

“David and Goliath” 1 Samuel 17:1-51

INTRO:

Since the LORD anointed David the next king in Israel, some things had to happen in order for David to rise to this high office. In **1 Samuel 16** we witnessed God working behind the scenes to bring David to the palace for experience. Now in **1 Samuel 17**, God was about to bring David to the attention of all of Israel.

Why did God write this down?

- I. The LORD' Glory*
- II. David's Exaltation*
- III. Our Benefit*

I. The LORD's Glory

A. Goliath immediately claims our undivided attention as **1 Samuel 17** opens. The situation Israel faced was impossible. They faced an enormously superior army in the Philistines who put forth a superman as their champion. (**1 Samuel 17:4-7**)

“And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.”

1. The writer wants us to see the situation on the giant screen in our heads. Goliath was big. He was bigger than any man you or I have ever seen. Andre the Giant was 7' 4" tall; Goliath was 9' 9" tall. He was a warrior. He was in tip top shape and an expert at battle. He was a super human killing machine.

2. Add to this, Goliath challenged one (much smaller and less experienced) Israelite man to fight for the entire army. He mocked Israel's army and Israel's God. What could they, simple, human beings do?

B. Israel did not have a nine foot Giant to fight Goliath, but they had a living God greater than any giant. Sadly, Israel forgot all about Him. They did not find it difficult when God was blasphemed. God was not real enough for the rest of this army to trust Him to deliver them.

A nine foot nine inch giant was more real than a God who could do all things. We must keep all of this in mind as we look at the second subject of this chapter.

II. David's Exaltation

A. While the LORD painted this picture to put us with Israel in a desperate situation, now the writer does a *"Meanwhile back on the ranch."* David is going to be the man of the hour. We learn some very important facts in the next paragraph.

1. We learn that David's three oldest brothers, whom we met in **chapter 16**, had mustered with the rest of the volunteer army of Israel to fight the Philistine invasion.

2. We also learned in verse 15, how David would travel between being Saul's royal, musical therapist and keeper of Jesse's sheep. **(1 Samuel 17:15)**

"But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem."

3. The last piece of background information which we must know is that for forty days, they all got dressed to fight and man mountain, Goliath, came out in his bullet proof vest and challenged Israel, insulted the LORD, and scared them silly **(v.16)**.

"And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening."

B. Into this scene of defeat came David, God's anointed, on an innocent mission. He brought food and supplies for his three brothers and the commander. When he arrived he gave the supplies to the right person, and then went to the battle front to find his brothers as ordered. Then something happened. **(vs.23-25)**

"As [David] talked with [his brothers], look! The champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid. And the men of Israel said, 'Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel.'"

David, the man on whom God's Spirit abides, was shocked all Israel was afraid. The issue in David's mind was; **(v.26)**

"What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

C. David's concern and challenge finally got to Saul in his tent. When he called David to him, David had realized no one else would do the job, so he was willing to do it. Saul immediately offers an objection. You can't go you are a youth. We do not know for sure how young David was. He was not old enough to be a part of the army. He may have been in his late teens.

1. David's answer should be a lesson to us. He immediately reminds himself and king Saul how God had worked in the past. (vs.34-36)

“Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.”

2. David went against the Giant in the bulletproof vest with nothing but a staff, a sling, and five smooth stones. The most important part of David's arsenal was the presence of the living God. Do you remember what David said when the battle began? (vs.42-44)

“So the Philistine said to David, ‘Am I a dog that you come to me with sticks?’ And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. . . . Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.’”

3. What happened next? David launched a stone from his sling and it buried in Goliath's forehead. Goliath fell and David finished him off with his own sword. God and David won the battle.

III. Our Benefit

A. We learn from this account how not to look at impossible situations. We tend to size up the situation, calculate our resources, and recognize we can't do the job. Far too often we forget to factor in the Living God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think.

1. The difference between David and the others was David put God into the equation. Remember the 12 spies at Kadesh? They saw themselves as grasshoppers in the giants' sight. They realized alone they could not conquer the land. They had not factored God into the situation.

2. God wanted to show Himself glorious here. Only David through his faith glorified God. He could not stand idly by while God's name and fame was dragged through the mud.

B. How real is God to you? How does He get to be real to us? We read verses like **Psalm 46:1** - *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."* or **Proverbs 18:10** - *"The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe."* Yet, they do us no good at all unless we mix God's Word with faith. We must believe God. God must be real to us. How can that happen?

1. First, you must know Christ as your Savior.

2. You must grow in Him. Make your relationship with Christ the priority in your life. Seek Him in His word and in prayer. Serve Him with all your heart. By walking with Him in fellowship you learn to trust Him and see Him as real.

Until one day each of us can know what this verse means practically, **(Isaiah 26:3)**
"You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You."