

1 Chronicles 12:1-40 **Growth of David's armies**

Growth of David's Army (1 Samuel 22:1,4)

These came to David at Ziklag

1 Now **these were the men who came to David at Ziklag** while he was still a fugitive from Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men, helpers in the war, **2** armed with bows, using both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows with the bow. They were of **Benjamin**, Saul's brethren.

3 The chief was Ahiezer, then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; Jeziel and Pelet the sons of Azmaveth; Berachah, and Jehu the Anathothite; **4** Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty; Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, and Jozabad the Gederathite; **5** Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite; **6** Elkanah, Jisshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korahites; **7** and Joelah and Zebadiah the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.

These came to David the fugitive at the Stronghold in the wilderness

8 Some **Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness**, mighty men of valor, men trained for battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains:

9 Ezer the first, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third, **10** Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth, **11** Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh, **12** Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth, **13** Jeremiah the tenth, and Machbanai the eleventh.

14 These were from the sons of **Gad**, captains of the army; the least was over a hundred, and the greatest was over a thousand.

15 These are the ones who crossed the Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all its banks; and they put to flight all those in the valleys, to the east and to the west.

16 Then some of the sons of **Benjamin** and **Judah** came to David at the stronghold.

17 And David went out to meet them, and answered and said to them, "If you have come peaceably to me to help me, my heart will be united with you; but if to betray me to my enemies, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look and bring judgment."

18 Then the **Spirit** came upon Amasai, chief of the captains, and he said:

"We are yours, O David; We are on your side, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, And peace to your helpers! For your God helps you."

So David received them, and made them captains of the troop.

19 And some from **Manasseh** defected to David **when he was going with the Philistines to battle against Saul**; but they did not help them, for the lords of the Philistines sent him away by agreement, saying, "He may defect to his master Saul and endanger our heads."

20 When he went to **Ziklag**, those of **Manasseh** who defected to him were Adnah, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, captains of the thousands who were from **Manasseh**.

21 And they helped David **against the bands of raiders**, for they were all mighty men of valor, and they were captains in the army.

22 For at that time they came to David day by day to help him, until it was a great army, like the army of God.

These came to David at Hebron to turn the kingdom of Saul to David

23 Now these were the numbers of the divisions that were equipped for war, and came to David at **Hebron to turn over the kingdom of Saul to him**, according to the word of the Lord:

24 of the sons of **Judah** bearing shield and spear, six thousand eight hundred armed for war;

25 of the sons of **Simeon**, mighty men of valor fit for war, seven thousand one hundred;

26 of the sons of **Levi** four thousand six hundred;

27 Jehoiada, the leader of the Aaronites, and with him three thousand seven hundred;

28 Zadok, a young man, a valiant warrior, and from his father's house twenty-two captains;

29 of the sons of **Benjamin**, relatives of Saul, three thousand (until then the greatest part of them had remained loyal to the house of Saul);

30 of the sons of **Ephraim** twenty thousand eight hundred, mighty men of valor, famous men throughout their father's house;

31 of the **half-tribe of Manasseh** eighteen thousand, who were designated by name to come and make David king;

32 of the sons of **Issachar** who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

33 of **Zebulun** there were fifty thousand who went out to battle, expert in war with all weapons of war, stouthearted men who could keep ranks;

34 of **Naphtali** one thousand captains, and with them thirty-seven thousand with shield and spear;

35 of the **Danites** who could keep battle formation, twenty-eight thousand six hundred;

36 of **Asher**, those who could go out to war, able to keep battle formation, forty thousand;

37 of the **Reubenites** and the **Gadites** and the **half-tribe of Manasseh**, from the other side of the Jordan, one hundred and twenty thousand armed for battle with every kind of weapon of war.

38 **All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king.**

39 And they were there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them.

Those bringing Provisions for David and his army

40 Moreover those who were near to them, from as far away as **Issachar** and **Zebulun** and **Naphtali**, were bringing food on donkeys and camels, on mules and oxen — provisions of flour and cakes of figs and cakes of raisins, wine and oil and oxen and sheep abundantly, for there was joy in Israel.

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Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Step by step growth of the armies of David from the time he became a fugitive from Saul to the time he became king of all Israel.