
1CHRONICLES 12: 1 Now these are those who came to David to Ziklag, while he yet kept himself close because of Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men, his helpers in war.

The different persons, captains, etc., who joined themselves to David at Ziklag, vv. 1-22. Those who joined him at Hebron, out of the different tribes; Judah, Simeon, Levi, the house of Aaron, Benjamin, Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, Zebulun, Naphtali, Dan, Asher, Reuben, etc., to the amount of a hundred and twenty thousand, 1Chr 12:23-37. Their unanimity, and the provisions they brought for his support, 1Chr 12:38-40.

Verse 1

Came to David to Ziklag - Achish, king of Gath, had given Ziklag to David, as a safe retreat from the wrath of Saul.

1CHRONICLES 12: 2 They were armed with bows, and could use both the right hand and the left in slinging stones and in shooting arrows from the bow: they were of Saul's brothers of Benjamin.

1CHRONICLES 12: 3 The chief was Ahiezer; then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite, and Jeziel, and Pelet, the sons of Azmaveth, and Beracah, and Jehu the Anathothite,

1CHRONICLES 12: 4 and Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty, and Jeremiah, and Jahaziel, and Johanan, and Jozabad the Gederathite,

1CHRONICLES 12: 5 Eluzai, and Jerimoth, and Bealiah, and Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite,

1CHRONICLES 12: 6 Elkanah, and Isshiah, and Azarel, and Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korahites,

1CHRONICLES 12: 7 and Joelah, and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.

1CHRONICLES 12: 8 Of the Gadites there separated themselves to David to the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for war, that could handle shield and spear; whose faces were like the faces of lions, and they were as swift as the roes on the mountains;

Verse 8

And were as swift as the roes - That swiftness was considered to be a grand accomplishment in a warrior, appears from all ancient writings which treat of military affairs.

1CHRONICLES 12: 9 Ezer the chief, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third,

1CHRONICLES 12: 10 Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,

1CHRONICLES 12: 11 Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,

1CHRONICLES 12: 12 Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,

1CHRONICLES 12: 13 Jeremiah the tenth, Machbannai the eleventh.

1CHRONICLES 12: 14 These of the sons of Gad were captains of the army: he who was least was equal to one hundred, and the greatest to one thousand.

1CHRONICLES 12: 15 These are those who went over the Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all its banks; and they put to flight all them of the valleys, both toward the east, and toward the west.

Verse 15

In the first month - Perhaps this was the month Nisan, which answers to a part of our March and April. This was probably before the snows on the mountains were melted, just as Jordan began to overflow its banks; or if we allow that it had already overflowed its banks, it made their attempt more hazardous, and afforded additional proof of their heroism.

1CHRONICLES 12: 16 There came of the children of Benjamin and Judah to the stronghold to David.

1CHRONICLES 12: 17 David went out to meet them, and answered them, "If you have come peaceably to me to help me, my heart shall be knit to you; but if you have come to betray me to my adversaries, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers see this and rebuke it."

1CHRONICLES 12: 18 Then the Spirit came on Amasai, who was chief of the thirty, and he said, "We are yours, David, and on your side, you son of Jesse: peace, peace be to you, and peace be to your helpers; for your God helps you." Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.

Verse 18

The spirit came upon Amasai - "The spirit of fortitude clothed Amasai, the chief of the mighty men; and he answered, For thy sake, O David, are we come, that we may be with thee, thou son of Jesse.

Prosperity be to thee by night and by day; and prosperity be to thy helpers; for the Word of the Lord is thy assistant." - T.

1CHRONICLES 12: 19 Of Manasseh also there fell away some to David, when he came with the Philistines against Saul to battle; but they didn't help them; for the lords of the Philistines sent him away after consultation, saying, "He will fall away to his master Saul to the jeopardy of our heads."

1CHRONICLES 12: 20 As he went to Ziklag, there fell to him of Manasseh, Adnah, and Jozabad, and Jediahel, and Michael, and Jozabad, and Elihu, and Zillethai, captains of thousands who were of Manasseh.

1CHRONICLES 12: 21 They helped David against the band of rovers: for they were all mighty men of valor, and were captains in the army.

1CHRONICLES 12: 22 For from day to day men came to David to help him, until there was a great army, like the army of God.

Verse 22

Like the host of God - "That is, a very numerous army; like the army of the angel of God." - T.

1CHRONICLES 12: 23 These are the numbers of the heads of those who were armed for war, who came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the LORD's word.

Verse 23

And came to David to Hebron - That is, after the death of Ish-bosheth, Saul's son. See 2Sam 4:5.

1CHRONICLES 12: 24 The children of Judah who bore shield and spear were six thousand and eight hundred, armed for war.

1CHRONICLES 12: 25 Of the children of Simeon, mighty men of valor for the war, seven thousand and one hundred.

1CHRONICLES 12: 26 Of the children of Levi four thousand and six hundred.

1CHRONICLES 12: 27 Jehoiada was the leader of the household of Aaron; and with him were three thousand and seven hundred,

Verse 27

Jehoiada was the leader of the Aaronites - Abiathar was then high priest, and Jehoiada captain over the warriors of the house of Aaron.

1CHRONICLES 12: 28 and Zadok, a young man mighty of valor, and of his father's house twenty-two captains.

1CHRONICLES 12: 29 Of the children of Benjamin, the brothers of Saul, three thousand: for hitherto the greatest part of them had kept their allegiance to the house of Saul.

1CHRONICLES 12: 30 Of the children of Ephraim twenty thousand eight hundred, mighty men of valor, famous men in their fathers' houses.

1CHRONICLES 12: 31 Of the half-tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, who were mentioned by name, to come and make David king.

1CHRONICLES 12: 32 Of the children of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their heads were two hundred; and all their brothers were at their commandment.

Verse 32

Children of Issachar - According to the Targum they were all astronomers and astrologers: "and the sons of Issachar, who had understanding to know the times, and were skilled in fixing the beginnings of years, the commencement of months, and the intercalation of months and years; skillful in the changes of the moon, and in fixing the lunar solemnities to their proper times; skillful also in the doctrine of the solar periods; astrologers in signs and stars, that they might show Israel what to do; and their teachers were two hundred chiefs of the Sanhedrin: and all their brethren excelled in the words of the law, and were endued with wisdom, and were obedient to their command." - T. It appears that in their wisdom, experience, and skill, their brethren had the fullest confidence; and nothing was done but by their direction and advice.

1CHRONICLES 12: 33 Of Zebulun, such as were able to go out in the army, who could set the battle in array, with all kinds of instruments of war, fifty thousand, and who could command and were not of double heart.

1CHRONICLES 12: 34 Of Naphtali one thousand captains, and with them with shield and spear thirty-seven thousand.

1CHRONICLES 12: 35 Of the Danites who could set the battle in array, twenty-eight thousand six hundred.

1CHRONICLES 12: 36 Of Asher, such as were able to go out in the army, who could set the battle in array, forty thousand.

1CHRONICLES 12: 37 On the other side of the Jordan, of the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and of the half-tribe of Manasseh, with all kinds of instruments of war for the battle, one hundred twenty thousand.

1CHRONICLES 12: 38 All these being men of war, who could order the battle array, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king.

1CHRONICLES 12: 39 They were there with David three days, eating and drinking; for their brothers had made preparation for them.

Verse 39

They were with David three days - These were the deputies of the different people mentioned here: it is not possible that all the thousands mentioned above could have feasted with David for three days; and yet it appears there was even of these a great number, for the men of Issachar, Zebulun, and Naphtali, who were nearest to this place of rendezvous, had brought all the necessaries for such a feast. From the whole it appears most evident that the great majority of the tribes of Israel wished to see the kingdom confirmed in the hands of David; nor was there ever in any country a man more worthy of the public choice. As a statesman, warrior, hero, poet, and divine, he stands unrivalled in the annals of the world: by him alone were the Israelites raised to a pitch of the highest splendor; and their name became a terror to their enemies, and a praise in the earth. But, alas, how are the mighty now fallen!

1CHRONICLES 12: 40 Moreover those who were near to them, as far as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on donkeys, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, food of meal, cakes of figs, and clusters of raisins, and wine, and oil, and cattle, and sheep in abundance: for there was joy in Israel.
