

2/17/19

**Joab, Family And Foe**  
**Selected Script.**

There are people affiliated with men of God called to do the work of God, but the character of these individual's is dominated by self-interest.

The problem is that they are not always seen in their true light, except with the passing of time!

These individuals if they were not serving the leader, they would be the ones leading.

At times they can gain popularity and power that can be intimidating to the leader himself, at times even win over some of the people and divide the church.

Such was Joab and no one has so accurately stated this than Alexander White as he says, "Had it not been for David, Joab would have climbed up into the throne of Israel. As it was, he stood on the steps of the throne and faced the king all his days. His position in the kingdom was second only to David, and even the king himself was afraid of his commander in-chief".

We want to look at Joab though a three-fold lens to gives us an accurate picture of him.

- I. Joab the man.
- II. Joab the soldier.
- III. Joab the friendly foe.

**I. Joab the man.**

- A. Joab was the son of Zuriiah. 1Chron. 2:16;  
2Sam. 2:18
  1. He was the son of David's sister, Zuriiah.
  2. He was one of three sons, Joab, Abishai and Asahel.
  3. He was the more prominent of the three.
  4. His name means "Yahweh is father" or "whose father is the Lord".
  
- B. Joab was the nephew of David. 1Chron. 2:15-  
16
  1. David being the youngest of his brothers and sisters was about the same age with Joab.
  2. David perhaps had received support from Joab in contrast to his own brothers for his challenge and victory of Goliath.
  3. David and Joab could of struck a common affinity as worriers, as he did with Jonathan?
  
- C. Joab was a leader of men. 1Chron. 11:6
  1. He heard the offer of David that whoever would attack the Jebusites first would be the head of David's army, so he climbed up the shaft by the water source of Gihon on the west of the city of Jerusalem.
  2. He was a leader over thirty years from the time he went up first to attack the Jebusite in Jerusalem. 2Sam. 8:16; 10:7, 9, 13, 14

2. He was courageous and had the ability to instill others to be so in battle.
  3. He was a great support and complement to David in establishing David's kingdom.
  4. His name Joab, appears frequently.
    - a. In Second Samuel 97 times.
    - b. In First Kings 16 times.
    - c. In First Chronicles 23 times.
    - d. A total of 136 times from Samuel to Chronicles, yet not one time in the New Testament!
  5. The name of David appears much more frequent.
    - a. In First Samuel 293 times.
    - b. In Second Samuel 289 times.
    - c. In First Kings 78 times.
    - d. In Second Kings 18 times.
    - e. In First Chronicles 88 times.
    - f. In Second Chronicles 66 times.
    - g. A total of 832 times from Samuel to Chronicles
    - h. In the New Testament David appears 57 times.
- D.** Joab was not a man who walked with God.
1. He was David's counselor.
  2. He knew everything about David.
  3. He without any doubt often accompanied David to worship, yet it never affected him.

4. He remained the self-centered, harsh and vindictive man that used his acquired power for his own advancement till the end.

### **Illustration**

A small boy and his sister were riding on the back of the new wooden horse given to them as a present. Suddenly the boy turned to his sister and said, "If one of us would get off there would be more room for me." #5503

### **Application**

1. There will be times in our lives that family members will be very close to us.
  - a. Having grown up together.
  - b. Having experience many of the same things.
  - c. Then we come to the Lord, but the close family member is not a Christian or not fully committed to God and the things of God, as much as ourselves, so we need to be wise.
    - \* To be an example to them, but not be unequally yoked. 2Cor. 6:14
2. The important thing we need to understand is that if we compromise our oneness in Christ, everything begins good in relationships, but time will reveal the incompatibilities.
  - a. There will be relatives or people that like Joab are capable having strong leader qualities.
  - b. These are nice and good people, but if they do not know Jesus or are fully committed can and

will cause problems to your walk with God or ministry.

- c. They can become rivals to your authority and commitment to Jesus or stumbling block to your mate or children.
  - 1) “Abstain from every form of **evil**.” 1Thess. 5:22
  - 2) “Do not be deceived: “**Evil** company corrupts good habits.” 1Cor. 15:33

*This was Joab the harsh man!*

## II. Joab the soldier.

- A. Joab was a fearless worrier in his encounter with Abner. 2Sam. 2:8-3:1
  - 1. Abner was the commander of Saul’s army who had made Ishbosheth the son of Saul king after his father’s death while David was king in Hebron. vs. 8-11
  - 2. Abner and Joab met at Gibeon and agreed to enter into a battle competition between twenty-four of their young men, of which all died. vs. 12-16
  - 3. The battle was fierce and Abner’s men were put to fight and one of Joab’s brother’s, Asahel the youngest pursued Abner only to be killed by Abner. vs. 17-23
    - a. Abner pleaded with Asahel to turn aside after one of the young men rather than

him, a seasoned worrier, but he would not. vs. 20-21

- b. Abner reasoned with Asahel that if he killed him, how could he face his older brother Joab. vs. 22
- c. Abner turned a struck Asahel through the stomach and out the back with a spear. vs. 23
- 4. Joab and Abishai pursued Abner. vs. 24-32, 3:1
  - a. Abner seeing the senselessness of the battle told Joab that it would only result in something bitter at the end, so Joab sounded the trumpet. vs. 24-29
  - b. Joab and his men killed about eighteen of Abner’s men to every one of David’s, 19 to 360. vs. 30-31
  - c. Joab and his brother took Asahel and buried him, but there remained a long war between the house of Saul and David. vs. 32; 3:1
- B. Joab was a vindictive treacherous soldier in his murder of Abner. 2Sam. 3:6-39
  - 1. Abner had been confronted by the son of Saul Ishbosheth, over the defiling of one of Saul’s concubines to which he was enraged and threatened to hand over the kingdom to David as God had sworn to do. vs. 6-11
  - 2. Abner then sent a message to David to covenant with him with the condition of

bringing with him Michal, the daughter of Saul. vs. 12-16

3. Abner at the same time spoke to the elder of Israel and Benjamin to join David, then went to speak with David, ratified the covenant and was sent away in peace by David. vs. 17-21
4. Abner had left at the same time Joab was returning from a raid with the spoils. vs. 22-30
  - a. Joab revealed his lack of respect for David. vs. 24-25
    - 1) Joab had been told of Abner's visit and how David had sent him away in peace. vs. 22-23
    - 2) Joab went into David and angrily rebuked him.
      - a) What have you done? vs. 24b
      - b) He accused Abner of having come to spy out the land. vs. 25
  - b. Joab murdered Abner. vs. 26-30
    - 1) Joab sent for Abner to return without David's knowledge. vs. 26
    - 2) Joab took Abner aside to the gate as to speak to him and stabbed him in the stomach and he died. vs. 27
      - a) Joab did not respect David nor feared him.
      - b) Joab did not respect the fact that Hebron was a "refuge city" where those accused of murder were to have

refuge till their trial, even though Abner was not guilty of murder for he had struck Asahel in battle.

- c) Joab knew David had allowed Abner to live out of fear, not love.
  - 3) Joab was denounced by David for his treacherous act. vs. 28-30
    - a) He declared his innocence and his kingdom to the crime before the Lord. vs. 28
    - b) He pronounced the entire guilt on Joab's house and a curse. vs. 29
    - c) He knew Joab and his brother Abishai had killed Abner because of his brother Asahel. vs. 30
  5. Joab and those with him were addressed by David and told to mourn Abner. vs. 31-39
    - a. David followed the coffin and lamented Abner at Hebron. vs. 31-34
    - b. David would not be comforted by the people and swore not to eat till sundown. vs. 35
    - c. David's blamelessness was noted by the people and he declared the falling of a great man in Israel. vs. 36-38
    - d. David condemned the sons of Zuriyah as too harsh for him and for the Lord repay them accordingly. vs. 39
- C. Joab fought the kings battles faithfully.

1. The battle against Edom. 1Chron. 18:11, 13; 2Sam. 8:13-14
2. The battle against the Ammonites. 1Chron. 19:1-19; 2Sam. 10:9-19
  - a. They had disrespected some of David's men by cutting their garments, while they were attempting to show respect for the death of the king. 1Chron. 19:1-5
  - b. Joab was sent to fight against Ammon and Syria. 1Chron. 19:6-19
  - c. Joab also receives a message from David to set Uriah in the hottest part of the battle then have the men retreat in order that he be killed. 2Sam. 11:14-15
    - 1) Joab was no fool, he knew what had occurred with David and Bathsheba.
    - 2) Joab had not forgotten David's accusation of him and his brother for the murder of Abner.
    - 3) Joab had no more pity for Uriah than the enemy, revealing the ongoing harshness of his heart.
    - 4) Joab's contempt for David at this point must have been great for his act of hypocrisy of benevolence and kindness to Bathsheba before the people, while covering up his adultery and murder!
    - 5) Joab knew that this gave him increased power over David.

\* One writer's words, "Those are to be pitied indeed who have cause their failings and sins to become the secret of unholy men". T.T Clark

3. Joab called David to come and claim the conquest of Rabbah of the people of Ammon. 2Sam. 12:26-31; 1Chron. 20:1-3

### **Illustration**

It has been said that it's a shame that when success turns a person's head it does not also wring his neck just a little. #4829

### **Application**

1. The people we associate and fellowship with are to be those in Christ, yielding to the power of His Spirit and love.
  - a. Protectors, but not brawlers.
  - b. Peace makers, not trouble makers.
  - c. People that are becoming more like Christ, instead of themselves.
    - \* "Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but **associate** with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion." Rom. 12:16
2. Some of the most vindictive and treacherous people I have known have been those in family and Pastors.
  - a. Pastors to their own staff in ministry.
  - b. Pastors or family to slander, marginalize and pursue to harass those who do not agree with them or because they know things about them

and want to discredit the individual, like politicians!

\* “My son, fear the LORD and the king; Do not **associate** with those given to change.” Prov. 24:21

3. The problem is that such men or women can also be faithful for a time or at different times.

- a. But they are untrustworthy.
- b. They are always dangerous having themselves in mind first!
- c. They can cause great damage to the lives of people.
  - 1) “Be sober, be **vigilant**; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” 1Pet. 5:8
  - 2) “Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” 1Cor. 4:1-2

*This was Joab the heartless soldier!*

### III. Joab the friendly foe.

- A. Joab intervened to have Absalom return to Jerusalem after three years. 2Sam. 14:1-24
  1. Joab perceived that the king was missing Absalom, while in exile. vs. 1
  2. Joab sent a woman from Tekoa to plead for her son who had killed her other son due to

the fact that the entire family wanted him dead. vs. 2-7

3. David promised her no one would touch her son. vs. 8-11
4. The woman then told David that he was guilty of not doing the same with Absalom and that she had done it in fear of the people. vs. 12-17
5. David asked her if Joab was behind the scheme and she answered vs. 18-20
6. David gave the command to Joab to go and bring Absalom back to Jerusalem but he could not see the king's face. vs. 21-24
  - \* Joab's humble bowing was not with true humility!

**B.** Joab interceded for Absalom to see the king. 2Sam. 14:25-33

1. Absalom was proudful and more arrogant than Joab parading himself in Jerusalem polling his hair each year. vs. 25-27
  - a. Admored with his own person and good looks.
  - b. Intexicated by power.
2. Absalom dwelt two years in Jerusalem without seeing David his father so he sent for Joab to send him to the king. vs. 28-33
  - a. He sent twice for him, but he did not respond. vs. 29
  - b. He then told his servants to set fire to the fields of Joab. vs. 30

- c. Joab came questioning Absalom for setting his fields on fire, to which he told him his desire for him to intercede for him before the king. vs. 31-32
  - 1) He asked Joab why he had come from Geshur and that it would be better for him to be there still. vs. 32h-i
  - 2) He wanted Joab to go to the king and if there was any iniquity in him then David could execute him. vs. 32j-m
- d. Joab went to the king and Absalom was called, bowing himself David kissed him. vs. 33
  - \* Joab had both men where he wanted them, they were both indebted to him by favor and secret information!
- 3. Absalom rebelled against his father David. 2Sam. 15:1-12
  - a. He stole the hearts of the men of Israel. vs. 1-6
  - b. He made his rebellion from Hebron, the place of David's initial kingdom. vs. 7-9
  - c. He called Ahithophel to join him and the conspiracy grew strong. vs. 10-12
    - \* Ahithophel is believed to be the Grandfather of Bathsheba, who checked David if his pursuit or her! 2Sam. 23:34; 1Chron. 3:5
- C. Joab led the attack against Absalom. 2Sam. 18:1-17

- 1. David divided up the army, but was refused by the people to go out to the battle and jeopardize his life. vs. 1-4
- 2. David told the three commanders Joab, Aishai and Ittai to deal gently with Absalom the young man for his sake. vs. 5
- 3. The battle was great and the slaughter of many of the rebellion. vs. 6-8
- 4. Absalom net the servants of David and as his mule went under the thick boughs of a great tree, his head got caught and hung there in mid air. vs. 9
- 5. Certain men saw it and told Joab to which he said, "Why did you not strike him there to the ground?", for he would have given him ten shekels of silver vs. 10-11
- 6. The young man declared he would not do it for thousands of shekels for he had heard the king and would not seal his death. vs. 12-13
- 7. Joab impatiently grabbed three spears and thrust them through Absalom's heart and then all the young men struck him also. vs. 14-15
  - a. Joab revealed his little respect for the commands of his king.
  - b. Joab revealed his personal disdain for Absalom or any competition for authority.
- 8. Joab blew the trumpet and retrieved the people and cast Absalom's body in a pit and

covered it with a large heap of stones. vs. 16-17

- D.** Joab indignantly rebuked David the king for his mourning over Absalom. 2Sam. 19:1-15
1. David was so distraught over the death of Absalom that the people felt ashamed over the victory. vs. 1-4
  2. Joab hearing of it came to David and rebuked him. vs. 5-8
    - a. For disgracing his servants who saved his life and families. vs. 5
    - b. For loving his enemies and hating friends and that he most likely would be pleased if the reverse would of taken place. vs. 6
    - c. For unless David spoke to the people to comfort them, he threatened David it would be the worst thing to ever happen to him and none would remain with him. vs. 7
    - d. David arose and sat at the gate and the people came. vs. 8
  3. Joab is replaced as commander of the army. vs. 9-15
    - a. The tribes were disputing among themselves the tragic events. vs. 1-10
    - b. David sent Zadok and Abiathar the priest to speak to the elder of Israel to united the kingdom. vs. 11-12

- c. They were also to speak to Amasa to replace Joab as commander and chief of his army. vs. 13
  - \* Remember he was the rebelled with Absalom
- d. They all united together. vs. 14-15

- E.** Joab killed Amasa treacherously. 2Sam. 20:1-22
1. The occasion was the rebellion of one Sheba against David. vs. 1-2
  2. David sent Amasa to stop Sheba, but he delayed too long. vs. 4-5
  3. David then sent Abishai to pursue Sheba and Joab went also. vs. 6-7
  4. Amasa ran into them at Gbeon at which time Joab treacherously kissed him as he stabbed him in the stomach with his sword out of jealousy and envy for his position. vs. 8-11
  5. Joab pursued Sheba to Beth Maachah and rather than suffering siege they decapitated Sheba and threw his head over the wall and he returned to Jerusalem. vs. 13-22
    - a. Absalom was dead.
    - b. Amasa was dead.
    - c. Sheba was dead.
    - d. David was the only one in his way.
      - \* David numbers the people and Joab objects and did not finish it due to the Lord's wrath. 2Sam. 24:1-9, 1Chron. 21:1-6, 27:24



- F. Joab is put to death merciless by Solomon.  
1Kings1-2
1. Joab gave allegiance to Adonijah along with Abiathar the priest. 1Kings 1:7, 19
  2. Joab is sentence to death by David's words to Solomon. 1Kings 2:5
  3. Joab hearing of the execution of Adonijah fled to the tabernacle and took hold of the horns as his last refuge. 1Kings 2:28
    - a. He was a murderer and forbidden by the law to take refuge in the city of refuge, how much more to take hold of the horns of the alter. Deut. 19:11-12
    - b. He cared little for the things of God during life but at death he desired to cling to God and make a refuge of that which he had neglected all his life.  
 \* "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them". Eccl. 12:1
  4. Benaiah told Solomon that Joab said he would die there and so he struck him dead for the treacherous murders of Abner and Amasa. 1Kings 2:29-32
    - a. He would of been a great danger to Solomon's kingdom.
    - b. He died hated because he was a hateful man.

- c. He died a harsh cruel man for whom no tears were shed, but only a sigh of relief that a tyrant was removed.  
 \* Interesting that they buried him in his own house "in the wilderness", how significant of his barren wilderness life, as those who never entered the land! 1Kings 2:34
5. Joab's life was characterized by many commendable traits, but without humility and selflessness they are meaningless.
  - a. He was a true friend at the beginning to David.
  - b. He played an important part in uniting the kingdom.
  - c. He was a loyal and skillful soldier able to motivate men to battle.
  - d. But he always had self in mind and did the most to benefit himself.

### **Illustration**

"Be yourself!", is the worse advice you can give to some people. #5509

An opportunist is one who will smile, appease and even serve as a friend while all along he or she is out to benefit self, at the expense of others and the more power he or she gets the more ruthless they are.

### **Application**

1. Husbands you need to be the head of your home.

- a. By you and your wife grow in Christ together on the Biblical authority and submission, as Christ to His bride, not a dictator.
- b. By having your children in order teaching them their biblical responsibilities and holding accountable and not allowing them to set the standards for the house according to the corrupt culture or progressive education.
- c. By checking the attitudes and actions of those you allow into your family circle that will influence or undermine your authority.

\* “One who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?).” 1Tim. 3:3:4-5

2. Some times our mates or children are influence or directly told by others they do not need to submit to the Biblical authority.
- a. It can be a non-believing friend at school or work.
  - b. It can be a carnal Christian that is still living like the world or a backslider, even an apostate.
    - 1) “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will **depart** from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.” 1Tim. 4:1
    - 2) “But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being **deceived**.” 2Tim. 3:13

3. Sooner or later people like Joab reap to what they sow.

- a. Even though they thought they had everything under control.
- b. Even though they thought they were going to get away with it and pull it off.
  - \* “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man **sows**, that he will also reap. For he who **sows** to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who **sows** to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” Gal. 6:7-8

**This was Joab the friendly foe!**

### Conclusion

This three-fold lens of Joab has gives us an accurate picture of him.

- I.** Joab the harsh man!
- II.** Joab the heartless soldier!
- III.** Joab the friendly foe!