

# 2 Samuel 23:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Beth-lehem,

## Analysis

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**Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Beth-lehem,**

This verse contributes to the narrative of Last Words and Mighty Men, emphasizing legacy, faithful servants. David's last words emphasize the eternal covenant God established (v. 5) and declare principles of righteous rule. The accounts of David's mighty men demonstrate extraordinary courage and devotion. The water-drawing incident reveals David's unwillingness to value his comfort above his soldiers' lives. Theological themes include the importance of final testimonies, the eternal nature of God's covenant, the value of faithful servants, and the necessity of sacrificial leadership.

## Historical Context

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The historical setting of 2 Samuel 23 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding legacy, faithful servants provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic

interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of legacy, faithful servants?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

## Interlinear Text

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אֲשָׁהָ ל	אָחִי	יֹאָב ב	בְּשָׁלֹשׁ יָמִים	אֶלְחָנָן	בֶּן
<b>Asahel</b>	<b>the brother</b>	<b>of Joab</b>	<b>was one of the thirty</b>	<b>Elhanan</b>	<b>the son</b>
H6214	H251	H3097	H7970	H445	H1121

  

וְדָד	בֶּן יֵת	לְחֶם:
<b>of Dodo</b>	<b>H0</b>	<b>of Bethlehem</b>
H1734		H1035

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 2:18** (Parallel theme): And there were three sons of Zeruiah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel was as light of foot as a wild roe.

**1 Chronicles 27:7** (Parallel theme): The fourth captain for the fourth month was Asahel the brother of Joab, and Zebadiah his son after him: and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

