

## שלישי דויד

### אבנר רמו

It appears that King David had two groups of mighty men. One had thirty (+) participants, but the more prestigious one contained only three men. According to the Chronicler one was: **ישבעם בן-חכמוני, ראש השלושים (השלישים)** - “Jashobeam, the son of a Hachmonite, the chief of the captains” (1 Ch 11:11). The Greek translator believed that his name was: “Iesebaal son of Hachamani” or in Hebrew: **ישבעל בן החמני** *yeshbaa'l hakhamani*. If the Greek translator is correct, then it appears that David's senior mighty man was a gentile (e.g. Lev 26:30; Is 17:8; 27:9; Eze 6:4, 6; 2 Ch 14:4; 24:4, 7), and it is not unlikely that the Chronicler (or a late scribe) tried to conceal this fact by tinkering with his name.

In the Book of Samuel his name appears as: **ישב בשבת תחכמני ראש השלשי** - “Joshebbasshebeth a Tahchemonite, chief of the captains” (2 Sam 23:8). In several places in the Bible the word **בעל** *baa'l* (the god Baal) was replaced by **בשת** *bosheth* - "shame" (e.g. Jud 7:1 ver. 2 Sam 11:21; 1 Ch 8:33 ver. 2 Sam 2:8). It is therefore suggested that in verse 2 Sam 23:8 the words: **ישב בשבת תחכמני** are a letter-insertion, a letter-substitution, and mis-division to words of **ישבשת החמני** *yeshbosheth hakhamani*. According to the Greek translation of the Book of Samuel (but not of the Book of Chronicles), he was the head of the group of three mighty men.

According to the Chronicler, the second in this prestigious group was:

**ואחריו אלעזר בן-דודו האחוחי; הוא בשלושה הגברים.**

“And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighty men” (1 Ch 11:12; see also: 2 Sam 23:9).

According to the Book of Samuel the third person in this Group was:

**ואחריו שמה בן-אגא הררי;**

“And after him was Shammah the son of Age the Rararite” (2 Sam 23:11).

His name appears in the Greek translation of the Book of Samuel as: “Samaia son of Asa the Harouchite.” We are told in the Book of Samuel that he stood in the midst of a plot full of lentils, and saved it, and slew the Philistines (2 Sam 23:11), but for unknown reason he is not mentioned by the Chronicler (or anywhere else in the Bible).