

1 Samuel 22; 2 Samuel 23; 1 Chronicles 11 – 12

## ELEAZAR – WHO NEVER GAVE UP

Eleazar – Who Never Gave Up (2 Sam. 23:9-10; 1 Chron. 11:12-13a)

- A. The second of David's mighty men was Eleazar – whose name means, "God has helped" or "God is helper."
- B. The battle mentioned here took place at Pasdammim, also known as Ephesdammim.
  1. This name means, "Boundary of blood."
  2. It was the site of many conflicts between Israel and the Philistines.
  3. It was located in the valley of Elah and was the place where David defeated Goliath (1 Sam. 17:1).
  4. Just as Goliath had defied Israel on that day (1 Sam. 17:10), now Israel would defy the Philistines with the leadership of Eleazar.
- C. When the Philistines arrayed themselves for battle, the men of Israel went up to meet them.
  1. The word for "gone away" actually means to "go up" or "ascend."
  2. The Israelites did not abandon Eleazar, but fought with him, following his example of courage.
- D. The bravery and devotion of Eleazar is seen in his persistence in fighting – he fought until his hand was exhausted and cramped around his sword hilt.
  1. The word for "clave" means, "To cling or adhere to; to be joined."
  2. It is the same word used for marriage in Genesis 2:24.
  3. It is the same word used for allegiance to God in Deut. 10:20 (cf. Jer. 13:11).
  4. It is the same word used for avoiding sin (Psalm 101:3).
- E. Due to his faithfulness and perseverance, God brought a great victory – salvation – to Israel that day.
- F. The soldier of the Lord must continue fighting even in **difficulty**.
  1. Difficult situations on the battlefield are no excuse to cease fighting.
  2. Many will stand up for the cause of truth until they face opposition or meet resistance (Matt. 13:20-21).
  3. Yet, Jesus warned that His followers would face persecution (Mark 13:12-13; John 16:33; 2 Tim. 3:12).
  4. Darkness hates and will resist the light (cf. John 3:20).
  5. We should consider the example of Paul (1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7).
- G. The soldier of the Lord must continue fighting even in **discouragement**.
  1. Past mistakes, failures, or defeats are no excuse to cease fighting.
  2. Many refuse to stand and fight due to guilt and discouragement over past mistakes.
  3. Yet, the grace of God allows one's sins to be forgiven (2 Tim. 2:1; cf. Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38).
  4. God does not hold forgiven sins against us anymore (Heb. 8:12).
  5. We should remember the example of Peter (Matt. 26:75; Acts 2:14ff).

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- H. The soldier of the Lord must continue fighting even in **distraction**.
  - 1. Worldly desires or pursuits are no excuse to cease fighting.
  - 2. Many will stand and fight until they are distracted by worldly wants (Matt. 13:22; Luke 8:14).
  - 3. Yet, the Lord's soldier must not become entangled in this world (2 Tim. 2:3-4; Matt. 6:19-21; Col. 3:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17).
  - 4. Instead, we must put God and His kingdom first (Matt. 6:33).
  - 5. We should ponder the example of Demas (2 Tim. 4:10).
- I. The soldier of the Lord must continue fighting even unto **death**.
  - 1. Age, time, or weariness are no excuses to cease fighting.
  - 2. Many will stand and fight until they grow tired or think they have done enough.
  - 3. Yet, God commands us not to grow weary in serving Him (Gal. 6:9-10; 2 Thes. 3:13; 1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 12:3).
  - 4. Instead, we must be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7).
  - 5. We should imitate the example of Jesus.
- J. Eleazar fought until exhaustion – and then continued fighting!
- K. Let us seek to do the same.
- L. When our time comes to leave this world, may it be with the Bible clutched in our hands, the Lord bound to our hearts, and our treasure stored in Heaven!