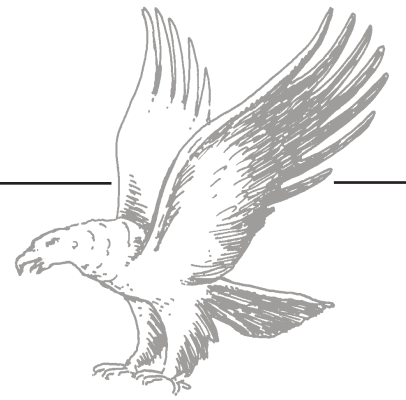


# Wings

*"Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles."  
Isaiah 40:31*



November 6, 2016

## Coming to the King

In the story of David's transition from pariah to king, there is a group of men who rarely get the attention they deserve. Their courage inspires those today who choose to come to the Lord.

*"Now these were the men who came to David . . ." (1 Chron. 12:1).*



In the chaos that descended upon Israel following the death of Saul, there was only one man who had the leadership skills to unite the people and restore order: David. But David was still Public Enemy Number One, at least on Saul's hit list. Any Israelite who cast his loyalty with David would have to overcome years of prejudice conditioned by Saul's smear campaign.

God had chosen David to be the next king (1 Sam. 16). But David had already demonstrated that he would never try to seize the throne for himself.

Most Israelites distrusted David; and David was too humble to stage a forced takeover. So how could this impasse be broken? The solution came from thousands of brave men scattered throughout Israel, whose actions are recorded in 1 Chronicles 12. This chapter spans several years, from David's exile at Ziklag (v. 1) to his brief term as Judah's leader in Hebron (v. 23). During that time, first in small groups then in

larger numbers, warriors from the various tribes came to David to support him as the next king of Israel. Their stories here are a monument to their courage.

Consider, for example, the few men from Benjamin who joined David in Ziklag (v. 1-7). The author emphasizes that "they were of Benjamin, Saul's brethren" (v. 2). By casting their lot with David, they were repudiating their own tribe's favorite son. But they knew it was the right thing to do, and were willing to pay the price to do it. Their example inspired other Benjamites to join David later (v. 16).

Men from the tribe of Gad—located on the far side of the Jordan River—crossed the river "when it had overflowed all its banks" in order to join David (v. 8-15). They left their homes and endured a hard journey to join a distant fight not their own. Their presence strengthened David's hand, and they were the vanguard of a larger contingent of Gadites who came later (v. 37).

Men from Manasseh joined David while he was still in the wilderness, and "helped David against the band of

raiders" (v. 19-22). Others came from Judah (v. 24), Simeon (v. 25), Ephraim (v. 30), Zebulun (v. 32), Naphtali (v. 34), Asher (v. 36), Reuben (v. 37), and even from Dan in the far north (v. 35). Men from Issachar arrived, "who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do" (v. 32). A sense of purpose was dawning over the nation.

In addition to the fighting men who came to stand beside David, the author gives credit to a host of people from several tribes who brought food and supplies to support David's army (v. 40).

Eventually a tipping point was reached, and any remaining opposition to David melted away. "All the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king" (v. 38). The rest is history.

Actually, it's more than just history. David is the archetype of Jesus the Messiah, the One whom we recognize as our King today. And like David, Jesus will not force anyone to accept His rule. We are the people of Israel, who must decide if we will risk all to join Him and champion His cause, or sit on our hands. Which will it be for YOU?

— David King