

TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY

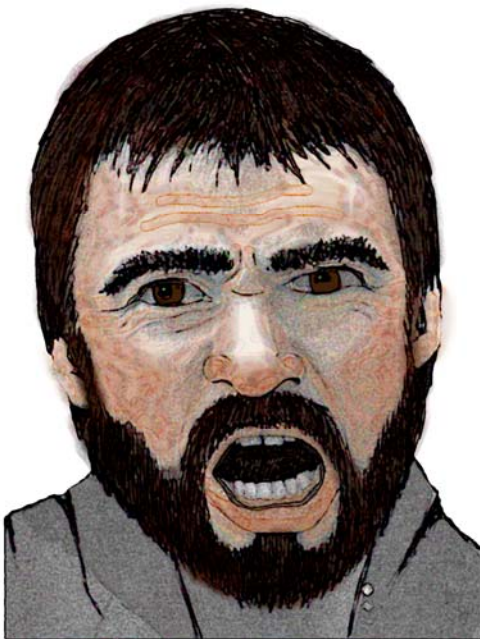


Joab

The story of Joab is entangled beyond separation with the story of David. The tension of their relationship defines the successes and failures of them both, as well as serving to carry out the Sovereign plan that God has for David's throne. Joab's entire military career plays out in David's shadow, though it is sometimes hard to determine which of them is really in charge. David often acquiesces to Joab's decisions on a matter.

We find Joab ruthless in dealing with enemies to the throne, especially when David is not. We see him in the role of David's fall guy in public, when David needs to regain political favor. We also often see Joab go unchallenged by David. We see Joab caution David against a rash action, rebuke him for a poor decision, and trick him into action.

These two men often found themselves in opposition, yet neither would have come to the level of success they did without the other. Most of the time it seems they were at least frustrated with each other, if not all out enraged. So much so that David left instructions with Solomon to kill Joab after his own death. They were definitely a difficult person to contend with in one another's life.



How important are those difficult people in our own lives? In what ways are they helping us toward the plan that God has for us? Can you thank God for them?



"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

2 Corinthians 4:7

READ:

- 2 Samuel

When can we suppose Joab begin to follow David as his leader according to 1 Samuel 22:1,2? _____

Why do you think he supported David? _____

What experience did Joab gain from those years in the wilderness? _____

After Saul's death, who became David's adversary? (2 Samuel 1,2) _____

What important battle was fought by Joab at Gibeon, and what was the outcome? (2 Samuel 2) _____

Why did David oppose Joab's murder Abner? _____

Did Abner's death help or hurt David politically? _____

What did David tell Joab to do at Abner's funeral? _____

In 1 Chron. 11:4-9, what part did Joab play in David's capture of Jerusalem?

What was Joab's motivation for bringing about Absalom's return from exile in 2 Samuel 14? _____

What orders of David did Joab disobey during Absalom's rebellion? (2 Samuel 18) _____

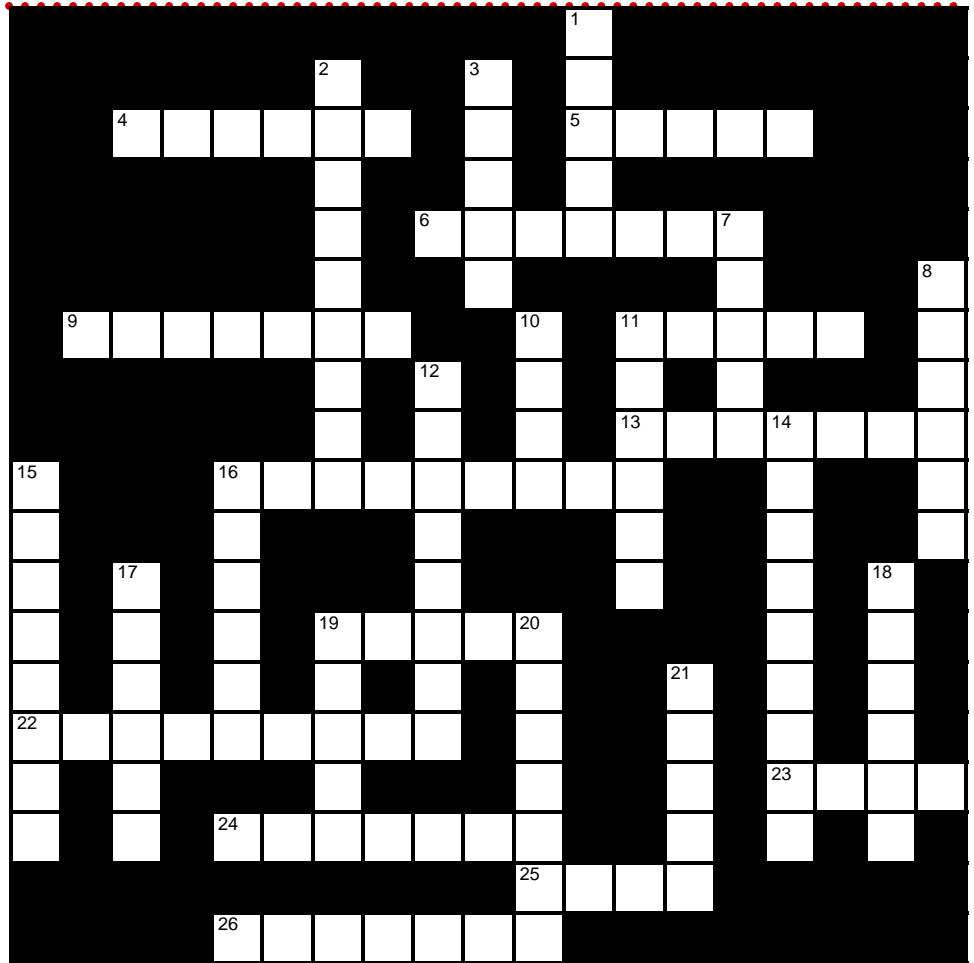
Why did David replace Joab with Amasa as commander of his army in 2 Samuel 19? _____

How did Joab deal with it, and what advantage did that turn out to be for David? (2 Samuel 20) _____

Why did Joab oppose the census that David wanted to take in 2 Samuel 24? _____



PUZZLE PAGE



Clues

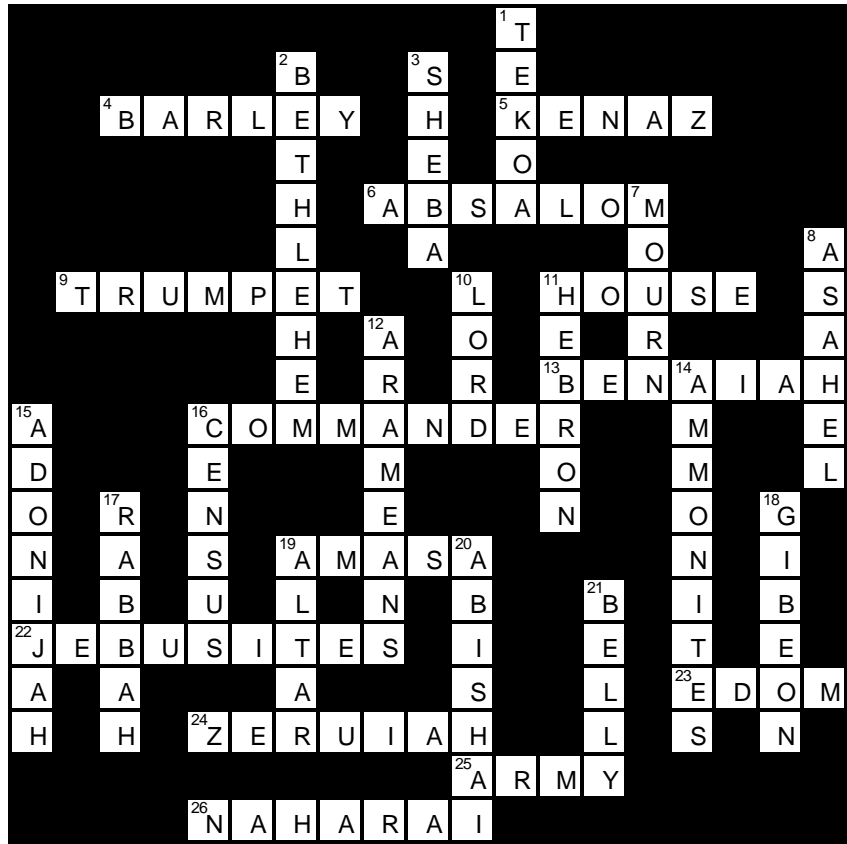
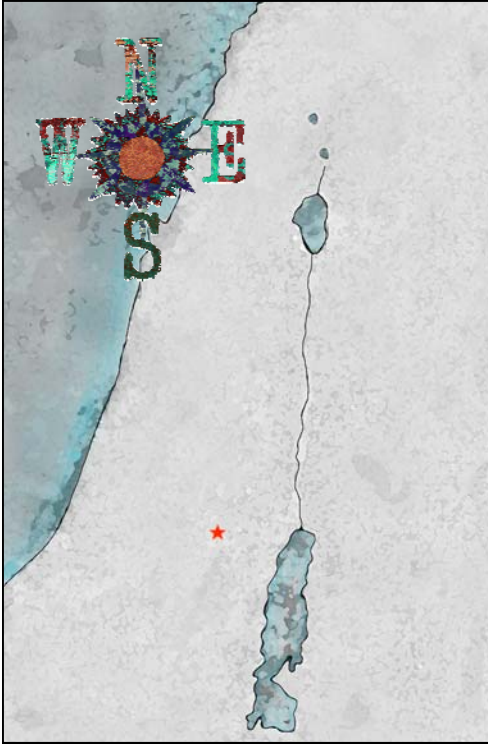
Across

- 4 this field of his was burned by Absalom
2 Sam. 14 (6)
- 5 his grandfather 1 Chron. 4:14 (5)
- 6 killed him 2 Sam. 18 (7)
- 9 could halt the troops with this 2 Sam.
18:16 (7)
- 11 his was cursed by David 2 Sam. 3:29 (5)
- 13 killed by him 1 Kings 2 (7)
- 16 his title 2 Sam. 8:16 (9)
- 19 given command of the army in his place
2 Sam. 19:13 (5)
- 22 led the attack on these people 1 Chron.
11 (9)
- 23 killed all of their men 1 Kings 11:15 (4)
- 24 his mother, and David's sister 2 Sam. 2, 1
Chron. 2:16 (7)
- 25 he was over Israel's _____ 2 Sam. 20 (4)
- 26 his armor bearer 2 Sam. 23:37 (7)

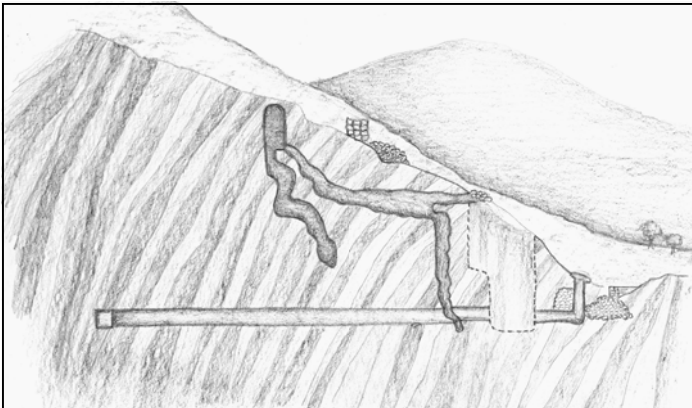
Down

- 1 enlisted a widow from here to help gain
Absalom's return (5)
- 2 place of his family's tomb 2 Sam. 2 (9)
- 3 his head was turned over to spare the city
from attack 2 Sam. 20 (5)
- 7 was told to do this for Abner 2 Sam. 3
(5)
- 8 his brother, killed by Abner 2 Sam. 2 (6)
- 10 was called this 2 Sam. 11:11 (4)
- 11 where he killed Abner 2 Sam. 3 (6)
- 12 fled before him 2 Sam. 10 (8)
- 14 sent his brother against them 2 Sam. 10
(9)
- 15 supported this son of David 1 Kings 1
and 2 (8)
- 16 opposed this 2 Sam. 24 (6)
- 17 besieged this city while David remained
in Jerusalem 2 Sam. 11 (6)

Puzzle answers:



For more studies, go to:



Down Victory Road
www.downvictoryrd.com

Sources:

Branch, Robin Gallahe. "David and Joab." *Bible Review*, Aug 2003, 14-23, 62-63. <http://members.bib-arch.org/publication.asp?PubID=BSBR&Volume=19&Issue=4&ArticleID=1> (accessed 11/15/2010)

"Joab's Career at a Glance." *Bible Review*, Aug 2003, 20. <http://members.bib-arch.org/publication.asp?PubID=BSBR&Volume=19&Issue=4&ArticleID=13> (accessed 11/15/2010)