

## The Number of Fighting Men of Israel Was 1,100,000 and of Judah 470,000

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The Number of Fighting Men of Israel Was 800,000 and of Judah 500,000 (2Sam. 24:9).

The Number of Fighting Men of Israel Was 1,100,000 and of Judah 470,000 (1Chr. 21:5).

There are two different classifications of men in the scriptures mentioned above. If this distinction is ignored, these two accounts can appear contradictory. The key to identifying this difference is the phrase “valiant men,”

Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to the king (David). And **there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men** who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men (2Sam. 24:9; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

Often Israel would go to war with a large army, but that army did not consist entirely of valiant men who were well-trained and equipped to deal with any threats or conditions they faced,

So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai; and **Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men of valor and sent them away** (Jos. 8:1; emphasis added).

These thirty thousand men were expected to face the enemy and the remainder would act as a backup if, or when, needed. This distinction and separation between the highly skilled warriors and regular fighters is mentioned again in this next scripture,

So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and **all the people of war** with him, **and all the mighty men of valor** (Jos. 10:7; emphasis added).

Without recognizing this distinction, it is not possible to understand the difference between 2 Samuel 24:9 and 1 Chronicles 21:5,

Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to David. All Israel had one million one hundred thousand men who drew the sword (combination of regular fighters and “valiant men”), and Judah had four hundred and seventy thousand men who drew the sword (1Chr. 21:5; Ed. notes in parenthesis).

Because only four hundred and seventy thousand men of Judah were mentioned in the scripture above, it can be concluded that thirty thousand men of Judah were regular fighters based on the five hundred thousand from Judah mentioned in 2 Samuel 24:9.

So the ten tribes of Israel had eight hundred thousand valiant warriors out of one million one hundred thousand men that carried a sword, while the tribe of Judah had four hundred and seventy thousand valiant warriors out of five hundred thousand men that carried a sword.

By combining the total number of valiant warriors from Israel and Judah, the combined force would be one million two hundred and seventy thousand. By combining the remainder of the regular fighters, the reinforcements would total three hundred and thirty thousand.

Therefore, instead of being contradictory, when the two different scriptural accounts are examined and combined, a much more detailed picture of David's army emerges.

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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