

1  **How to Kill a Lion in a Pit on a Snowy Day**

1 Chronicles 11:22-25

2  **July 18, 2015**

3  **2 Samuel 23:20-23**

*And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lionlike men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow: And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear. These [things] did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three mighty men. He was more honorable than the thirty, but he attained not to the [first] three. And David set him over his guard.*

4  **1 Chronicles 11:22-25**

*Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done many acts; he slew two lionlike men of Moab: also he went down and slew a lion in a pit in a snowy day. And he slew an Egyptian, a man of [great] stature, five cubits high; and in the Egyptian's hand [was] a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear. These [things] did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among the three mighties. Behold, he was honorable among the thirty, but attained not to the [first] three: and David set him over his guard.*

5  **Benaiah – an uncommon man**

- Two groups of distinguished men that served David
  - The 3
  - The 30 – Benaiah was the most “honorable” of this group
- David’s personal bodyguard
- Known for 3 great accomplishments:
  - Slew two ariels of Moab
  - Killed a lion in a pit on a snowy day
  - Slew a 7-foot tall Egyptian
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6  **What’s in it for me?**

- Have you ever felt cornered or trapped by your circumstances?
- Have you ever faced an enemy -- a problem that seemed to threaten your entire life -- and there just didn’t seem to be any way of escape?
- Have you ever felt like you really wanted to serve God in special service or in a new ministry and you just couldn’t see any way out of your present situation?

7  **What’s in it for me? (2)**

- Have you ever had a problem with a sin that just seemed to get the best of you over and over and over and over again?
- Have you ever thought for just a moment “I wonder if God really knows what I’m going

through down here?"

8  **1. Win the Battle Over Destroying Doubt by Relying Upon God's Supply**

Benaiah's Battles against the two ariels of Moab

9  **Killed two lionlike men of Moab**

- *Ariel* – Translators guessed at the meaning.
  - Ari = lion
  - El = God
  - Ariel = "lion of God" or "lion-like men"
- RSV just says "two ariels of Moab"
- NIV – "he struck down two of Moab's best men."

10  **A closer meaning**

- Ezekiel 43:15-16, the word is used to refer to an altar
- The word is used to refer to Israel itself in Isaiah 29:1,2,7

11  **Isaiah 29:1-2, 7**

- 29:1-2 -- *Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city [where] David dwelt! add ye year to year; let them kill sacrifices. Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel.*
- 29:7 -- *And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, even all that fight against her and her munition, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision.*

12  **Not a pretty picture**

- The idea conveyed in Isaiah's prophecy isn't a pretty one. It states that Jerusalem itself shall become like the hearth of an altar -- it will lay in ashes; Jerusalem will be like a burnt sacrifice.
- So the idea of the word ariel in other parts of Scripture is that an offering has been made on the hearth of an altar and all that remains is the ashes.

13  **The ariels came from Moab**

- Who was Moab?
  - In the Old Testament we find that the Moabites were a tribe living on the borders of Israel who were related to the Israelites.
  - Back in the book of Genesis we are told that Lot, when he fled from Sodom, hid with his two daughters in a cave.
  - Lot was made drunk by his two daughters and that, in his drunken stupor he sired children by each of his own daughters. One was Ammon, and the other was Moab.

14  **Moab = lack of trust in God**

- Lot's daughters failed to trust in God and relied upon their own ingenuity and their limited perspective to guarantee their future.
- Moab then, represents the principle of the FLESH which is characterized by a lack of trust in God and a reliance upon one's own ingenuity.
- The FLESH causes us to DOUBT God.

15  **5 Warnings in Hebrews**

- Don't Drift
- Don't Doubt
- Don't Disobey
- Don't Deny
- Don't Defy

16  **Lessons**

- Benaiah brought great glory by defeating these two men who represented our tendency to doubt God and devise our own ways out of trouble.
- Always do that which gives the most glory to God because it is what is also best for you.
- You can never defeat the flesh on your own. Rely on God's supply!

17  **2. Win the Battle Over Defeating Disobedience by Resting in God's Sacrifice**

Benaiah's battle against the Egyptian

18  **A powerful opponent**

- *And he slew an Egyptian, a man of [great] stature, five cubits high; and in the Egyptian's hand [was] a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.*

19  **Method of the battle**

- Egyptian intends to kill Benaiah and is holding an ominously-sized spear pointed in his direction.
- Benaiah takes a shepherd's staff -- and knocks the very weapon pointed in his direction by the giant out of the giant's hand..
- The giant's own spear becomes the weapon by which he is slain.

20  **Man of the battle**

- From Egypt
  - A land that enslaved Israel
  - Pharaoh had serpent on his crown
  - While Moab represented the FLESH that causes us to DOUBT God, Egypt represents the WORLD that calls us to DISOBEY God.
- Had enormous hands
- 7.5 feet tall

21  **Hands display @ Baylor, Dallas**

22  **Andre the Giant**

- Wrist one foot in circumference
- Mold made by Dr. Flatt required box and plaster materials 3 times more than any other hand
- Doctor scared when making mold

23  **The analogy**

- 1 Benaiah defeats giant
- 2
  - Giant sought Benaiah's death
  - Uses shepherd's staff

- Kills giant with weapon he intended to use
- 3 Jesus defeats Satan
- 4 • Satan sought to kill Christ
  - Jesus is the Good Shepherd
  - Jesus' death became the weapon of victory
- 24  **Lessons**
  - Don't pray for victory over sin; claim the victory Christ has already provided!
  - Without Christ, victory over sin is impossible.
- 25  **3. Win the Battle Over Devouring Despair by Remembering God's Sustaining**

Benaiah's battle against the lion in a pit on a snowy day
- 26  **A clear picture**
  - 1 Peter 5 -- "*Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*"
  - 3 pictures
    - The flesh causes us to doubt God.
    - The world which calls us to disobey.
    - Now we meet the third enemy -- the devil who creates despair.
- 27  **Worst possible opponent**
  - Lion can
    - crush human skull with one blow of paw.
    - bite through man's thigh bone with one crunch of his jaws
  - This is Benaiah's opponent
- 28  **Worst possible place**
  - A pit leaves you no room to run
  - No easy avenue of escape
  - Story of Running Robert and the bull
- 29  **Worst possible circumstances**
  - Snow
    - Slippery
    - Treacherous
    - Snow blindness
    - Cold numbs fingers, hands, feet
- 30  **How did Benaiah win?**
  - Scripture is strangely silent on this story
  - Proverbs 25:2 -- *[It is] the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings [is] to search out a matter.*
  - Look at the character of a man revealed in his name:
    - Jehoida = The Lord knows
    - Benaiah = The Lord builds

– Kabzeel = God gathers

31  **Andrew Murray**

- In 1895 Andrew Murray was in England suffering from a terribly painful back, the result of an injury he had incurred years before. He was staying with some dear friends.
- One morning while he was eating his breakfast in his room, his hostess told him of a woman downstairs who was in great trouble and wanted to know if he had any advice for her.

32  **His advice**

- Andrew Murray handed her a paper he had been writing on and said, "Just give her this advice I'm writing down for myself. It may be that she'll find it helpful."

33  **"In time of trouble, say...."**

1. "First, He brought me here. It is by His will I am in this strait place; in that I will rest."
2. Next, "He will keep me here in His love, and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child."
3. Then say, "He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow."

34  **"And last, say ...."**

1. And last, say, "In His good time He can bring me out again.. How, and when, He knows." Therefore say, "I am here
  - (1) by God's appointment
  - (2) in His keeping
  - (3) under His training
  - (4) for His time."

35  **Conclusion**

- You have 3 enemies:
  - The FLESH causes you to DOUBT God
  - The WORLD calls you to DISOBEY God
  - The DEVIL creates DESPAIR in your circumstances
- You have 3 remedies:
  - Rely on God's supply
  - Rest in God's sacrifice
  - Remember God's sustaining

36  **Conclusion (2)**

- Jehoida -- God knows where you are and the circumstances of your live
- Benaiah -- God is using this time to build in your life a greater strength so that you can accomplish greater things for his glory
- Kabzeel -- God will gather all the seemingly unrelated happenings and difficulties of your life to make a wonderful picture of His grace and love for you.