

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

PART I

STUDY NUMBER TWO

1 Samuel 17:1-58

Although David came before us in our study last week, he didn't say anything. We will hear his first lines in the drama today. Last week the Lord directed Samuel to chose David as the one who was going to be the next king. David was chosen out of the eight boys of the sons of Jesse in the city of Bethlehem.

Providential circumstances always work to deal with His men and the number one lesson you are going to learn is how to be a servant. As soon as you get into the family and you have a desire to please the Lord, your first lesson in the curriculum is — can you be a good servant.

That is David's first opportunity. He continues to tend the sheep and he goes back and forth between tending sheep and the palace where Saul is residing to play his harp on a regular basis whenever Saul needs it. If you can just imagine in your mind that this has been going on for four years.

If David was 16 when he was anointed, he is probably about 20 today.

In Numbers 1 it says that a guy had to be 20 before he qualified for the draft so he must be just about draft age in today's story, as it opens.

The one verse out of the Psalms that epitomizes our study today and shows you the difference between David and all the rest of the people that surround him today is Psalm 27:1.

Psalm 27:1

“The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?”

The Lord will always provide an opportunity for you to demonstrate what you are made of and the triumphing over impossible circumstances in your life.

Your greatest witness for God as a believer does not come when everything is going great.

Your greatest witness and your greatest demonstration, is when everything is against you and you are running uphill into the wind.

It is then that people can see, the quality of your life.

When others would tend to fold and quit you are going for it and you are giving it your best shot.

The greatest impact on other lives is when God gives us an opportunity to hang in there and go for it, when it would be so easy, to give up!

If I were to take just one other verse today, it is Daniel 11:32.

Daniel 11:32

“The people who know their God will display strength and take action.”

The people who know their God will display strength in a crisis and they will take action.

They will not just sit around and hope that things are going to happen and fall their way.

They are active and intensely involved! Biblically we think of Hezekiah as he stood before the hosts of Assyria and he told the people, look, do not sweat it.

2 Chron. 32:7-8

Faced with Sennacherib’s ruthless hordes, HEZEKIAH calmly made his military preparations and then set about strengthening the morale of his people. “Be strong and of good courage,” he exhorted them. “Do not be afraid or dismayed before the King of Assyria and all the horde that is with him. With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our

battles.” And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah.

Winston Churchill was probably speaking prophetically of the United States of America when he said, “If you will not fight for right when you can easily win without bloodshed; if you will not fight when your victory will be sure and not too costly, you may come to the moment when you may have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival.”

Courage is a man who just “keeps on coming on.” He may not get there himself, but he’ll open up a way so others can follow.

This is what I see in David today. But I see it as a common denominator in all of the spiritual, godly patriarchs of the Old Testament.

Just stop and think for a second, about Daniel. He purposed from his heart that he would not defile himself with the king’s meat. Everybody says you bow to the golden idol and he says, everybody but me. He is willing to suffer the consequences of the lion’s den because of his conviction.

Do not worry about Elijah he will stand on Mount Carmel with 250 prophets of Baal lined up against him

but he will say, “Choose you this day whom you will serve.” Courageous in a crisis.

Do not worry about Job sitting on an ash heap with a bunch of boils on his body and most of his family dead and his wife comes in and tells him to curse God and die. He has an unbreakable spirit that will say “The Lord has given and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.”

Do not worry about Moses when he has to stand before Pharaoh as the leader of the land. God is for him, who can be against him.

The fact is, it’s impossible to live victoriously for Christ without courage.”

As we begin today’s study, David is about 20 years old.

Let’s look at the verses that record this confrontation with Goliath in chapter 17:

v. 1 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Socoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah.

Now haven’t you been blessed?

If that was your first verse in your devotional reading today, wow what a blessing for you to feed upon.

What happens in the Bible, a lot of times, and this is really neat, is that it always states the geographical location. Then it takes the people and puts the people in with it.

**We have to know where we are working.
We have to know what we are doing here.**

Let's talk about the Philistines for just a second. They are descendants of Ham. Sham, Ham, and Japheth, the three sons of Noah got off the boat with Noah, and their wives. The cursed part of the race, was under Ham. Philistines are descendants of Ham.

The conflict between the Jews or the Israelis in the Old Testament, has its counterpart today, in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Every time you turn around these uncircumcised Philistines are trying to take over the land of Israel.

They were in possession of the Ark for a period of time as you are going to see. And they were actually victorious as acts of judgment against Israel on numerous occasions.

The Philistines worshiped the god Dagon who is the god of the crops, the god of corn.

They also worshiped the female counterpart by the name of Ashtaroth. She was the moon goddess, or the god of light and eventually became, the goddess Venus. These two represented their idolatry, their worship.

They lived in 5 cities, in the southwest borders of the land of Israel. From Jerusalem, you go through the plains of Shaaraim then to, Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron.

We are only going to think about Gath and Ekron today. These are the two cities that most of these guys are from, in this particular battle.

They are gathered at a location about 25 miles south of Jerusalem. They have come north from Gath about 12 miles to this geographical location where this is taking place.

They are actually in land that belongs to the tribe of Judah, the strongest of the 12 tribes. So they are on Israeli soil when the challenge is made. Now those 2 cities, Socoh and Azekah, are about 2 miles apart and this plain of Ephes Dammin is where they are located. They are back up, on both sides of the valley, ready for the battle.

v. 2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines.

This Valley of Elah is in close proximity to Azekah and Socoh.

v. 3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

Now that we have all the geographical things out of the way. Let's introduce the people.

v. 4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall.

Here is old Goliath;he is the giant from Gath. Let me tell you a little bit about him. While he was attending Gath High School they won the state 5-A basketball championship every year he was there. He got a scholarship to Ekron University and they went to the final four in the NCAA every year.

Incredible person. He was so strong. His playing weight was 350 pounds and he was 9'9" with a 3-inch clearance, between the top of his head and the rim. Fantastic individual.

He was drafted by the NBA, and played for the Philistine Flyers until the time for battle came along and then he went into the military.

He became a military hero.

The city of Gath is about 12 miles from this location so he has had a 12-mile trip up to the battlefield. He is the hero. He is number one in the Philistine army.

You will notice in verse 5 , he had a bronze helmet. He probably played a little football. Can you imagine a guy like him, on the front 4 and you are the quarterback? Or can you imagine him being your blocking assignment? Old Too Tall Jones would be too small for this kind of situation.

He also played in the Pro Bowl many years and has 4 Super Bowl rings to his credit.

It says his coat and armor weighed 125 pounds in verse 5.

v. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels;

v. 6 On his legs he wore bronze greaves and a bronze javelin was slung on his back.

He is probably a baseball catcher too. Can you imagine what kind of catcher he would make? What a target for a pitcher. He probably called his own strikes and nobody argued with him.

And nobody dared think about stealing second and nobody even gave a thought to stealing home. I mean you did not mess with this big guy.

“And a bronze javelin was slung on his back” and the first time he threw that, he set an Olympic record and won a gold medal in Athens.

v. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

“His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels,” that is 17 pounds, that is heavier than a shotput, on the end of his spear.

“His shield bearer went ahead of him.” Can you imagine the job he had carrying a shield to cover a guy, nine feet 9 inches tall?

There is a key word here in just a moment I want you to pick up.

v. 8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me.

“Are you not the servants of” who? — Saul. You see they have replaced God with Saul.

Their unique distinction as the people of God is no longer true. They are representative's of a man and they are in his army.

v. 9 If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.”

Goliath has a recommendation that is not too bad. “Choose a man and have him come down to me.” If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.”

All he is saying is, Let's settle this issue by playing a little one-on-one and we will save a lot of bloodshed and whoever wins the winner takes all.”

They did that a lot in those days.

When we get a little further into the life of David you are going to see, where they actually do that.

They line up 12 guys over here from Abner and 12 guys over here from Joab and they face off and have their battle. And we will see what happens when we get there in our future study.

v. 10 Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.”

There is the word I want you to get. That word “defy” occurs five times in today’s study. It will come leaping out. He is not defying the armies of Israel, he is defying the living God.

v. 11 On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

The picture in the Hebrew is they were frozen dead in their tracks, scared to death.

You know what mystifies me?

Why doesn’t Saul respond to the challenge and lead the people since he is the king and he has the most military experience of anybody that is accepting the challenge?

Saul is 6’10”. He has the armor. He has all the equipment and you will see that in just a minute. He is the king.

He is the representative of the living God, of the people.

Why doesn’t he just come on out and say, “Listen Mr. High Pockets, Let’s draw up the battle lines and get with it?”

I will tell you why. The reason he does not is because he is strictly thinking in terms of external assets and liabilities. I am 6'10" and he is 9'9". He has more weapons than I do and therefore, it is impossible.

I believe that heaven is going to be filled with a tremendous number of regrets over people who did not do for God because all they did was consider their assets and liabilities and decided they could not.

Some of you, may be hung up on that. You are thinking, some fine day something wonderful is going to happen and you are going to be able to serve the Lord in some wonderful and effective way.

Your still going to be sitting there 10 years from now unless you are willing to deal God into the picture.

Paul Adolph in *Release from Tension* says, the one thing you have to do is replace the fear of men with the fear of God. When you are really willing to trust God and respect Him and know that he will intervene in your life miraculously to the provision of your needs and will never send you into anything but He will also take care of you completely and in every way, will you be ready?

Here comes the guy with the white hat!

v. 12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had

eight sons, and in Saul's time he was old and well advanced in years.

The cameras switch from down at the battle lines to 16 miles to the northeast to a little town of Bethlehem.

The focus now is on God's providential dealings to get these things together.

We are now introduced to David who is the son of an Ephrathite.

When you saw Ephrathite did you wonder Ephrathite, termite, what does that mean? The term refers to the county like we refer to somebody who lives in Dallas as a Dallasite because they live in the city of Dallas in Dallas County.

We refer to somebody who lives in Ephrath, the county where Bethlehem resides, as Ephrathites. So David truly was a citizen of Bethlehem, he was an Ephrathite.

"Jesse had eight sons and in Saul's time he was old and well advanced in years." He is getting up there in age.

v. 13 Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah.

These are the same three boys that are mentioned by name at the anointing of David, and the other four , only pass before Samuel unnamed.

v. 14 David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul,

And verse 15 tells you, where we left David last week.

v. 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

Whenever Saul would have these bad emotional moods David would be called and he would play to soothe him.

Remember, that was our last verse last week?

David would play to calm him down.

When everything was taken care of then he would go back and care for the sheep. So he has been going back and forth.

v. 16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

Now we have switched the cameras back to the front lines, for a brief moment.

Everything has ground to a standstill. For 40 days now it's been, the same song, second verse, a little bit louder

and a whole lot worse. Goliath would make his morning and evening appearances before the armies of Israel and give his little speech.

Now that it has been 40 days, when God does something everybody is going to recognize that it is sovereign intervention.

Just maybe the delays in your life right now, in the answer to a particular prayer or situation that you cannot understand, is so that when it happens you are going to have to say God did it.

It's been 40 days and there have been 80 shots that have come from Goliath, with these morning and evening appearances. He has been giving that little speech, now 80 times.

Now we are going back to Bethlehem.

v. 17 Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp.

Jesse is upset and he is worried.

v. 18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them.

You can see why he is sending him. He wants to find out how they are doing and bring back some assurance that everything is all right.

Jesse reaches in his hip pocket and he pulls out a map. He is going over it in verse 19 with David to tell him how to get down there, from Bethlehem.

v. 19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines.”

v. 20 Early in the morning David left the flock with a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry.

Why does he leave his flock with a shepherd “early in the morning”? Can you imagine, how much sleep you would get the night before? He is so excited, he can’t stand it.

It is 16 miles to camp so I am guessing it took David all day to get there. By the time he stopped for lunch and watered the burrows and all that stuff he gets there toward evening.

Isn’t it fun how God ordered David’s life so perfectly after that long days trip. He comes into camp at the time for the 82nd appearance of this gruesome gorilla

from Gath and for his 82 challenge, his p.m. appearance at night.

And as he walks in:

v. 21 Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other.

v. 22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and greeted his brothers.

He goes to the supply depot and gives all his things. He runs in and he is all excited. He is thrilled to death and he wants his brothers to know, “Hey, I am here.” But they do not have the same feeling, as you will see, in just a minute.

v. 23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it.

This is probably the 82nd time that the army of Israel has heard this little speech with no response.

Goliath is going to be surprised because God always has His man, and His man hears the challenge, for the first time.

v. 24 When the Israelites saw the man, they all ran from him in great fear.

Back on the first occasion of receiving this challenge, our text tells us in verse 11 that “the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.” And now in verse 24 they actually ran from him in great fear.

v. 25 Now the Israelites had been saying, “Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his father’s family from taxes in Israel.”

He comes out to “defy” Israel. There is your word again.

He is really defying, the God of Israel. Saul has failed to bring God into the situation.

All Saul has been able to do is, make promises to some guy, who will throw his neck, on the line.

Saul has a three-point proposal and it is not bad. You are going to get wealthy, get my daughter, and be exempt from taxes for the rest of your life and your family. That is quite a deal.

Are you ready for David’s first lines? Here is the first time he gets to speak and he reveals his heart. Watch this.

He starts with a casual, cool question, just matter of fact. Forgetting totally that it has been 82 times that no one has answered the bell yet.

v. 26 David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

David has spent enough time to know whose people he is and he has spent enough time with his God to know what his God can do.

And it is not the armies of Saul, “it is the armies of the living God.” That just shows his heart. It makes you realize what kind of guy, we have on our hands.

v. 27 They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, “This is what will be done for the man who kills him.”

They went over the three things that they had been saying:

- 1. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him.**
- 2. He will also give him his daughter in marriage,**

3. And will exempt his father's family from taxes in Israel.

I am sure subconsciously David is thinking, Isn't that interesting. Those are the very three things I was looking for.

Draw up the contract. Money, marriage, and a tax exemption for the whole family. What a deal!

They concluded their statement with "This is what will be done for the man who kills him."

Now sometimes before you can go fight against a giant you have to deal with your own family.

Have you ever noticed that?

Sometimes your greatest problems are with your own family. Eliab has had it up to here. I'll show you in just a minute.

v. 28 When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the man, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert?"

Why did Eliab get so ticked off?

- 1. He did not get anointed on that day and he was really Samuel's choice if you remember. When Eliab first came in Samuel was impressed by him.**
- 2. And I think Eliab has been the center of attention ever since the day he was born. He was firstborn. He never could do anything wrong. He is Mr. Perfect. All of the sudden this little brother, eight down from him and the last one born, is the one who gets anointed.**

David is so filled with self-control in this situation. The discipline of the Spirit of God controls him and he does not react but he responds from a position of strength in this situation.

You can always tell a godly person by how he responds or reacts in the midst of a stressful set of circumstances.

v. 29 "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?"

Innocent: what have I done?

"I mean I just came over here to find out how you guys are getting along so I can tell Dad you are all right. He

is worried about you. It has been 40 days and he has not heard anything from you.”

Can't I even speak? Can't I talk? God's reputation is at stake here and I am concerned. You guys are just standing around doing nothing.

v. 30 He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before.

He just turns away and talks to somebody else. If Eliab is going to have his nose out of joint and he wants to stand here and have a royal snip right here before everybody else and have a temper tantrum then let him go ahead. I am going to talk to somebody else.

v. 31 What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

I am sure Eliab and Abinadab and Shammah are all three thinking. Now David's really in hot water!

v. 32 David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

When you look at that, you might think David sounds like he has, a big head but there is a word that is missing if you do.

It is the word servant. He recognizes the authority of Saul. He just says your servant will do it. I will be glad to do it. He has confidence in the living God.

v. 33 Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy and he has been a fighting man from his youth.”

He has battle ribbons, that will go clear to the ground and you have not even had a chance to go to war. You’re just a rookie, you can’t do it. Look at David. This is great.

v. 34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock,

v. 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.

v. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.

v. 37 The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

You know what? I think our biggest mistake in life is we forget the things we need to remember and we remember the things we need to forget.

David remembers the good things. He remembers the Lord's past deliverance so he can stand here in quiet confidence that the God of the past who did it then, will do it now. I just need to trust him. I just need to walk into this future situation in reference to what I have experienced in the past and trust God to handle it.

And Saul says to David, "Go, and the Lord will be with you" I hope.

I think this was probably evening time, and David went from Saul's presence to go and sit around the fire and think things through. He probably went off by himself to spend some time with the Lord, knowing that tomorrow morning he was going to face the greatest challenge, of his young life.

When he got up in the morning, he was ready to face the A.M. onslaught of Goliath —Onslaught #83.

v. 38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head.

Saul probably tried to figure out while he was resting the night before, after their conversation, what he could do, to be of help to David. He finally decided that

the least he could do for him on this occasion was let him die in Saul's armor.

v. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them. "So he took them off."

That is just a simple way of saying when you put on the armor of a 6'10" guy you take seven steps and the armor does not move, you flat cannot use it. And he is frustrated. So David tells Saul, I'm not used to them. So he took them off.

That is a great lesson here. Don't ever make the mistake of letting somebody else dress you in their Christian armor.

You are a very unique person.

You formulate convictions in your heart! Let each man be fully persuaded in his own mind, as he is exposed to the scripture. The Lord wants to work with you as an individual.

v. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

That is like putting your jogging shorts on, your sweatband, and your t-shirt and going out to play tackle football. You are going to get hurt.

A sling is really a secret weapon. In Judges 20:16 the tribe of Benjamin had 700 left-handed slingers who could hit a hair at a great distance.

I would imagine David has taken his sling and knocked the 50-cent piece off of a fencepost at 50 yards a jillion times out there as he is practicing with the use of this little weapon that he has.

Some people have asked the question why did he pick up five stones? They thought maybe he was not competent and he needed four more shots just in case he missed on the first one. That is not what he was planning. In 2 Samuel 21:22 giant Goliath has four sons that are in the army, and they are standing up on the hill, watching daddy down in the field.

David knows that. He has four extra rocks for the boys that are going to take daddy's place when this all happens just in case he happens to need them.

You can feel the excitement. All the mobile news units and the cameras have been set up, CNN-MSNBC-FOX-CBS-ABC-NBC, and it is going to be on-the-scene coverage.

Now there is some movement going on down on the plain, and here comes the challenger.

v. 41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David.

You can feel the adrenaline start to pump. David is probably thinking, I've never seen a thing that big, in all of my life.

v. 42 He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him.

Ruddy, red hair and handsome, same things we saw last week. Goliath despised him. This is a reproach. This is like a high school kid fighting somebody in the NFL. This is dumb and silly.

v. 43 He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

You are going to notice one thing. As soon as they start coming closer together, all they look for is the offensive weapons. The only offensive weapon, that Goliath sees is this staff. So he speaks of it right there, he says, "you come at me with sticks. And the Philistine cursed David by his gods."

Is that any different today? You have been working out in the jungles. Every time they turn around what do they try to do? They use deity to curse.

v. 44 “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!”

This is just a lot of pre-fight chatter. Do you ever notice how fighters when they weigh in, they have their little pre-fight chatter?

***I’m going to get him in the third round!
I’m going to punch his lights out in the first round!***

v. 45 David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

Now look at David. You come at me with what? Three offensive weapons, he already has them sighted your sword, your spear, and your javelin.

“But I come against you in the great neutralizer of them all, in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.” What a great witness to a guy, who is about to die.

Chuck Swindoll says, “Goliath to me is like a cross-eyed discus thrower. He does not set any records but he sure keeps the crowd awake. He is out there blundering

everyday for 40 days and 40 nights, belching out his blasphemy and never putting his money where his mouth is and now the time comes.”

v. 46 This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.”

David is like Babe Ruth standing at the plate saying the next one is going right over there and one swing of the bat and it goes right over the place where he has pointed. And sure enough he does!

v. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

Gene Getz points out, “In summary, Goliath’s perspective represents a man of this world. He knew nothing of trusting God and honoring Him with his life. His confidence was purely in himself, in his military skills, and in his protective armor. He did not comprehend, or at least refused to acknowledge, the only true God. And all of this, of course, made him extremely vulnerable to a man who did have skill, but who also had a dynamic relationship with the living God.”

v. 48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

v. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

He RAN; he REACHED: he SLUNG and he STRUCK. He hit the guy, right between the running lights. He never had anything like that enter his head before.

He is knocked out, with the first punch and the rest of the guys, standing on the sidelines were expecting it to be a longer battle. But it happened just like that. It is over.

v. 50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

With a sling and a stone, without a sword, David triumphed.

Gene Getz points out, “The story of David and Goliath represents one of the most dramatic events in the history of Israel. Before David met Goliath, he was little known. Even though he had served as Saul’s personal musician, and one of his armor bearers,

after David encountered this powerful Philistine warrior and won a decisive victory, he not only became a popular figure in Israel, but also became well known among the nations that surrounded God's chosen people. All of this, of course, was within God's plan and purpose for David. God provided him with a unique opportunity to prove himself, and David responded."

v. 51 David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head, with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

v. 52 Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron.

Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

There was a bunch of them that went 12 miles to the south where Goliath lived and 12 miles northeast where the road divided to the other city Ekron.

v. 53 When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp.

Of course they wanted, their iron weapons. The Philistines were the first ones to develop the forging

process and they wanted all their weapons and supplies.

v. 54 David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, and he put the Philistine's weapons in his own tent.

v. 55 As Saul watched David going out to meet the Philistine, he said to Abner, command of the army, "Abner, whose son is that young man?" Abner replied, "As surely as you live, O king, I don't know."

Some have wondered, why Saul would not recognize David because he had been acquainted with him some years earlier in the palace.

Perhaps as many people that Saul meets each day, it is no wonder that he asks the question about David's family.

v. 56 The king said, "Find out whose son this young man is."

v. 57 As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with David still holding the Philistine's head.

v. 58 "Whose son are you, young man?" Saul asked him. David said, "I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem."

Once again, David uses the term 'servant' when he refers to his father.

What are the lessons that we can learn from this particular passage of scripture?

LESSON #1: God is able to provide the victory to those who will trust in Him.

LESSON #2: Satan is like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

**Goliath can represent Satan.
He stands as a giant
in the way of any spiritual progress
shouting his challenges,
pointing out the weakness
he stands there as a giant.**

LESSON #3: Past experiences of the Lord's faithfulness should cause us to rest assured of future deliverances.

When you start facing a crisis just remember what God has done in the past, and it will bring you a peace and a rest knowing, that he will handle the future, like he has the past.

LESSON #4: Don't make the mistake of letting someone else dress you up in their armor.

You are a very special, unique, priceless, precious individual to the Lord. He will provide for you the weapons for your warfare to do battle for Him.

LESSON #5: The battle is the Lord's.

He wants to fight for you.

LESSON #6: All Israel shared in David's victory!

Do you have any giants that are running across your landscape right now?

Chuck Swindoll lists 11 of the Lord's most wanted giants:

Fear

Bitterness

Jealousy

Lust

Depression

Loneliness

Resentment

Grief

Pain

Procrastination

Rumors

To name a few.

You know what is really fun?

Take your sling of faith, stick in a stone of truth, and go knowing that the battle is the Lord's and pop a few of these giants. It is a joy seeing a bunch of these giants lying belly up because you are experiencing victory in your life in situations where these giants could have overwhelmed you. You may be settling for a whole lot less in your Christian life than the Lord really intended, if you do not have your sling of faith and your rocks of truth and you are doing some battle today.

The big question that comes to each of us now is how willing are we to move into the arena of life and to be involved in the slaying of these giants that stand in array against us?

Victory comes as we go into battle and fight the giants with God's help!

What You Need to Know About DAVID

PART I

STUDY NUMBER TWO - 1 Samuel 17:1-58

17:v. 1 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Socoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah.

v. 2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines.

v. 3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

v. 4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall.

v. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels;

v. 6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back.

v. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

v. 8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me.

v. 9 If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us."

v.10 Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other."

v.11 On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

v.12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was old and well advanced in years.

v.13 Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah.

v.14 David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul,

v.15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

v.16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

v.17 Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp.

v.18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them.

v.19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."

v.20 Early in the morning David left the flock with a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army

was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry.

v.21 Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other.

v.22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and greeted his brothers.

v.23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it.

v.24 When the Israelites saw the man, they all ran from him in great fear.

v.25 Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his father's family from taxes in Israel."

v.26 David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

v.27 They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, "This is what will be done for the man who kills him."

v.28 When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

v.29 "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?"

v.30 He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before.

v.31 What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

v.32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

v.33 Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth."

v.34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock,

v.35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.

v.36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.

v.37 The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

v.38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head.

v.39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off.

v.40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

v.41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David.

v.42 He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him.

v.43 He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

v.44 "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

v.45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

v.46 This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

v.47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

v.48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

v.49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

v.50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

v.51 David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

v.52 Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

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v.58 "Whose son are you, young man?" Saul asked him. David said, "I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem."

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-58 several times and in your own words outline what is happening in the life of David.**
- 2. In your own words give a description of Goliath the giant from Gath.**
- 3. What is the challenge given by Goliath, according to verses 8-10?**
- 4. How did Saul and the army of Israel respond to Goliath's challenge, according to verse 11?**
- 5. How long did this challenge go on, according to verse 16?**
- 6. Why is David so courageous, according to verse 37?**
- 7. How does David respond to Goliath in verses 45-47?**
- 8. How did David triumph in this situation, according to verses 48-50?**
- 9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?**
- 10. What lesson have you learned from this study?**

Lessons Learned In The Life Of David:

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