

# 1 Chronicles 12 - The Growth of David's Army

II. David prepares to build the temple (1 Chr 10:1—29:30)

(2) David's Ascension (1 Chr 11:1—12:40)

(D) David unifies the entire nation (12:1-40)

(a) Saul's Benjamites (12:1-7)

(b) Gadites (12:8-15)

(c) Oath David made Saul's Benjamites swear (12:16-18)

(d) Manasseh (12:19-22)

(e) Simeon, Levi, Ephraim, Issachar, Zebulun, Naphtali, Dan, Asher, and the East Jordan tribes (12:23-37)

(f) Conclusion: the nation unifies under David's rule (12:38-40)

## 1 Chronicles 12

(D) David unifies the entire nation (12:1-40)

(a) Saul's Benjamites (12:1-7)

1 Now these are the *men* who came to David at Ziklag, while he was still restricted because of Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men who helped *him* in war.

1 Now these are the ones who came to David at Ziklag, while he was still restricted because of Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men who helped *him* in war.

1 Here's a list of those who came to David at Ziklag when he was unable to travel freely due to Saul son of Kish. They were among the elite soldiers who assisted him in battle.

1 Now these are they that 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, helpers of the war.

- Verses 1-22 list the fighting men who went over to David before Saul's death

— Some were Benjamites who joined David in Ziklag (v1-7)

— Some were Gadites (v8-15), and Judahites and Benjamites (v16-18), who joined David while he was in the wilderness of Judah

— Some were Manassites who joined David in Ziklag after his return from fighting the Amalekites (v19-22)

- Verses 23-40 list the fighting men who anointed David king in Hebron

<b>SOLDIERS WHO CAME TO SUPPORT DAVID IN HEBRON</b>		
<i>Tribe</i>	<i>Number of soldiers</i>	<i>Verses</i>
Judah	6,800	24
Simeon	7,100	25
Levi	4,600	26-28
Benjamin	3,000	29
Ephraim	20,800	30
Western Manasseh	18,000	31
Issachar	200 chiefs and their brethren	32
Zebulun	50,000	33
Naphtali	38,000	34
Dan	28,600	35
Asher	40,000	36
Reuben, Gad, and Eastern Manasseh	120,000	37
Total	336,900 plus	

2 They were equipped with bows, using both the right hand and the left to *sling* stones and *shoot* arrows with the bow; *they were* Saul's kinsmen from Benjamin.

2 They were equipped with bows, using both the right hand and the left to *sling* stones and to *shoot* arrows from the bow; *they were* Saul's kinsmen from Benjamin.

2 Equipped as archers, they could use both their right and left hands to shoot arrows and hurl stones. As descendants of Benjamin, they were Saul's relatives.

2 They were armed with bows, and could use both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows out of a bow, even of Saul's brethren of Benjamin.

- Most of the mighty men of David listed in 11:26-47 were his fellow tribesmen of Judah

— In addition to these, defectors went to David from many other tribes

— While he was in exile from Saul at Ziklag (Cf. 1 Sam 27:1-7), David was joined by several of Saul's own kin from Benjamin. These 23 men are listed in v3-7.

- The tribe earned a high reputation for bravery and skill in war, and was noted for its slingers with their traditional left-handed action (Judges 3:15; 20:16)

— They were also known as ferocious (Judges 19:16; 2 Sam 2:15-16; 1 Chr 8:40; 12:2; 2 Chr 17:17)

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,

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,

3 Their leaders were Shemaah's sons Ahiezer and Joash from Gibeah, Azmaveth's sons Jeziel and Pelet, Beracah, Jehu from Anathoth,

**3** The chief was Ahiezer, then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; and Jeziel, and Pelet, the sons of Azmaveth; and Berachah, and Jehu the Antothite,

4 and Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and in charge of the thirty. Then Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, Jozabad the Gederathite,

4 and Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty. Then Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, Jozabad the Gederathite,

4 Ishmaiah from Gibeon (who was one of the elite among the Thirty and in charge over them), Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, Jozabad from Gederah,

4 And Ismaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty; and Jeremiah, and Jahaziel, and Johanan, and Josabad the Gederathite,

5 Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, Shephatiah the Haruphite,

5 Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, Shephatiah the Haruphite,

5 Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, Shephatiah the Haruphite,

5 Eluzai, and Jerimoth, and Bealiah, and Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite,

6 Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, Jashobeam, the Korahites,

6 Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, Jashobeam, the Korahites,

6 Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, Jashobeam, the descendants of Korah,

6 Elkanah, and Jesiah, and Azareel, and Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korhites,

7 and Joelah and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.

7 and Joelah and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.

7 and Jeroham's sons Joelah and Zebadiah from Gedor.

7 And Joelah, and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.

(b) Gadites (12:8-15)

**8** From the Gadites valiant mighty men went over to David at the stronghold in the wilderness, men trained for war who could handle a large shield and spear, whose faces were *like* the faces of lions, and *they were* as swift as the gazelles on the mountains.

**8** From the Gadites there came over to David in the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for war, who could handle shield and spear, and whose faces were like the faces of lions, and *they were* as swift as the gazelles on the mountains.

**8** Mighty and experienced warriors from the descendants of Gad joined David at his wilderness stronghold. They were expert handlers of both shield and spear, with hardened

looks and as agile as a gazelle on a mountain slope.

**8** And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, and men of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains;

- The next group of men to join David were 11 Gadites who lived on the east side of the Jordan

— They came to David's aid in his stronghold, in the desert, apparently during his years of pursuit by Saul

— They crossed the Jordan in the first month, probably April-May, when the river was overflowing (Cf. Joshua 3:15; 4:19)

— They were fierce, capable warriors (their faces were the faces of lions), and amazingly quick-footed (swift as gazelles)

9 Ezer was the first, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third,

9 Ezer was the first, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third,

9 Their leader was Ezer, Obadiah was second, Eliab third,

9 Ezer the first, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third,

10 Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,

10 Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,

10 Mishmannah fourth, Jeremiah fifth,

10 Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,

11 Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,

11 Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,

11 Attai sixth, Eliel seventh,

11 Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,

12 Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,

12 Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,

12 Johanan eighth, Elzabad ninth,

12 Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,

13 Jeremiah the tenth, *and* Machbannai, the eleventh.

13 Jeremiah the tenth, Machbannai the eleventh.

13 Jeremiah tenth, and Machbannai eleventh.

13 Jeremiah the tenth, Machbanai the eleventh.

14 These men from the sons of Gad were captains of the army; the one who was least was *equal* to a hundred, and the greatest, to a thousand.

14 These of the sons of Gad were captains of the army; he who was least was equal to a hundred and the greatest to a thousand.

14 These descendants of Gad were army leaders. The least of them was equal to a hundred other soldiers and the greatest to a thousand.

14 These were of the sons of Gad, captains of the host: one of the least was over an hundred, and the greatest over a thousand.

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

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

15 These men crossed the Jordan in the first month of the year during flood season and chased out everyone in the valleys, to the east and to the west.

15 These are they that went over Jordan in the first month, when it had overflown all his banks; and they put to flight all them of the valleys, both toward the east, and toward the west.

(c) Oath David made Saul's Benjamites swear (12:16-18)

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

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

**16** Later, some descendants of Benjamin and Judah approached David at his stronghold,

**16** And there came of the children of Benjamin and Judah to the hold unto David.

17 David went out to meet them, and said to them, "If you come peacefully to help me, my heart shall 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 on *it* and decide."

17 David went out to meet them, and said to them, "If you come peacefully to me to help me, my heart shall be united with you; but if to betray me to my adversaries, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look on *it* and decide."

17 and David went out to meet them. He told them, "If you've come in peace to be of help to me, then you'll have my commitment. But if you've come to betray me to my enemies, even though I'm innocent of wrongdoing, then may the God of our ancestors watch and judge."

17 And David went out to meet them, and answered and said unto them, If ye be come peaceably unto me to help me, mine heart shall be knit unto you: but if ye be come to

betray me to mine enemies, seeing there is no wrong in mine hands, the God of our fathers look thereon, and rebuke it.

- With the Gadites came many others from Benjamin and Judah. As their leader Amasai said, they knew that God was with David and would help him, so they wished to associate themselves with him (v18).

18 Then the Spirit covered Amasai like clothing, the chief of the thirty; *and he said, "We are yours, David, And are with you, son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, And peace to him who helps you; Indeed, your God helps you!"* Then David received them and made them captains of the troops.

18 Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, who was the chief of the thirty, *and he said, "We are yours, O David, And with you, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, And peace to him who helps you; Indeed, your God helps you!"* Then David received them and made them captains of the band.

18 Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, leader of the Thirty, and he said, "David, we belong to you; we're with you, son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, and peace to the one who helps you! For your deliverer is your God." So David received them and assigned them to be officers over troops.

18 Then the spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.

- With the Gadites came many others from Benjamin and Judah (1 Chr 12:16-17). As their leader Amasai said, they knew that God was with David and would help him, so they wished to associate themselves with him.

(d) Manasseh (12:19-22)

**19** From Manasseh some also defected to David when he was about to go to battle with the Philistines against Saul. But they did not help them, because the governors of the Philistines sent him away after consultation, saying, "At *the cost of* our heads he might defect to his master Saul."

**19** From Manasseh also some defected to David when he was about to go to battle with the Philistines against Saul. But they did not help them, for the lords of the Philistines after consultation sent him away, saying, "At *the cost of* our heads he may defect to his master Saul."

**19** Some of the descendants of Manasseh joined David when he was going to fight against Saul, accompanied by the Philistines. Even so, David was of no help to them, because the

Philistine rulers were counseled to send him away. They told themselves, "He's going to go over to his master Saul at the cost of our heads."

**19** And there fell some of Manasseh to David, when he came with the Philistines against Saul to battle: but they helped them not: for the lords of the Philistines upon advisement sent him away, saying, He will fall to his master Saul to the jeopardy of our heads.

- When David went with the Philistines to engage Israel in battle at Gilboa (Cf. 1 Sam 28:1-4) some men of Manasseh came to his aid. But along with David they were dismissed from the battlefield lest they would defect to Saul.

— When David returned to Ziklag, the seven Manasseh men accompanied him, and even helped him pursue and defeat the Amalekites who had pillaged his town in his absence (Cf. 1 Sam 30)

20 As he was going to Ziklag, *men* from Manasseh defected to him: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, captains of thousands who belonged to Manasseh.

20 As he went to Ziklag there defected to him from Manasseh: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu and Zillethai, captains of thousands who belonged to Manasseh.

20 As he traveled toward Ziklag, these descendants of Manasseh joined him: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, leaders in charge thousands in Manasseh.

20 As he went to Ziklag, there fell to him of Manasseh, Adnah, and Jozabad, and Jediael, and Michael, and Jozabad, and Elihu, and Zilthai, captains of the thousands that were of Manasseh.

- The Chronicler also enumerated the soldiers (many of them brave and experienced) who made up the delegations seeking to encourage David to expand his rule beyond Hebron

21 They helped David against the band of raiders, for they were all valiant mighty men, and were captains in the army.

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

21 They helped David against raiders, since they were all warriors and commanders in the army.

21 And they helped David against the band of the rovers: for they were all mighty men of valour, and were captains in the host.

22 For day by day *men* came to David to help him, until there was a great army like the army of God.

22 For day by day *men* came to David to help him, until there was a great army like the army of God.

22 Indeed people kept coming to David every day to help him, until his army became a great, vast army.

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

(e) Simeon, Levi, Ephraim, Issachar, Zebulun, Naphtali, Dan, Asher, and the East Jordan tribes (12:23-37)

**23** Now these are the numbers of the divisions equipped for war, who came to David at Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD.

**23** Now these are the numbers of the divisions equipped for war, who came to David at Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD.

**23** What follows is a listing of the divisions of battle-ready troops who joined David in Hebron to turn the kingdom of Saul over to him, in accordance with what the LORD had spoken.

**23** And these are the numbers of the bands that were ready armed to the war, and came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD.

24 The sons of Judah who carried shield and spear *numbered* 6,800, equipped for war.

24 The sons of Judah who bore shield and spear *were* 6,800, equipped for war.

24 The army of Judah, equipped with both shields and spears, numbered 6,800 warriors,

24 The children of Judah that bare shield and spear were six thousand and eight hundred, ready armed to the war.

25 From the sons of Simeon, valiant mighty men of war, 7,100.

25 Of the sons of Simeon, mighty men of valor for war, 7,100.

25 the elite warriors of Simeon numbered 7,100,

25 Of the children of Simeon, mighty men of valour for the war, seven thousand and one hundred.

26 From the sons of Levi, 4,600.

26 Of the sons of Levi 4,600.

26 and the descendants of Levi numbered 4,600.

26 Of the children of Levi four thousand and six hundred.

27 Now Jehoiada was the leader of *the house of Aaron*, and with him were 3,700,

27 Now Jehoiada was the leader of *the house of Aaron*, and with him were 3,700,

27 Jehoiada, a senior officer in the house of Aaron, brought with him 3,700.

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

- They came from Judah, Simeon, Levi, Benjamin, Ephraim, the western half of Manasseh, Issachar, Zebulun, Naphtali, Dan, Asher, Reuben, Gad, and eastern Manasseh—a total of well over 300,000 men of war

28 also Zadok, a young valiant mighty man, and *from* his father's house, twenty-two captains.

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

28 Zadok, a young and valiant soldier, brought 22 commanders from his own ancestral house.

28 And Zadok, a young man mighty of valour, and of his father's house twenty and two captains.

29 From the sons of Benjamin, Saul's kinsmen, three thousand; for until now the majority of them had kept their allegiance to the house of Saul.

29 Of the sons of Benjamin, Saul's kinsmen, 3,000; for until now the greatest part of them had kept their allegiance to the house of Saul.

29 The tribe of Benjamin, relatives of Saul numbered 3,000, of whom most had remained allied to what remained of Saul's dynasty.

29 And of the children of Benjamin, the kindred of Saul, three thousand: for hitherto the greatest part of them had kept the ward of the house of Saul.

30 From the sons of Ephraim 20,800, valiant mighty men, famous men in their fathers' households.

30 Of the sons of Ephraim 20,800, mighty men of valor, famous men in their fathers' households.

30 The tribe of Ephraim supplied 20,800 valiant soldiers who were well known in their ancestral households.

30 And of the children of Ephraim twenty thousand and eight hundred, mighty men of valour, famous throughout the house of their fathers.

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

31 Of the half-tribe of Manasseh 18,000, who were designated by name to come and make David king.

31 The half-tribe of Manasseh supplied 18,000, who had been appointed specifically to come and establish David as king.

31 And of the half tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, which were expressed by name, to come and make David king.

32 From the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs *were* two hundred; and all their kinsmen *were* at their command.

32 Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs *were* two hundred; and all their kinsmen *were* at their command.

32 The tribe of Issachar supplied 200 leaders, along with all of their relatives under their command. They kept up-to-date in their understanding of the times and knew what Israel should do.

32 And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.

33 From Zebulun, there were fifty thousand who went out in the army, who could draw up in battle formation with all kinds of weapons of war and helped *David* with an undivided heart.

33 Of Zebulun, there were 50,000 who went out in the army, who could draw up in battle formation with all kinds of weapons of war and helped *David* with an undivided heart.

33 The tribe of Zebulun supplied 50,000 experienced troops, trained in the use of every kind of war weapon, in order to help David with undivided loyalty.

33 Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: they were not of double heart.

34 From Naphtali *there were* a thousand captains, and with them thirty-seven thousand with shield and spear.

34 Of Naphtali *there were* 1,000 captains, and with them 37,000 with shield and spear.

34 The tribe of Naphtali supplied 1,000 commanders, accompanied by 37,000 troops armed with shields and spears.

34 And of Naphtali a thousand captains, and with them with shield and spear thirty and seven thousand.

35 From the Danites who could draw up in battle formation, *there were* 28,600.

35 Of the Danites who could draw up in battle formation, *there were* 28,600.

35 The tribe of Dan supplied 28,600 battle-ready troops.

35 And of the Danites expert in war twenty and eight thousand and six hundred.

36 From Asher *there were* forty thousand who went out in the army to draw up in battle formation.

36 Of Asher *there were* 40,000 who went out in the army to draw up in battle formation.

36 The tribe of Asher supplied 40,000 experienced, battle-ready troops.

36 And of Asher, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, forty thousand.

37 From the other side of the Jordan, from the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, *there were* 120,000 with all *kinds* of weapons of war for the battle.

37 From the other side of the Jordan, of the Reubenites and the Gadites and of the half-tribe of Manasseh, *there were* 120,000 with all *kinds* of weapons of war for the battle.

37 The tribes of Reuben and Gad, along with the half-tribe of Manasseh east of the Jordan supplied 120,000 men armed with every kind of war weapon.

37 And on the other side of Jordan, of the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and of the half tribe of Manasseh, with all manner of instruments of war for the battle, an hundred and twenty thousand.

(f) Conclusion: the nation unifies under David's rule (12:38-40)

**38** All of these, being men of war who helped in battle formation, came to Hebron with a perfect heart to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel also were of one mind to make David king.

**38** All these, being men of war who could draw up in battle formation, came to Hebron with a perfect heart to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest also of Israel were of one mind to make David king.

**38** All these warriors arrived in battle order at Hebron, fully intending to establish David as king over all Israel. Furthermore, all of the rest of Israel were united in their intent to make David king.

**38** All these men of war, that could keep rank, 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.

39 They were there with David for three days, eating and drinking, for their kinsmen had prepared for them.

39 They were there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their kinsmen had prepared for them.

39 They spent three days eating and drinking with David, since their relatives had supplied provisions for them.

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

40 Moreover, those who were near to them, as far as Issachar, Zebulun, and Naphtali, brought food on donkeys, camels, mules, and on oxen, great quantities of flour cakes, fig cakes and bunches of raisins, wine, oil, oxen, and sheep. There was joy indeed in Israel.

40 Moreover those who were near to them, *even* as far as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought food on donkeys, camels, mules and on oxen, great quantities of flour cakes, fig cakes and bunches of raisins, wine, oil, oxen and sheep. There was joy indeed in Israel.

40 Their neighbors came from as far away as the territories of Issachar, Zebulun, and Naphtali, bringing provisions loaded on donkeys, camels, mules, and oxen. They brought abundant provisions of meal, fig bars, raisins, wine, oil, oxen, and sheep, because there was joy in Israel.

40 Moreover they that were nigh them, even unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, and meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly: for there was joy in Israel.

- All the tribes were named in order to show that David's support was broad-based, a point not made in 2 Samuel

— This point is also made by describing their meeting with David at Hebron as a time of great festivity and joy