

“Benaiah and the Lion”
II Samuel 23:8, 20-22

Introduction: As we come to the end of II Samuel, we see in chapter twenty-three a record of David’s song (vs. 1-5) and soldiers (vs. 8-39). This chapter manifests elements of David’s character in that he was a writer and a warrior. Therefore, chapter twenty-three focuses on David’s message and men. Leaders must depend on the Lord and give him the glory, as David’s message declares, and no leader can do the job alone, as indicated by the list of David’s mighty men. Although all of these men deserve recognition, we would like to devote our attention to one of the mighty men, Benaiah (v. 20). Notice a few things about his life:

1. Benaiah was a remarkable man who was born to serve as a priest, but became a soldier and the commander of David’s bodyguards.
2. In the Bible, there are priests who became prophets, such as Jeremiah, Ezekiel and John the Baptist, but Benaiah is the only priest named who became a soldier.
3. Benaiah was loyal to the house of David and supported Solomon when he came to the throne.
4. When Joab tried to make Adonijah king, it was Benaiah who executed him, thus fulfilling David’s command to Solomon.
5. Solomon made Benaiah the head of his army in Joab’s place.
6. Benaiah’s son Jehoiada didn’t follow a military career but became a counselor to King Solomon, replacing Ahithophel.

Body: However, the most interesting facts about Benaiah’s life are found in vs. 20-21. These verses record three battles that he faced. Let us focus on the middle battle. Benaiah met the worst of enemies (a lion) in the worst of places (a pit) under the worst of conditions (on a snowy day)—and he won!

- I. Benaiah’s Status II Samuel 23:8- *“These be the names of the mighty men whom David had...”*
 - A. Satan could care less who you are, he has a strategy to wreck your life and destroy you and your testimony.
 - B. II Samuel 1:19, 25, 27
- II. Benaiah’s Situation II Samuel 23:20- *“...he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow”*
 - A. Benaiah met the worst of enemies (a lion) in the worst of places (a pit) under the worst of conditions (on a snowy day).
 - B. The Worst of Places—A Pit
 - C. The Worst of Conditions—Snow
 - D. The Worst of Enemies—Lion
 1. The Truths about Satan
 - a. He is a liar and therefore tries to deceive. If Satan can get you to believe a lie, then he can begin to work in your life and lead you into sin.
(1) John 8:44- *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the*

truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

- (2) Satan lied to Eve in the Garden and Jesus in the wilderness concerning the Word of God.
 - (3) II Corinthians 11:3- *“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”*
 - (4) Revelation 12:9- *“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”*
 - (5) Satan tries to attack our mind through detours, distractions, and confusion.
 - (6) I Peter 1:13- *“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”*
 - (7) Philippians 2:5- *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”*
 - (8) Your mind can reach into the past through memory or it can reach into the future through imagination. Our thinking affects our life.
 - (9) Proverbs 23:7- *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.”*
 - (10) When we set our mind on God’s truth instead of Satan’s lies we will begin to experience the victory.
 - (11) Psalms 119:11- *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”*
- b. Satan is not only a liar but he is also a destroyer.
- (1) I Peter 5:8- *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”*
 - (2) We need to be sober and vigilant because Satan will lie in wait biding his time for when we are not.
 - (3) Luke 22:31- *“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat”*
 - (4) If Satan cannot defeat you by deceiving your mind, then he will try to destroy your body. As the serpent he tries to deceive, but as the lion he tries to devour. Example: Satan tried to destroy the body of Job.
 - (5) God wants to use our bodies as a shining light to this world that lies in darkness. Therefore, if Satan can destroy our body God will no longer have a shining light.
 - (6) I Corinthians 6:20- *“...therefore glorify God in your body...”*
 - (7) Our body is God’s temple, tool, and treasure.
 - (8) James 5:8- *“Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.”*
 - a. Satan uses the lack of impatience in our body to destroy us.
 - b. Abraham became impatient and tried to help God out by marrying Hagar.
 - c. Saul became impatient and would not wait for Samuel to come. He rushed ahead of God’s will and offered a sacrifice, thus beginning the end of his kingdom.

- d. Peter became impatient in the garden and tried to end a man's life with the sword.
- e. Satan knows if he can make us impatient, he can lead us to do something stupid and therefore get ourselves into trouble.
- c. Satan also tries to get us to do our own will instead of God's will.
 - (1) What is the worst sin of David? (adultery)
 - (2) Because of David's adultery four people died. (Uriah, a baby, Amnon, and Absalom.)
 - (3) I Chronicles 21:1-2, 7-8, 14
 - (4) Satan tried to deceive the mind of Eve, destroy the body of Job, and he changed the will of David.
 - (5) If Satan can make us do our will instead of God's will he will defeat us.
 - (6) Isaiah 14:12-14
 - (7) Psalm 143:10- *"Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness."*
 - (8) Psalm 40:8- *"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart."*
- 2. The Tactics of Satan
 - a. In order to defeat him, we must first detect him.
 - b. II Corinthians 2:11- *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."*
 - c. Ephesians 6:11- *"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."*
 - d. Ephesians 4:27- *"Neither give place to the devil."*

III. Benaiah's Success II Samuel 23:20- *"...slew a lion..."*

A. Revelation 12:11- *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."*

Conclusion: Many times Satan attacks the child of God at their lowest point (the pit) and at the most inconvenient times (on a snowy day). However, our Lord is able to help us defeat the lion and come out of a bad situation with the victory.