

The Men Who Made David Great

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Now these were the men who came to David at Ziklag while he was still a fugitive from Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men, helpers in the war, armed with bows, using both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows with the bow.
1 Chronicles 12:1-2 (NKJV)

1. **We need to understand we are in a war.**
2. **They had strengthened their areas of weakness.**

Some Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains:
1 Chronicles 12:8 (NKJV)

3. **They were trained for battle.**

Then some of the sons of Benjamin and Judah came to David at the stronghold.
1 Chronicles 12:16 (NKJV)

4. **They gave up some natural affiliations to take on some new spiritual affiliations.**

And David went out to meet them, and answered and said to them, "If you have come peaceably to me to help me, my heart will be united with you; but if to betray me to my enemies, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look and bring judgment." Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the captains, and he said: "We are yours, O David; We are on your side, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, And peace to your helpers! For your God helps you."
1 Chronicles 12:17-18 (NKJV)

5. **They came with a right motive.**

of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;
1 Chronicles 12:32 (NKJV)

6. **They understood the times they lived in.**

*of Zebulun there were fifty thousand who went out to battle, expert in war with all weapons of war, **stouthearted men who could keep ranks**;*
1 Chronicles 12:33 (NKJV)

*of the Danites **who could keep battle formation**, twenty-eight thousand six hundred;*
1 Chronicles 12:35 (NKJV)

*of Asher, those who could go out to war, **able to keep battle formation**, forty thousand;*
1 Chronicles 12:36 (NKJV)

*All these men of war, **who could keep ranks**, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king.*
1 Chronicles 12:38 (NKJV)

7. **They were able to keep ranks and listen to a commanding officer.**