



Key Notes

Why do men like the Sport's Page? What is it about batting averages, points scored or yards gained that captures masculine attention? Though women occasionally get worked up about such matters, human history seems to indicate that these types of things tend to be testosterone driven!

Second Samuel 23:8-39 qualifies as the "Sport's Page" of the Old Testament.

These are the names of David's mighty men Josheb-Basshebeth... raised his spear against eight hundred men, whom he killed in one encounter (v. 8).

Next to him was Eleazar.... (When) the men of Israel retreated... he stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword... (vv. 9-10).

Next to him was Shammah.... When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them. But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the LORD brought about a great victory (vv. 11-12).

Abishai... raised his spear against three hundred men, whom he killed... (vv. 18-19).

Benaiah... was a valiant fighter.... He struck down two of Moab's best men. He also went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion. And he struck down a huge Egyptian. Although the Egyptian had a spear in his hand, Benaiah went against him with a club. He snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear... (vv. 20-23).

Among the Thirty were: Asahel, Elhanan, Shammah, Elik, Helez, Ira, Abiezer, Mebunnai.... (vv. 24-39).

In the days of King David, every boy's dream was to grow up and be a "Mighty Man." To get your name on *this* list was better than being elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame. To become a "Mighty Man" had little to do with resumes, seniority, money, image, or education. Rather, it was based on one criterion: boldness and bravery in fighting the king's battles.

Father's Day is a great time to remember how God defines true masculinity. Don't look to Donald, Arnold, Bart, Shaquille, Derek or Johnny Depp to define manhood. Look to King Jesus. Join His army. Imitate His character. And then go do an exploit in His name. My prayer for the men of Loudonville is that God will raise up an army of men with sanctified testosterone who will do mighty deeds for Christ and His kingdom.

Pastor Stan