

1st Samuel Chapter 17

V: 1-3 (Map) The Philistines and the Israelites prepare to go to battle, the Philistines camped out in Azekah (“Cultivated Ground”), and the Israelites opposite them in the Elah valley.(Oak or Terebinth tree)

- Beautiful fertile valley, follows a stream that is dry most of the year – tourists pick up lots of rocks (left by dump trucks...)
- This is in the territory of “Judah” – the place of praise – where the enemy ought not to be.

V: 4-7 Goliath: “Splendor” – the splendor of the Philistines; their champion.

1. 6 cubits and a span – 9 feet & 9 inches.
2. Brass helmet, coat of chain mail weighing 160+ pounds.
3. Greaves of brass / shin guards – armor plating.
4. “Target” of brass between his shoulders, armor on his back.
5. A large spear like a weaver’s beam, the spear head of which weighed about 20 pounds.
6. And a shield bearer before him.

- Sometimes our enemy looks gigantic, overwhelming, beyond our ability to deal with, Goliath is certainly described in gigantic proportions.

V: 8-11 After being described we hear Goliath’s first recorded words: A challenge to the Israelites, the Philistine champion against the Israelite champion – winner takes all.

- Because of their different locations and their presumably even numbers neither side could mount a full scale attack against the other – they were at a stalemate – thus the offer of singular combat.
- The Israelites including Saul (most likely opponent) were intimidated – and unwilling to meet Goliath in single combat.

V: 12 Now David: an introduction of sorts: The son of Jesse who was accounted to be an old man in the days of Saul.

- Remarkable to think or to understand how God would take a little boy, the least in his household, take him from the sheep folds, taking care of sheep, the lowliest of jobs – and elevate him to be the king of Israel.

V: 13-14 David's oldest 3 brothers followed Saul out to battle – Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah.

- With 3 older brothers that were qualified to go to war (20+) and with 4 older brothers who were not qualified; this means that David was probably about 14-15 years old.

V: 15 David returned from Saul – left his court to go back to his father's sheep. Still not sure about the chronology.

V: 16-19 Goliath made his challenge day by day morning and evening for 40 days.

- Morning and evening – the same time as the morning and evening prayer or oblation – usually when the enemy shows up – to interrupt if possible.
- 40 is the number of testing and judgment:
 1. Rain fell upon the ark for 40 days and 40 nights.
 2. The children of Israel wandered in the desert after their rebellion and faithlessness for 40 years.
 3. Jesus was tested in the wilderness for 40 days.
- Jesse then sends David to take supplies to his brothers and a gift to their commander, and to see how they are doing.
- David is a type or picture of Jesus. God the Father sent the son to give bread, the bread of life to His brethren who were in the grip of the enemy.

John 6:48 “I am that bread of life.”

- Saul and the army of Israel are fighting or at least set up to fight the Philistines.
- Bethlehem is about 9 miles from the Elah valley where this battle would take place.

V: 20-24 In obedience to his father's command, David gets started early and arrives to the Israelite camp just as they are starting to yell and get psyched up for the battle.

- After 40 days of hearing Goliath and the Philistines; they are ready to engage the enemy.
- David ascertains what is going on during which time Goliath shows up at that initial point of battle saying the same words that he's been speaking all along, and the Israelites flee from him in fear..

V: 25-27 As the men of Israel retreat from Goliath they explain the situation to David who asks what will be done for the man who defeats Goliath.

- The king will grant him great riches, the king will give his daughter to that man to be his wife, and exempt his father's house from taxation.
- **The Son of David, Jesus Christ came to get the same things;**
- In defeating Satan, Jesus received the same things; treasure, a bride, and freedom for his brethren:

Matthew 13:44 "... treasure hid in a field..."

Matthew 13:46 "... pearl of great price..."

Revelation 21:9 "... the bride, the Lamb's wife."

Ephesians 5:31-32 ³¹For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. ³²This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

John 8:36 "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

- David refers to Goliath as an un-circumcised Philistine – who is this man that defies the armies of the Living God?

V: 28-29 As Eliab, David's oldest brother hears David's words he gets angry and rebukes David, telling him to go home and not be a trouble maker.

- Jesus was scorned by His brethren...

John 1:11 "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not."

- Is there not a cause? Doesn't Goliath's behavior, his challenge deserve to be answered, should not someone teach this guy a lesson?

V: 30-31 Basically as David ask the question and begins to look around at the soldiers, word reaches Saul of David's challenge to the soldiers, and Saul sends for him.

- If David was Saul's armor bearer, why wasn't he already at the battle front, waiting in the command tent with Saul?

V: 32 David seeks to encourage Saul and his soldiers.

"Thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

Isaiah 6:8 "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, here am I; send me."

- As David speaks these words, there is no hint of fear, no sense of any reservation whatsoever.

V: 33-37 Saul thinks of David pretty much as David's father and brother's think of him – the least is too small, and you're not a man of war.

- David explains that he's fought against a lion and against a bear – acting as a shepherd protecting his sheep and that he slew them both.
- This Philistine will be like one of them – particularly as he has defied the armies of the living God – seeing how he's made God his personal enemy.
- God delivered me then, and He will deliver me now.

David is thinking what Paul would later write:

Romans 8:31 “What shall we say then to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

- Saul says to David “go, and the Lord be with thee”.

V: 38 Saul sought to equip David, essentially giving David the same things that Goliath was wearing.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 ³“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; ⁵casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

V: 39-40 David took / strapped on Saul's sword preparing for battle – then changed his mind – being guided by the Holy Spirit. David takes his shepherd's staff and his sling, he picks up 5 smooth stones and approached Goliath.

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”

- 5 stones – Goliath had 4 brothers and it would appear that David was preparing to deal with all of them if need be. (**2 Samuel 21:18-22**)
- 5 is also the number of grace, it is in God's grace that we find our victory over the enemy.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

V: 41-44 When Goliath saw the “champion” of the Israelites he got angry – he was insulted that they would send a boy out to do battle with him.

- Goliath cursed David by his pagan gods and said he’d feed David to the birds.

V: 45-47 David responds in kind – confidently – you come to me with sword, spear, and shield – carnal worldly weapons – I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

- David sees things in their proper perspective. There are times when we are so overwhelmed by the enemy or by our problems that we lose the right perspective. When we lose sight of God and who He is, and what He is – fear grips our hearts and we’re open to defeat.
- David saw things correctly; it wasn’t David against the giant; it was the giant against the great God that I serve – it wasn’t oh poor David, it was more like oh poor giant! Never had a chance!

David tells Goliath:

- This day I will kill you, take your head off of your shoulders and give your carcass and that or your army to the birds and wild animals – and all shall know that there is a God in Israel who doesn’t need a sword or a spear! The battle belongs to the Lord!
- David’s confidence is bourn out of a close relationship with the Lord and a proven track record of performance on the Lord’s part.

Romans 8:31 “What shall we say then to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

- David knows that God is for him; and we should know it as well – God is for you!
- The Apostle Paul asks a series of questions in **Romans 8** beginning with the one in verse 31.

“^{33a}Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect?” Who’s going to lay charges against you. “

- Paul answers by saying “^{33b}It is God that justifieth.” meaning God isn’t charging you.

“³⁴Who is he that condemneth?” – Jesus isn’t condemning me. “^{34b}It is Jesus who died, yea rather, is risen again, and is even at the right hand of the Father, making intercession for me.”

- God isn’t laying anything to my charge; Jesus is not condemning me, He’s interceding for me.

- That final question: “³⁵Who shall separate us from this love of God?” The answer is no one, nothing in this world or out of it.
- David had come to know that God was for him, David had experienced that power of God in his life and because of that he’s not afraid of a giant or anyone or anything else.

Romans 8:31 “...If God be for us, who can be against us?”

- The Lord isn’t limited to conventional means to deliver us out of our problems, He uses supernatural methods. So often when we are faced with a big problem, we are looking for natural ways, conventional methods – and we get discouraged when we don’t see any possible way out – but God has His miraculous supernatural ways!

“⁴⁷... for the Lord saveth not with sword or spear” – the battle belongs to the Lord.

V: 48-49 The two men move forward to close the distance, David readies a stone to his sling – and slung it to the Philistine who is struck in the forehead – it sank into his head and down he went.

V: 50-51 While most people that day said Goliath is too big, I can’t win – David said he’s so big I can’t miss... it’s all about attitude and faith.

- Not having a sword – David takes Goliath’s sword and uses it to do exactly what he said, and he cut Goliath’s head off.
- Satan sought to use the cross to destroy Jesus; but Jesus turned it around and laid hold of the weapon of the enemy and used it to vanquish the Devil – our victory came through the cross.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 “⁵⁵O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Goliath sought a singular battle, a winner take all scenario: just like with David, Jesus alone secured the victory by Himself.

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

- When the Philistines saw their splendid champion perish at the hands of a boy, they fled.

V: 52-54 Seeing Goliath fall had the opposite effect on the Israelite army – being greatly encouraged they pursued after the Philistines from Gath to Ekron – and the Israelites spoiled the Philistines.

- And David too the head of Goliath and brought it to Jerusalem, but kept his armor as a prize of war.

V: 55-58 Saul inquires who's son David is – meaning he doesn't know, neither does Abner Saul's general – then the direction to find out who this David is.

- David returns, still holding Goliath's giant head – he probably didn't even use a sword against the Philistines he just waved Goliath's head around a scared the Philistines to death!
- David ultimately identifies himself as the son of Jesse from Bethlehem.
- Jesus identifies Himself to us as the Son of God and the Savior that we so desperately need.

Psalm 40:7 “Lo, I come in the volume of the book, it is written of Me.”