

## It Takes All Kinds By Carl McMurray

In 1 Chronicles 12 there is the account of mighty men coming to join with David and making him officially the king of Israel. A great army forms around David as men migrate to him from every tribe. What I find most interesting however is the description of these mighty men.

Verse 3 says there were men of Benjamin, Saul's kinsmen, bowmen who could shoot arrows and sling stones with either the right hand or the left. Verse 9 records that of the tribe of Gad came "mighty and experienced warriors, expert with shield and spear." The text also says that their faces were like the faces of lions and they were swift as gazelles. No doubt, a serious, experienced, fast moving troop of marines. The Gadites also produced officers in a time when officers were developed on the field of battle, not in Officer Training Schools. The least of these officers was a match for a hundred ordinary men and the greatest was a match for a thousand. Men of Manasseh came to David deserting from Saul's army and were not turned away. They showed their value with David against the band that raided Ziklag when David was away and are described as "mighty men of valor and commanders in the army." Judah was represented by troops armed with shield and spear, while Simeon likewise produced "mighty men of valor for war." Levites took up weapons and came. Although they are not described as mighty warriors in this place, they showed up to fight. Ephraim produced mighty men of valor, famous men. And Issachar showed up, not only with commanders, and seasoned troops equipped for battle with all the weapons of war (the techies of their day, no doubt), they also showed up with men who "had an understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do." The brought wise counsel for the king. Naphtali sent commanders while Asher sent seasoned troops and those tribes from across the Jordan sent thousands of soldiers armed with all the weapons of war.

It's a long description to note that not all the tribes sent the same types of warriors nor the same weapons of warfare. But they all sent something. They were not all equals on the battlefield, but they were all present on the battlefield. They didn't all used the same weapon, but they used something. They came from mountains, lowlands, and from across the Jordan, but they came and they fought together because they knew who their enemy was. The church today needs fighters. Some with faces like lions and fast as gazelles. She needs men and women of valor, mighty ones able to wield the weapons of our warfare. She needs commanders, and counselors and soldiers from different backgrounds and cultures that will fight for truth because they know the enemy, and they know their commander.