

## David and Goliath – A Question of Hope

(1 Samuel 17:19-49)

### First some background

#### 1. Israel's battle with the Philistines.

This was not the Israel's first run in with the Philistines.

- a. Because of Israel's disobedience, God allowed the Philistines to rule over them- Judges 14:4
- b. God raised up a judge named Samson who would be a Nazirite and begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines - Judges 13:5
- c. Samson did not completely destroy the Philistines and later they would again battle Israel, kill Hophni and Phinehas, the sons of Eli (the priest), and captured the Ark of God. - 1 Samuel 4:10-11

But then the Philistines return the Ark to Israel after their god Dagon falls over and breaks and God afflicted them with tumors – 1 Samuel 5

- d. However soon after they returned the ark, Israel under Samuel defeats the Philistines between Mizpah and Shen – 1 Samuel 7
- e. Israel now moves from the period of the judges and moves to the period of the kings.
  - Israel ask for a king and God gives them Saul (1 Samuel 8:4-5)
  - Saul was head and shoulders above everyone. (1 Samuel 9:2)
  - God rejected Saul because of his disobedience. (1 Samuel 15:23)
  - David- God's chosen king (1 Samuel 16:1-13)
  - God removed Saul as King and chose David to be king – Acts 13:21-22Saul now stands dismayed and afraid of Goliath (1 Samuel 17:11)
- f. The Philistines are defiantly camped on Israeli territory and challenging them with their champion Goliath – 1 Samuel 17:1-3. <sup>3</sup> *And the*
- g. Goliath, the Philistines champion Goliath, was big.
  - He was very likely of the sons of Anak, a race of giants from Gath in Joshua's time (Numbers 13:33, Deuteronomy 2:21, 1 Samuel 17: 4, Joshua 11:22)
  - He was six cubits tall and a span (9 feet) 1 Samuel 17: 4.
  - Saul may have been head and shoulders above his fellow Israelites (1 Samuel 9:2), but he was a small man compared to Goliath.
- h. Goliath was dressed for battle
  - A helmet of brass on his head, a coat of mail-1 Samuel 17:5-6,
  - His coat was brass plates laid over one another, like the scales of a fish (coat of mail)

- His coat weighed 5000 shekels ~ 156 lbs (a shekel was half an ounce).
  - because his legs would lie most within the reach of an ordinary man, he wore brass boots (vs 6)
  - The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam and just the head weighed six hundred shekels, almost 20 lbs - Samuel 17:7
- i. Goliath insults, taunts and challenges Israel.
    - To save themselves from the hazard of battle- I Samuel 17:8-10.  
He boasts, I am a Philistine, and you are servants to Saul I Samuel 17:8
  - j. David, who was sent by his father to bring provisions for his brother, is dismayed that none would challenge Goliath (I Samuel 10).
  - k. David volunteers to challenge Goliath (I Samuel 17:26 & 32)
    - Every day for forty days Goliath issued a challenge that went unanswered. ((I Samuel 17:16)
    - David took issue with the uncircumcised Philistines speech concerning the armies of God.

## 2. The message in the story.

This is a story that we are all familiar with, and we sometimes just think of it in term of David's courage. But it is also about his Hope.

- a. But what is hope?
  - The world views hope as wishful thinking without certainty or a strong desire without any real assurance.
  - We live in a culture of cross your fingers, knock on wood, and follow superstitious rituals to bolster your hope.
  - However, the biblical view of hope is an indication of certainty, a strong and confident expectation.

## 3. The basis for David's hope

David is so confident about challenging Goliath that he tell him "*This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head*" (I Samuel 17:46)

But why does he have such confidence and hope?

- a. It was not in Avoidance or fleeing I Samuel 17:24
  - Our hope is not in being able to escape trials.
  - Biblical hope is not an escape from reality or from problems, it is based on God's promises.

- We have hope through the trials not just after the trials.
- Jesus did not pray that we would be taken "*out of the world*" but that God would keep us "*from the evil one*" – John 17:15

But why does he have such confidence and hope?

b. It was not in Provision or in self I Samuel 17:38-39

- There is a hope that is false -Psalm 33:17 ; Job 8:11-15 ; Psalm 146:5 ; Proverbs 10:28 ; Proverbs 11:7 ; Proverbs 24:14
- Saul was a large man. His armor would have likely been too big for David.
- The circumstances did not work out, but David was not discouraged. His hope was not in his circumstances.
- In vs 39 David said to Saul "*I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them.*" But David know he can trust God because the Lord had delivered him from "*the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear*" (I Samuel 17:37)

But why does he have such confidence and hope?

c. It was in God Strength I Samuel 17:45

- We could talk about the humility of God's anointed king David's
  - ❖ Tended his father's flocks
  - ❖ Served as a courier to take provision to his brothers
  - ❖ We could even talk about 5 smooth stones (I Samuel 17:40)
- Or we could talk about the fact that David's faith was in God and not in himself.
- For David the name of the lord was more powerful than the sword, the spear, and the javelin.
- The is the David that would later sing...
 

<sup>7</sup> Some trust in chariots and some in horses,  
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." - Psalm 20:7

4. Biblical hope Changes us 1 John 3:3

a. Biblical hope changes your perspective.

- Romans 15:13  
But does your hope fill you with all joy and peace:
  - ❖ When things don't seem to be going right at home and you can't pay the bills
  - ❖ When the boss calls you in and says I have to let you go
  - ❖ When you spouse seems oblivious to your pain
  - ❖ When the doctor calls to see you need to come in to discuss the biopsy results

- ❖ When the pain is overwhelming and the temptation to drown your grief with drugs is unbearable.
- ❖ When a pounding headache and the screams of your children seem to push you to edge.
- ❖ When it seems that the ungodly have life much easier than you.

- Romans 5:2

b. It changes what we treasure Matthew 6:19-21

- Or focus is no longer on this present time but we begin to focus more on eternity.

c. It gives us comfort and confidence even in the face of death - 1 Thessalonians 4:13

David knew this hope when he wrote *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."* - Psalm 23:4

d. It gives us confidence to serve - 1 Timothy 4:10

A confident expectation in "the God of Hope." Psalm 62:5; Romans 15:13

5. Do we have this hope?

a. Without Christ, you are without hope. - Ephesians 2:12

b. Do we really understand the reason for our hope? - 1 Peter 3:15

c. Studying the scriptures gives us hope - Romans 10:17, Romans 15:4

d. Hope beyond what we can see - Romans 8:24-25

e. Without faith there can be no lasting hope - Hebrews 11:1

6. Final thoughts

a. I Samuel 17:47-49

- David's hope in God gave him certainty of his victory.

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted God enough to say to King Nebuchadnezzar "If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." – Daniel 3:17-18

- The world views hope as wishful thinking without certainty or a strong desire without any real assurance.

- The biblical view of hope is an indication of certainty, a strong and confident expectation.

- The believers hope is Christ, and Christ alone.
- The believers hope is the confident expectation, a sure certainty that what God said in His Word is true.
- <sup>13</sup> *Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 1:13*
- What is the basis for your hope?
  - ❖ Does your life prove it?
  - ❖ Has it changed who you are, what you value, and what you enjoy?
  - ❖ Is it evident in your life?
- How confident are you about tomorrow?  
David said to Goliath "*This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand,*"
- Without Christ there is no hope
- If you have no hope, repent now and put your trust in God and He will give you hope.