

The Warrior Chronicles #2: "All-Rounders"

1 Chronicles 12:8, 14-15

1 Chronicles 12 gives a list of mighty men/warriors who helped David become King. Going to look at various men/tribes/attributes

1 Chronicles 12:8, 14-15 ⁸And 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; ¹⁴These were of the sons of Gad, captains of the host: one of the least was over an hundred, and the greatest over a thousand. ¹⁵These are they that went over Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all his banks; and they put to flight all them of the valleys, both toward the east, and toward the west.

I. SHIELD AND SPEAR

A. These were mighty men – and the first things it mentions is that they were fit for battle

1. Some men would like to be warriors – but they do nothing to be ready

a. Not ready financially: Debt b. Marriage c. Fruitfulness d. People skills e. **Matthew 22:14** Many are called but few chosen

2. To be ready takes time/effort/practice: You have to give yourself to it

B. Then the Gadites were well-rounded: **v8** that could handle shield and buckler

1. They were men who could defend themselves: **v8** that could handle a shield... **DEFENSE!**

a. Defending against temptation: The word! b. Deception/discouragement – the word of God

1. **Ephesians 6:16** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

2. They could handle spears **v8** and spear: Both defensive (Protect) and offensive (long-range)

a. Up close and personal defense (false doctrine) and longer range: Preaching/teaching = others

1. This comes from lots of practice in the word of God

II. STRENGTH AND SPEED

A. These men had battle faces: **v8** whose faces were like the faces of lions...

1. Compared to lions: **Lions look serious!** Opposite: A man who lets everything show that it bothers him

a. Fear of what you face b. Inner turmoil c. Personal problems: Everybody knows – so people aren't confident

1. **1 Cor 16:13** Act like men – be strong! Acting confident: Put on your game face Speaking confidence

B. These men were renowned for their speed: **v8** and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains

1. This is speaking about reaction time: Deer respond to threats and terrain quickly

a. When God speaks – they do it quickly

2. Delay is often deadly: I will – later...but usually we don't do it at all

a. Jesus rejected delay b. The will of God is brought about by people who respond quickly

1. **Matthew 4:22** And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

III. RISK AND DIFFICULTY

A. The Gadites strength can be seen when you look at the opposite:

1. **Some men can only do right when they feel it is the perfect time**

a. Once I sort out this or that...once all the factors are favorable

1. But most of life involves wrong timing & unfavorable situations: *This type of man does nothing*

a. *1 talent man: I was afraid, so I did nothing*

2. **Some men can only do right when everything is easy**

a. A perfectly functioning ministry b. Converts that are problem-free Again: Very few like this – so nothing gets done

B. So this explains why the Gadites were such warriors

1. **They were willing to risk: v15** they went over Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all his banks;

a. This might not work out: Exactly! A lot of things we try for God may not work out

1. Praying for the sick/giving in obedience/doing an outreach/pioneering

b. **Psalms 107:23-24** They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; 24 These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep.

2. **They were willing to tackle the difficult task v15** ...when it had overflowed all his banks;

a. Sometimes the difficulty is timing: *It's not convenient – but I'll do it anyway*

b. Sometimes it's hard and messy: *The Jordan would be filled with trees /leaves & junk*

1. **2 Samuel 5:8** That day David said to his men, "To defeat the Jebusites you must go through the water tunnel.

3. But this is what God blesses: **v15** they put to flight all them...