

Study Number Two — 1 Samuel 17:1-58

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.

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

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, commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is that young man?" Abner replied, "As surely as you live, O king, I don't know."

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."

INTRODUCTION:

Maclaren points out, "We see the greatest qualities of a military leader of the antique type, in which personal bearing and a strong arm count for more than strategic skill. He dashes at Goliath with an enthusiasm of youthful courage and faith. While still in the earliest bloom of his manhood, at the head of his wild band of outlaws, he shows himself sagacious, full of resource, prudent in counsel, and swift as lightning in action, frank and generous, bold and gentle, cheery in defeat, calm in peril, patient in privations, and ready to share them with his men, modest and self-restrained in victory, chivalrous to his foes, ever-watchful, ever-hopeful, a born leader and king of men."

Barber points out, "All of us are subject to stress. No matter how well we plan our lives, there are times when the pressures of unforeseen circumstances threaten to overwhelm us. The proof of the reality of our Christian experience is demonstrated in the way we handle these tensions. James Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, now the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, knew what it was like to face trial and misfortune, difficulty and loss. How he dealt with the internal and external pressures associated with the work of the mission is told in Hudson Taylor's *Spiritual Secret*. One of his most trying experiences occurred during the Yang Chow Riot. The British Parliament severely criticized the work of missions in China. Missionaries from the different denominations were blamed for the strained diplomatic relations. Financial support dwindled and tensions increased. Many of the missionaries were so filled with fear that their trust in the Lord began to fail. Strong leadership was needed if the work was going to survive the crisis. It was during this period of time he gave expression to one of the most important truths found in the book. He wrote, 'It doesn't matter,

really, how great the pressure is. It only matters where the pressure lies.' By means of his own unshakeable faith in God, he was able to encourage others. He believed that the external threats they were facing would either draw them closer to the Lord or drive them from Him. Of importance to us are the experiences of two men in the Bible who faced the pressure of circumstances they could not control. These men are Saul and David. The way in which they responded to the difficulty is as instructive as it is revealing. Their combined examples illustrate first negatively and then positively the responses of people to pressure. David illustrates for us the value of faith and how it may become a dynamic working force, a reality in our lives."

1. Anointed by Samuel
 2. Sought by Saul
- Opportunity to demonstrate courage in leadership

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?"

Psalm 72:18

"Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone works wonders."

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 fold and quit.

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 (2 Chron. 32:7, 8).

Daniel 11:32

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

Confucius said, "To see what is right and not to do it is a real want of courage."

Winston Churchill 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 comin’ on.” He may not get there himself, but he’ll open up a way so others can follow.

Swindoll points out, “Courage feeds on giants. DAVID had it when he grabbed his sling in the Valley of Elah. DANIEL demonstrated it when he refused to bow before Nebuchadnezzar’s statue in Babylon.

ELIJAH evidenced it when he faced the prophets of Baal on Carmel.

JOB showed it when he was covered with boils and surrounded by misunderstanding.

MOSES used it when he stood against Pharaoh in the court of Egypt, refusing to be intimidated.

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

3-4 years tending sheep and going to the palace as needed!

16 years anointing — 20 years today

Let us now turn to the consideration of 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.

Redpath points out, “Incidentally, the battle was lined up in a territory that belonged to Judah. And it was in this place that rightfully belonged to the people of God that Goliath was breathing out his defiance.”

Gulston points out, “Here perhaps three or four years after Saul and David’s first meeting, the armies of the Philistines and Israel had gathered for battle, their forces on opposite hills with the plain between them.”

[Shem, Ham, Japheth]

“Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war.”

The Philistines were descendants of HAM, one of Noah’s three sons. They lived in five cities in southwest Palestine:

Gaza
 Ashdod
 Ashkelon
 Gath
 Ekron

They were an uncircumcized people. They were enemies of God's people, similar to the Arab-Israeli conflict of our day."

They worshipped the gods Dagon and Ashtaroth. Dagon was the god of the corn growing, and Ashtaroth was the female counterpart, the light-maker, the goddess of the moon and later the goddess of Venus.

The Philistine armies gathered their forces for war in a place that belonged to Judah, the strongest of the tribes. They assembled at Socoh. This is about 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

"They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah."

Azekah was a couple of miles northwest of Socoh.

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 lay 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 the geographical setting and the picture clearly drawn, we're ready for the introduction of the people.

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

Goliath, the giant from Gath. While attending Gath High School, they won the state 5-A basketball championship. He then got a scholarship to Ekron University and took them to the NCAA championship all four years that he was there. He was then drafted by the Philistine Flyers in the NBA and played there for several years. Then the war came along and now he's a military hero.

3" clearance between the top of his head and the rim!!

He stood 9'9" tall, and his playing weight was 350 lbs. There was one unique thing about him: he could clear the boards flat-footed.

Undisputed heavy weight champion of de world. Nobody could reach him to punch his lights out.

Laney points out, "Since a cubit is approximately 18" and a span of 9", it can be calculated that Goliath stood 9'9" tall. His coat of armor weighed 5,000 shekels, or approximately 125 lbs. The head of Goliath's bronze spear weighed approximately 17 lbs., considerably more than the standard shotput. Goliath may have been a descendant of the gigantic sons of Anak, who had struck fear into the hearts of the Israelites before the conquest. Perhaps Saul and his warriors had forgotten the victory God gave Israel and the conquest, for they too were dismayed and greatly afraid of this formidable foe."

The city of Gath was about 12 miles south from this location.

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

He had a bronze helmet—He probably tried a little football. What a great defensive end on the front four! Too Tall would be too small next to Goliath. Imagine how a quarterback would feel with him coming at you! How would you feel if he were your blocking assignment?

He probably could take Rodney Dangerfield's place as the big-foot monster in the Miller Light commercials.

He played in the Pro Bowl 15 years in a row and has four Super Bowl rings.

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

He wore bronze shin guards, so it tells us he probably tried playing a little baseball. What a catcher he would have made. What a target. Hard on the ump to see over him. He probably called his own balls and strikes, anyway. It's for sure that no one would argue with him. It would really be hard to steal second. Nobody even thought about stealing home.

“And a bronze javelin was slung on his back.”

He probably got the Gold medal in the Olympics in Athens for the javelin throw. He set a new world's record on his first throw.

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 shield bearer went ahead of him. You can imagine what size shield would be needed for a man like this to protect himself in battle, and what a job it was to carry it.

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.

In Goliath's address to the armies of Israel, he begins with two questions:

1. Why do you come out and line up for battle?
2. Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul?

He has a proposal for them. His proposal is to choose a man and have him come down to me. We can save a lot of bloodshed just by playing a little one-on-one here, and let the issue be decided—winner takes all.

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.”

This was a common practice to decide international issues on the outcome of single combat. Goliath was prepared to be the representative of the Philistines, and all he asked was that the Israelites should select their representative and let an individual match decide the issue.

Mackintosh says, “Am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul?” Alas, it was but too true. They had come down from their high elevation as servants to Jehovah to become mere servants to Saul. Nothing will teach men, however, save bitter experience, and the cutting taunts of Goliath would no doubt teach Israel afresh the real nature of their condition under the crushing rule of the Philistines.”

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

After his proposal, there was a pause in his address. Then his final statement was “This day I defy the ranks of Israel. Give me a man and let us fight each other.” We need to hang on to the word defy because it and its various forms occurs five times in this passage.

If Goliath were accurate, he would be saying all of this directly to God: “This day I defy the ranks of Israel (God’s people). God, give me a man and let us fight each other.”

Ezekiel 22:30

“And I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.”

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

They were literally frozen in fear, stopped dead in their tracks.

Barber asked the question, “Why didn’t Saul accept Goliath’s challenge? He was the most likely person to fight against him. He was the most qualified by office, size, and experience. Saul’s orientation had always been external. In this instance he sized up the situation, compared his size with the giant’s, his armor and weapons with the Philistine’s, and concluded that he was unequal to the task.”

External—assets and liabilities
Never consider what God can do!

Israel listens in fear to the challenge of the giant from Gath. Saul, however, is motivated solely by external considerations and measures events and circumstances by a carnal standard. His assessment of the situation leaves God out.

As Shakespeare pointed out in Richard the Third, “You cannot reason with a man who is full of dread.”

Krummacher points out, “Now it was for Israel, and especially for the king, to call to remembrance the words spoken by Moses, ‘The Lord is a man of war. The Lord shall fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.’ And how often in past times the Lord had confirmed this word of His faithful servant and had sealed it by the

events of His providence. How, he asks himself, is the last spark of faith extinguished in Israel? Or his arm shortened who once buried in the waves of the Red Sea Pharaoh with his horsemen and their horses. Who, at the prayer of Moses, destroyed the power of Amalek, and guided Gideon so that with his 300 men he was able to sweep from the field the thousands of Midian. Has then the Lord of Hosts, who once was able to do such things resigned in any sense his government to the gods of the Philistines, and must Israel now submit to this change of rulers?"

Psalm 3:1-3

"O Lord, how my adversaries have increased. Many are rising up against me. Many are saying of my soul, There is no deliverance for him in God. But thou, O Lord, art a shield about me; my glory, and the one who lifts up my head."

Psalm 68:1-3

"Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered; and let those who hate him flee before him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish before God. But let the righteous be glad; let them exalt before God; yes, let them rejoice with gladness."

Psalm 68:19, 20

"Blessed be the Lord who daily bears our burden, the God who is our salvation. God is to us a God of deliverances, and to God the Lord belongs escapes from death."

Philippians 4:13

"I am ready for anything, through the strength of the One who is indwelling me."

Paul Adolph points out, "The real remedy for fear is replacing our fear of man and circumstances with the fear of God, which is reverential trust in Him, with hatred of evil. When true trust in God enters, fear

of man departs. Trust in God and fear of man cannot abide together.”

Psalm 56:3

“What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee.”

Psalm 27:1-3

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear. The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? When evil doers come upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies they stumbled and fell. Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war arise against me, in spite of this, I shall be confident.”

Deane and Kirk, speaking of Jonathan on this particular occasion, says, “The dark cloud of the divine rejection which had fallen upon his father at Gilgal, had encompassed him also and darkened his spirit with its baleful shadow. It deprived him not only of the heirship to the kingdom, but also of the golden opportunity of fighting in the name of the Lord of Hosts with the proud giant of Gath. God withheld from him the extraordinary influences of His Spirit; and destitute of the consciousness that the Lord would be with him in the contest, he became at the sight of the giant like the rest of the army, paralyzed by terror and dismay.”

Isaiah 41:10

“Fear thou not, for I am with thee. Be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee. Yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

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.

Like every great story, when the people are in trouble, the focus suddenly turns to the hero, the man who is going to make the rescue.

Now the cameras switch 16 miles to the northeast, to the little town of Bethlehem.

“Now David was the son of an Ephrathite”

Ephrathah was the country in which the city of Bethlehem was located. We say he is a Dallasite because he is from the city of Dallas in Dallas county.

“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.

The other four boys are not involved in this situation.

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,

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

1 Samuel 16:23

“Whenever the Spirit from God came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul. He would feel better and the evil spirit would leave him.”

W. W. Wynter points out, “Three of the sons are in the ranks, but what has become of the other four is not told. Since David was too young at this time, we presume that he was not yet 20 year old, for Israel’s men of war were to be men who were 20 years old and older, according to Numbers 1:3 –

Numbers 1:3

“From 20 years old and upward, whoever is able to go out to war in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their armies.”

Epp points out, “We cannot be too sure of David’s age at this time. But very likely he was in his early twenties. Though he was only beginning to come into manhood physically, he had a spiritual maturity far beyond that of many of his contemporaries. This was why, when the Israelites fled in fear before the advancing Goliath, David, because he knew his God, did not run. Even believers will find themselves in situations where their hearts will quail in fear simply because their personal knowledge of God is not adequate.”

Ethel Barrett, speaking of this verse, says, “Anyway, King Saul has not sent for me,’ David said, ‘so he must be out on the battlefield.’ They sat in silence, wondering, until bedtime. David had divided his time between watching his father’s sheep and trips to the palace ever since that first trip many months ago. He served in the palace on a part-time basis. He was sort of on call; whenever one of Saul’s dark moods descended upon him, David was sent for. He would leave his sheep with his brothers, grab his harp and off he’d go. His sweet music would fill the air at the palace, soft and tender and haunting, until the king was quiet again.”

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.

Necessary build up to magnify the Lord's deliverance.

Deane and Kirk point out, "the issues were too momentous to be entrusted to common hands. And yet, there was no one of sufficient courage and skill among the chiefs to uphold the cause of God's people. The king himself was withheld by his dignity from answering the challenge. Jonathan's life was considered too valuable to be endangered at such an unequal fight. In this dilemma they asked no counsel of God for his priests, but for 40 days endured these grievous taunts, not knowing how to repress them."

Jesse hasn't heard anything for 40 days and it's driving him up the wall!! Believing the worst!

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.

Now the cameras once again switch 16 miles to the northeast to the city of Bethlehem.

Madame Guyon said, "There is a light in yonder skies,
A light unseen by outward eyes,
But clear and light to inward sense
It shines the star of Providence."

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.

He is to take the grain and the loaves of bread for his three brothers, and the cheese is to be taken to the commander of their unit.

Take the cheeses for the big cheese!!

The other purpose of his mission is to see how the three brothers are doing and bring back a report.

Jesse finishes his instructions by pulling out a map and showing David where they are located.

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

Hercus describes the scene: “None of your tricks! You bring back a message from them that I’ll know is really from them. Don’t you dare get yourself mixed up in any funny business, boy!’ Down went David, grain, bread, cheeses, and all, a teenager now. All the driving male hormones beginning to churn away inside him, in great surging impulses. Down the mountain to his brothers, to the heart of the battle and the clash of strife.”

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.

do you think he’s excited! Going where the action is! Like stepping gout on Saturday night!!

Woo Wee!! Fun City!

It probably took David most of the day to make the 16-mile trip to the place of the army in the Valley of Elah. He reaches the camp with perfect providential timing. It was the time for the P.M. challenge from the giant of Gath, the GRUESOME GORRILLA, by the name of Goliath.

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.

As soon as David got there, he left his supplies at the supply depot and ran to the battle lines, and greeted his brothers. That’s kind of like running onto the field just before kickoff to let your three brothers know that you made it to the game.

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 day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.”

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

This is probably the 82nd time the army of Israel has heard this little speech. It's kind of like the airline stewardess's speech before you leave the ground. “You slide the flat portion of the buckle . . . Oxygen masks will drop from the compartment overhead automatically . . .”

82 times they have heard this challenge from Goliath with no response.

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 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.”

All the exercises of leadership that Saul had performed was in promises to anyone who would accept the challenge and defeat Goliath. The men were all talking about the three-fold reward that the king had offered.

You will notice that the statement is made that “He comes out to defy Israel.” This is not really whom he is defying. He is defying the God of Israel, but Saul has failed to bring God into the situation.

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?”

First words!!

This is the first time that David speaks in Scripture.

It is in the form of two questions:

1. The first question has to do with the reward involved in removing this disgrace from Israel.
2. The second question is a key question.
“Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

F. B. Meyer points out, “To David, on the other hand, there was no such fear. His soul was full of God. He was his light and salvation; whom shall he fear? The strength of his life; of whom shall he be afraid? He was hidden in the secret of God’s pavilion, an abode under the shadow of the Almighty. There was no unsteadiness in the hand that slung the stone, no tremor in the heart. He was strong in faith because his young heart was pure and good and right, and in living fellowship with Jehovah.”

Blaikie points out, “Let us learn never to quail at carnal might arrayed against the cause of God. Let us never fear to attack sin, however apparently invincible it may be. Be it sin within or sin without, sin in our hearts or sin in the world, let us go boldly at it, strong in the might of God, that God who delivered David from the paw of the wild beasts, from the power of the giant will make us more than conquerors.”

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 saying, 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!

There is a new IRS form floating around Washington now, I'm told. It has just two lines on it. The first is your name, the second, What did you make?

Followed by the statement SEND IT.

Signed Uncle Sam.

They concluded their statement with "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 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? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

Molten missile—burning blast

What a smoldering shot this is from David's oldest brother. As he begins his outburst, it is with two questions:

1. Why have you come down here?
2. With whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert?

He then makes a two-fold charge:

1. I know how conceited you are and
2. How wicked your heart is.

Obviously, Eliab is probably jealous over the anointing that took place recorded in our previous chapter.

And certainly he has been jealous and annoyed over the concert tours to the White House.

Eliab may be RESPONSIBLE and RESPECTABLE, but he is also RESENTFUL.

I am sure bitterness and jealousy also play a vital part in this confrontation.

David has to deal first of all with his own flesh and blood before he can do battle against the giant.

Gehrke points out, “Eliab, David’s eldest brother, can see only evil presumption in his kid brother’s willingness to intervene. Neglecting his duties at home to come to the front and be a sidewalk superintendent at a bloody slaughter.”

F. B. Meyer points out, “Evidently, something should be said to thrust him back into his right place and minimize the effect of his words, and let the bystanders know who and what he was. ‘Why art thou come down? With whom,’ he said with a sneer, ‘hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness.’ Ah, what venom as of an asp lay in those few words. David, however, ruled his spirit and answered softly, ‘Surely,’ said he, ‘my father’s wish to learn of your welfare was cause enough to bring me here.’ It was there that the victory over Goliath was really won. To have lost his temper in this unprovoked assault would have broken the alliance of his soul with God and drawn a veil over his sense of his presence. But to meet evil with good and maintain an unbroken composure not only showed the burnished beauty of his spiritual armor, but cemented his alliance with the Lamb of God.”

David responds rather than reacts—Rules his own spirit well!!

Deane and Kirk point out, “Eliab, the eldest brother of David, when he heard these brave and noble words was enraged. He did not like to see the young stripling excited the interest and admiration of the soldiers and showing the cowardice of older men like himself. He had probably regarded his brother with a jealous

eye ever since he himself had been passed over by Samuel, and David had been anointed with the holy oil. As he called to mind, too, his heroic feats in killing the lion and the bear, he was perhaps afraid that if his youngest brother got the opportunity, he would surpass him in needs of bravery and military prowess.”

v. 29 “Now what have I done?” said David. “Can’t I even speak?”

David has two questions of his own:

1. What have I done?
2. Can’t I even speak?

God’s reputation was at stake here, and this concerned David very much. “Can’t I even speak when all you men of war are standing helpless and perplexed in the face of this great national insult? Is there not a cause why I should inquire into the matter, if by God’s help I can do anything for my God and my people?”

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

David is unmoved in the sharp words coming from Eliab, and he turns to someone else and brings up the matter about reward for killing the giant.

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 saying in unison, Now David’s really in the soup.

Barrett says, “The last he saw of his brothers their faces were aghast in half astonishment and half anger. They seemed to be saying, Now you’ve done it! You and your big mouth. And a few minutes later he was standing before King Saul.”

Summary

1. Anointed
2. Music
3. Eliah, Abinadab, Shammah
4. 40 days
5. Sends David
6. Contract
 - a. wealth
 - b. marriage
 - c. tax exempt
7. Left him talking to Saul

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

Here David speaks with such confidence, “Let no one lose heart or be afraid on account of this Philistine.” That sure speaks to the issue because they have had everything on hold for 40 days simply because everybody was afraid and no one would volunteer.

David concludes his opening statement to Saul by saying, “Your servant will go and fight him.”

It is good for us to note that as he speaks to Saul, throughout this whole experience, he addresses him every time speaking of himself as Saul’s servant.

This tells us he is not cocky, but recognizes and respects authority.

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.”

David, you are just a rookie, a young man; and this man who is making the challenge, this giant from Gath, is long on experience. He has all kinds of ribbons to show for his military achievements.

Saul is not telling David anything that he does not know already because David is not planning on going out by himself. “If God be for us, who can be against us? Nay, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loves us.”

This statement from Saul brings forth from David a tremendous address in the next number of verses.

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.”

Past experiences of the Lord’s faithfulness should cause us to rest assured of future deliverances.

2 Tim. 4:17, 18

“But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the lion’s mouth. The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever, Amen.”

Barrett describes David and Saul’s conversation in the following way: “You are a mere lad,’ Saul said again. ‘I am seventeen, sir.’ ‘Seventeen?’ Saul said. ‘why Goliath has probably been in the army since he was seventeen, or even younger.’ And he shook his head, ‘Oh, David, David!’ Playing a harp is one thing; what you are offering to do is quite another. You are a boy. Don’t try to play a man’s game.”

Young points out, “David said, ‘I fought a lion and bear and I defeated them.’ Do you know what the problem is with many of us? We remember what we need to forget, and we forget what we need to remember. We tend to recall only the bad experiences.”

Barber points out, “The contrast between Saul and David is obvious. Saul, on the one hand, measures everything by a carnal standard, and knows nothing of the faith which moves mountains. David, on the other hand, is an example of the human being linked with the invisible God, whose strength is derived from inner resources, and his trust in the Lord gives him confidence in himself. Remembrance of God’s past deliverances gives him assurance; as he faces the present crisis, his faith displaces all fear.”

David succeeded because of his unshakable confidence in God’s faithfulness. David’s confidence was also based upon past experience. All of us are confronted with pressures too great for us that often weigh us down. David’s trust in God helped him overcome the trials and difficulties he faced. We face the danger of becoming overawed by the crisis and forget to draw upon the resources of God. God does not expect us to succumb to difficulties but allows them to enter our lives in order that we may triumph over them.

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.

Vindicates himself! Did what he could!!

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.

You can imagine what this was like for David to do this because Saul was a big man, who stood head and shoulders over all of the sons of Israel. His armor had to be big too, and I’m sure David took a number of steps and turned around, and the armor hadn’t even moved.

As a result of this, he speaks to Saul and says, “I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off.

Jorden points out, “While David stood there, nearly hidden by all Saul’s armor, he thought, ‘I’m fighting for the living God. I don’t need to use these things. I don’t even know how to use them.’ David got out of the armor, left the king, and walked down to the brook where he selected five smooth stones. Why smooth stones? Rough stones would follow an irregular course when thrown from a sling. The smooth stones would be true to their mark.”

Mackintosh points, “And David girded his sword upon his armor and he assayed to go, for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, ‘I cannot go with these, for I have not proved them.’ And David put them off him. Happy deliverance from the trammels of human policy. It has been observed, and most truly so that David’s trial was not when he met the giant in actual conflict, but when he was tempted to use Saul’s armor. Had the enemy succeeded in inducing him to go with that, all was gone. But through grace, he rejected it and thus left himself entirely in the Lord’s hand. And we know what security he found there. This is faith. It leaves itself in God’s hand.”

Lewis B. Smedes in his book [How Can It Be Alright?](#) says, “It is self-inflicted brutality to live under the tyranny of other people’s judgments. It makes you very sad to live your life only to please other people. Not long ago I met a beautiful woman of about 50, who looked as if she had just stepped off the pages of Vogue Magazine, bright, talented and educated. She had tried to commit

suicide. She came to her 50th birthday and realized she had lived her entire life only to please other people, terror-stricken that she might let them down, be criticized by them and lose their love. At 50 she discovered she had lived a half century in the prison of other people's opinions. A wise counselor led her out of prison into freedom. Some people remain children and prisoners all their lives, trying to please their mothers or other little gods, for fear that if they do not please their critics, they will be lost."

Grady Nutt in his book So Good; So Far says, "Ministers suffer from that same bizarre overexpectation. I never knew ministers were funny. I didn't know ministers liked jazz. I didn't know ministers rode motorcycles. Well, they do. And they get lonely, and they doubt, and they fear, and they love, and they grieve, and they make mistakes, and they get divorced, and they have ulcers, they even enjoy sex. If ministers have been sinned against at any one point, it is in the unreal expectations placed upon them by their parishioners, by their world in general. And here is my profound insight from all that: Most folks want ministers to speak to them from their role, not from their humanity."

George Matheson says it well:

"Make me a captive, Lord,
And then I shall be free.
Force me to render up my sword,
And I shall conqueror be.

I sink in life's alarms,
When by myself I stand.
Imprison me within thine arms,
And strong shall be my hand."

Spiritual clones!!

Voss points out, "Some Christian workers make the mistake David avoided. They try to do the work of God or fight the enemies of God with techniques someone else prescribes, instead of seeking means suited or individualized to their own personalities and training."

“To the Israelites Goliath was too big to hit . . . to David he was too big to miss.”

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.

All the mobile news units and cameras have been set up and all eyes are on the conflict.

Live coverage!! We have on the scene coverage!! We interrupt our regularly scheduled programming to bring you this ABC News brief. We switch now to the Valley of Elah!!

David chooses a STAFF, some STONES, and a SLING. This would be like us trying to play tackle football in our jogging shorts, T-shirt, and a sweat band. You're going to get hurt.

Young points out, “David was down on the front row, waiting for the Goliath show. As the sun rose, Goliath marched out. He taunted the soldiers and shouted obscenities. For 40 days, usually twice a day, he had been coming closer and closer to the troops. David looked at him, and he said, ‘That big galoot is just waiting to get clobbered! I can take him.’ Some of the soldiers laughed, ‘Sure you can, son! Oh, we're confident you can. Go get him!’ ‘Did you hear what the shepherd boy said? He said he could take him!’ David defended himself, ‘I can kill that guy! He's profaning God. God's on our side.’ ‘Sure God is, son. That's right. God's on our side. But look at Goliath!’”

Getz points out, “A sling was really a secret weapon. Many learned to use it with accuracy. In the book of Judges we read of 700 choice men who were left-handed, and each one could sling a stone at a hair and not miss (Judges 20:16).”

J. Vernon McGee says, “Some people believe that David chose five smooth stones so that if he missed his first shot, he could use one or all of the others. David did not intend to miss. Then why did he select five stones? The answer is found in 2 Sam. 21:22. ‘These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.’ Goliath had four sons, and David was sure they would come out when he killed their father. This is why David picked up five stones. That was the number he needed.”

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

You can just feel the adrenalin start pumping. I wish we had a heart monitor on David, and maybe an on-the-field microphone so we could hear. Subconsciously, maybe he's saying, "Lord, he's bigger than a lion or a bear! Me and my big mouth!"

Have you ever noticed how much bigger the players are when you are down on the floor or on field level? He is the biggest hunk of humanity I have ever seen in my whole life!

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

It is interesting, as Goliath takes a look at David, that he sees two things that have already been mentioned

He is ruddy and handsome.

Immediately, Goliath despised him.

Getz points out, "Goliath must have been dumbfounded and mortified. Coming out to meet him, with no protection, not even a shield bearer, was David. With no armor or helmet to cover his youthful appearance and his flowing red hair, Goliath recognized immediately he was facing an inexperienced youth. His anger reached a fever pitch and in his humiliation he cursed David. At this moment, he may have thrown his helmet to the ground, to face David with an unprotected head.

Whatever transpired, his guard was down. And quick as a flash, before the Philistine knew what happened, the stone from David's sling pierced his forehead, and the giant crashed to the ground, dead."

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.

The first statement of Goliath to David is “Am I a dog that you come at me with sticks?” referring to David’s staff. I don’t think Goliath is aware of the sling and the potential danger it holds in determining his future.

“The Philistine cursed David by his gods.” The god Dagon and the goddess Ashtaroth.

Things aren’t a bit different today, as those who are much in touch with the world will find that men choose to curse by the use of deity.

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 preflight chatter. I’m going to put you away in the first round, man!

Barrett points out, “David never faltered. He was mentally going through what he was about to do, just as he had done when he killed the bear. “By Dagon, I’ll have your hide!” Goliath’s voice was an angry howl like an animal. David kept coming. “Come here and I’ll feed you to the birds!” the giant bellowed. Not only the soldiers but the very hills seemed to be listening. “You come at me with a sword and a spear,” David shouted “but I come to you in the name of the Lord.” Goliath took a deep breath getting ready to bellow again, but David hadn’t finished yet. “This day will the Lord conquer you!”

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.

It's interesting how both of the contestants make reference to the offensive weapons carried. Goliath mentions the stick or the staff, and David has already analyzed Goliath's three offensive weapons: his sword, his spear, and his javelin.

"But I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." There's that word that occurs again and again in this passage.

BIG things, things that BUFFET, BLUSTER, and defy domination, dark things, ominous shadows that BLIGHT, BLACKEN, and BLOT out the sun.

It is CALEB who said on another occasion, when coming into the Promised Land, "Now then, give me the hill country that the Lord promised me. The giants are there in large walled cities. The Lord will be with me, and I will drive them out."

Swindoll in his book Killing Giants and Pulling Thorns says, "Goliath reminds me of the cross-eyed discus thrower. He didn't set any records but he sure kept the crowd awake. Day after day Goliath paraded along the slopes of the Valley of Elah, throwing out threats and belching blasphemies across the creek with a basso profundo voice like 20 out of tune tubas. He was not only ugly, he was huge—well over 9 feet tall in stocking feet. David saw through the Philistine's strategy and withstood it through sheer solid faith. You know the outcome. With a well-worn leather sling and a smooth stone and unbending confidence in his mighty God, David introduced Goliath and all the Philistine hordes to the Lord of Hosts, whose name they had blasphemed long enough."

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 kind of like Babe Ruth standing at the plate, pointing to the place over the fence where he's going to hit the next ball. And sure enough he does! Goliath has just gotten through saying that he's going to give his flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field. And now David counters with telling him what's going to happen to him and the Philistine army—he will give their flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth. And then 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.”

Exodus 14:13, 14

“But Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear. Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.’”

Jorden points out, “David’s words here are a magnificent witness to a man about to die. Yes, David was a man after God’s own heart; a man confident that God would prevail. You might think David was being very foolish to approach Goliath with nothing but a sling and five smooth stones. But remember, he realized his own skill with that sling.”

Mackintosh points out, “What was the Philistine to David? Nothing. His tremendous height, his formidable armor were mere circumstances; and faith never looks at circumstances but looks straight to God.”

Redpath points out, “He was not concerned about his own glory, but he was concerned that people might know about his God. He put God in his proper place of authority, for he knew that he himself was only an instrument. The battle is the Lord’s. David could use God’s name because the Lord was in his rightful place in his life.”

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.”

The battle is the Lord’s! Strike up the strains of the “Battle hymn of the Republic:”

“Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the lord,
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored.
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword,
His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat.”

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

Deane and Kirk point out, “The running of David shows his eagerness for the fray; and on coming within range, he took one of the smooth stones from his bag and put it in his sling, and sent it with unerring aim and terrific force into the forehead of his huge antagonist.”

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.

“Glory, glory hallelujah, His truth is marching on.”

Barrett describes the scene: “The stone streaked through the air, sure and true, and hit Goliath square between the eyes with a thunk. It sunk into his forehead, the blood spurting out and running down his face. Goliath looked astonished and almost comical as he stood for a moment. His armor bearer took one look and stepped out of the way. Goliath took a step forward. His body trembled and tottered on the second step, and then he fell forward and hit the ground with a thud.”

And David yelled “Timber!”

Young points out, “In a moment the first stone whizzed through the air—dead center. “

Goliath got a rock in the frontal lobe.

It was a knockout with the first punch in the first round. I think the spectators were expecting this to go on a little bit longer than it did.

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.

Swindoll, in the opening remarks of his book Killing Giants and Pulling Thorns says, “Giants are tough. It’s easy to talk about how you’d handle them, as long as they are miles away, lumbering across someone else’s landscape. But it’s something else when you find yourself nose to knee with one on your own doorstep. I know, I’ve faced several in my front yard, on my campus, in my church, on the silent battle ground of my own soul. People like us need the kind of faith young David showed when he plunged his hand into the cold stream, grabbed a fistful of stones, and strolled off to keep an appointment with the original Bigfoot, a fellow named Goliath.

Nose to knee cap!!

So let's face these giants together, OK? The intimidating Goliath on the hill eclipsed the sun only as they are standing and shouting, never after they're slain. They don't seem nearly so fierce in the prone position. So let's kill 'em, one by one. With the sling of faith, the stone of truth, and the name of the Lord of Hosts as our battle cry."

Young points out, "Nobody ever dreamed that David would kill the giant Goliath. This young lad who was less than 20 years of age, under six feet tall, who had never worn an Israeli army uniform, never had a sword in his hand, never had fought in a single military battle in his life, never had marched even one time in the armies of Saul. Think about it. He was willing to fight in hand-to-hand combat the undisputed heavyweight, martial arts, military champion of the world, Goliath. With a swoosh of David's sling, Goliath was dead."

Redpath speaks of this verse, "One final simile, though there are many, David was successful in his conflict by faith and faith alone. He prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and there was no sword in David's hand. Saul offered him one. Saul's idea was to dress him up and make him as much like Goliath as he could. David, however, renounced the whole principle because he knew that the victory was not by might nor by power 'but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.' Of course, the most wonderful thing of all is this: that the victory of David was the victory of Israel. Every Israelite—mark this carefully, and may the Lord give you the thrill of it in your soul—became a conqueror that day because of David's triumph. They all shared in his victory."

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.

David put the finishing touches on the victory, and in response to this action, the Philistines 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.

The Philistines from Gath, Goliath's hometown, started heading south. The city was about 12 miles south of the battlefield. Ekron, on the other hand, was about 12 miles to the northwest, and those Philistines headed in that direction.

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

They left everything! They were flat not planning on defeat.

There were probably tons of supplies since they had been staying there for some 40 days, and also quite a large number of weapons made of iron that the Israelites would be interested in.

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

He wanted the Philistine's head to be on public display, but he took the sword, the spear and the javelin and put those 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."

I am sure Saul is asking this question in view of the fact that he feels certain that it's going to fall upon his shoulders to notify the family and relatives of the death of this young man.

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

I believe we have a scriptural parallel in JOSEPH and his brothers. Joseph was 17 when he left the land of Canaan, being sold into Egypt. He was 30-some years old when his brothers saw him again, but they did not recognize him or know who he was.

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."

Wouldn't you have loved to see the face and heard the words of Elib, Abinadab and Shammah at the time of David's victory.

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

Jorden points out, "Saul's lack of recognition of David has caused some Bible scholars to believe that this was a sign of the king's mental illness. It does seem incredible that Saul would not remember David who had played the harp so beautifully, that had driven away the evil spirit which had plagued him. We aren't sure about Saul's mental state, but I am more interested

in David's reaction to the lack of recognition. He didn't seem disturbed. He hadn't entered the battle to be praised."

David points out, "David's victory over Goliath was a turning point in his life. It not only gave to Israel renewed opportunity to strengthen themselves with respect to Philistine incursion, but it in fact confirmed David's anointing to the kingship."

Krummach points out,

"The path of sorrow, and that path alone,
Leads to the land where sorrow is unknown,
No pilgrim ever reached that blessed abode,
But found the thorns and briers upon the road.

The consequences to David personally of his triumph over Goliath were these three:

He found:

1. A PRECIOUS TREASURE
2. A PERILOUS HONOR
3. A THREATENING LOSS OF FAVOR

Getz points to this same issue, "When David slew Goliath, little did he realize that his heroic act would create a second giant, far more foreboding and difficult to confront and handle. The second giant was King Saul himself, and the problem was jealousy. Goliath was clearly an enemy. Saul was supposedly a friend, and this made the problem particularly difficult for David. It was never completely solved until Saul died."

What happened when David became well known in Israel, when he was lauded for his great exploits in battle. Succinctly stated, Saul's popularity was replaced by David's. And under most circumstances, unless the person being placed is characterized by unusual maturity, being supplanted can lead to the worst kind of jealousy. This is what happened to Saul. There are at least three common emotions associated with jealousy, and Saul experienced them all:

1. He was ANGRY,
2. Then SUSPICIOUS
3. And finally, FEARFUL.

What a graphic illustration of the opposite response when you find SAMUEL in a similar situation with Saul becoming the king. How graciously he steps aside and is loving and supportive of Saul's popularity and leadership.

What could Saul have done?

1. Saul could have dealt with his root problem.
His main problem was PRIDE & HARDNESS OF HEART.
2. Saul could have turned to God for help.
3. Saul could have sought help from others.
His own son Jonathan could no doubt have helped him. There too pride kept him from doing what was right.
4. Saul could have told David how he felt and sought his personal help.

F. B. Meyer points out, "he had lost Eliab in the morning, but at nightfall he had won a friend that would stick closer than a brother."

CONCLUSION:

Theodore Epp points out, "The application to us, of course, is that it is the battle of the Lord against Satan. Goliath, we have noted, is a picture of Satan. Peter tells us that Satan is going about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. But we are to resist him, steadfast in the faith. This is the only way we can win. We must put on the whole armor of God and stand in his strength. David let the Holy Spirit lead and direct him so that he was able to cope with every situation as it came up. He did not fight for his rights as God's anointed king, but left the time and situation in the hands of God. Though demoted and put in a place

of extreme danger, he was faithful to his responsibility and to his God. David waited 8 years before he became king of Judah, and these were years of deep testing. It was during this time that he wrote many of the psalms. He was often in hiding and almost constantly in danger of his life. These were years when God was training His man to be Israel's shepherd."

Let's pop a few of these roadblocks to victory and progress. There's no greater joy than looking at the landscape of your soul and seeing a bunch of giants belly up.

Swindoll in his book Killing Giants and Pulling Thorns says, "I would like to share the mug shots of eleven of the Lord's most wanted list of giants:

- Fear
- Bitterness
- Jealousy
- Lust
- Depression
- Loneliness
- Resentment
- Grief
- Pain
- Procrastination
- Rumor

Chances are, you've already bumped into one or more of them this week. Is the intimidation reaching unbearable proportions? Do your ears ache from their constant threats? Don't run. But don't try a bigger club, either. Be like David. Turn your Goliath over to Jehovah, the giant killer. Explain to your powerful God how anxious you are for him to win this victory for a change, not the giant and not you. Then load up your sling, soldier, and don't forget the stones. Let's kill 'em one by one, with the sling of faith, the stone of truth, and the name of the Lord of Hosts as our battle cry."

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.

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

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

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

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

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?

We would do well to consider the words of that great old hymn "Is Your All on the Altar?"

"You have longed for sweet peace and for faith to increase,
And have earnestly, fervently prayed.
But you cannot have rest, or be perfectly blessed,
Until all on the altar is laid.

O we never can know what the Lord will bestow
Of the blessings for which we have prayed,
'Til our body and soul he doth fully control
And our all on the altar is laid.

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?
Your heart does the Spirit control?
You can only be blest and have peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and soul."

Israel was sentenced to forty years in the wilderness because of their expectations they limited the power of God to the laws of earth. Land filled with giants and grasshoppers. Grasshoppers can't whip a giant. No! but God can!!

Blake: Alcoholic restored!!