



In today's vernacular, Ahiezer would be described as the Commander of a Special Forces Unit - or, more precisely, *The Secret Service*. As we are going to discover, Ahiezer would have had a keen sense of justice, enormous courage, been extremely loyal, been very dedicated to his assignments, and an extremely inspirational leader. By the time we are introduced to him, he is already a seasoned soldier who has a loyal platoon of soldiers dedicated to him. This would probably mean that we are meeting him when he was at least in his late thirties or early forties and probably in his fifties.

1. Read First Chronicles 12:1-3. Particularly note verse 1. Which of the above descriptions of Ahiezer does First Chronicles 12:1 support and why?

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2. Ahiezer had switched his loyalty from King Saul, to the would-be King, David. Why do you think Ahiezer would have done this, and what does it tell us about him?

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3. Just as we can deduce Ahiezer's approximate age at the time we are introduced to him, we can also deduce David's approximate age around this time as well. Note Second Samuel 5:4 (1Kings 2:11). Since Ahiezer came to David before David was crowned King, how old would David had been at the time Ahiezer came to him?

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What does *this* tell us about Ahiezer?

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While the Scriptures describe *individuals* whom God raises up to great prominence, they are *few*. That is, there are far more people whom God raises up who play an equally, if not more important, role than these *few* individuals. But without the *many* God's purpose could not be wrought in the *few*. While Ahiezer only gets a one verse mention in Scripture, his supporting role for King David was indispensable. God may not call you to preeminence or great prominence. But His call on a person's life is always pivotal to His greater purpose. Rather than being frustrated about your lack of limelight, rejoice in the fact the Father's eyes are always on you. Your audience is not primarily the world because ultimately you have an audience of One.

4. Read First Chronicles 12:2. What skill of Ahiezer is described in this verse which would have been unusual (since it is being noted in this verse)?

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Warriors from the tribe of Benjamin had become famous for their ability to use their *left* hands in battle.

5. What does Judges 20:16 tell us the ability level of these Benjaminite warriors?

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Rendering your enemies virtually useless by cutting off their right hands had become a cruel way to suppress them around the time of the Judges of Israel (note Judges 1:6, 7). Quite possibly these 700 Benjaminites, who were so skilled with their left hands (Judges 20:16), had been de-limbed by their enemies when their right hands had been cut off in battle or time of war. Rather than resign themselves to a life of disability and despair, these Benjaminites seem to have worked hard to learn how to use their left hands as they once did with their right. It also seems that this ability was passed down the generations among the Benjaminites. Thus, Ahiezer seems to have been a left-hander in a right-hander's world who had maintained the Benjaminite tradition of learning to master the use of both hands.

6. First Chronicles 12:3 describes the position that Ahiezer held. What does this position description tell us about how Ahiezer was thought of by his men?

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For a platoon of battle-hardened men to follow their commander into battle would have meant that he had earned not only their trust but their respect as well. Ahiezer was no desk-jockey soldier. Years of combat would have taught Ahiezer that life was something to be prized and not lightly thrown away.

7. How might Ahiezer felt toward King Saul as he saw the way his king acted at the time Goliath had challenged any Israelite to fight him? (1Sam. 17:1-11)

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Perhaps it was on that day when Ahiezer saw a sixteen year old shepherd walk out of the King's tent, with nothing but a staff and a sling-shot in his hand, to face a giant, that his loyalty to his King was challenged? (1Sam. 17:32-37)

8. What might the much older Ahiezer seen in the young shepherd boy that would eventually lead him to become his chief military officer? Discuss.

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David could never have fulfilled his destiny to be the King of Israel without the support of Ahiezer. His important role in this vital chapter of Israel's history only granted him a one verse mention in Scripture. This should remind us that in God's eyes despite how many accolades we receive or don't receive in this life, our contribution of our gifts, talents and abilities are often vital to God's purpose being fulfilled in this generation.

*Amen.*