. The others are mentioned w/out their acts of bravery which entitled them to be listed w/David's heroes.
- b. The common denominator of each was that they STOOD!
- c. They stood though out-numbered, out-muscled and out-maneuvered.

**PRINCIPLE:** These men stood in spite of superior odds.

**CONCL.:** We too are in a battle. May these 3 principles characterize us. We too are to stand in spite of overwhelming opposition, exhaustion & sheer odds. Our loyalty to our Leader & devotion to our King demands we too STAND! "*...and having done all TO STAND!*"

**Eph.6:13** *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (KJV)*