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David’s Officials
Second Samuel 20: 23-26

976 BC

When we get to this point in the narrative, the writer of the books of **Samuel** signals that he is closing off a major section of his scroll. He uses summaries like this in **First Samuel 7:15-17** (closing off the **Samuel** section), **First Samuel 14:49-52** (closing off the **Sha’ul** section), **Second Samuel 8:15-18** (closing off the history of **David’s** rise), and now he summarizes **Second Samuel 9:1** to **20:26** (closing off the history of **David** as the ousted king) in anticipation of **David’s** restoration to the throne and **his** final days.



Joab was the commander-in-chief over Isra’el’s entire army, a towering figure whose ability and strength didn’t seem to diminish over the years.

Benaiah son of Jehoida was over David’s mercenary soldiers, **the Kerethites and Pelethites, the foreigners: He** would be the one who would eventually execute **Joab** and become the new commander-in-chief **(First Kings 2:28-35** and **4:4)**.

Adoniram, a new and ominous figure, makes **his** appearance in the royal cabinet.

He was in charge of forced labor in the government of Solomon**.** As **Joshua** saved **the Gibeonites** from certain death by **making them woodcutters and water carriers for the assembly, to provide the needs of the altar of the LORD (Joshua 9:26-27),** so Adoniram put captured prisoners of war into **forced labor** building highways, temples and palaces. Not surprisingly, **he** would be stoned to death when the Kingdom was divided **(First Kings 12:18)**.

Just as earlier in **David's** reign (**Cy – David's Officials**), **Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was** the **recorder.**

Sheva was secretary, evidently having succeeded Seraiah **(Second Samuel 8:17)**.

Zadok and Abiathar remained as chief **priests.**

Finally, **Ira the Jairite was David's royal adviser. David's** sons were no longer seen in important positions, perhaps **Absalom's** rebellion brought this about.