

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.