

230920-4 1Sa 17, David Smites Goliath, Israel's Great Adversary—CThurman

The LORD would have Samuel to cease mourning the loss of Israel's king Saul so that he might go anoint a better man to be king in his stead. Samuel was some concerned about anointing another king while Saul was reigning because undoubtedly Saul would kill him if he discovered what Samuel was doing. So, the LORD directs Samuel to go to Bethlehem and invite guests there to attend the feast that accompanies the sacrifice of peace offerings. He was especially to invite to Jesse and his sons to come because of them the LORD had chosen one to be Israel's next king. As the sons of Jesse came before Samuel there were none of these which the LORD had called to be king. But after finding that there was one son absent, after they brought in David the LORD then commanded Samuel to 'Arise, anoint him: for this is he.' This being done the Spirit of the LORD removed from Saul and came upon David, and God sent an evil spirit that evidently came upon Saul in fits of terror. To bring Saul relief from these fits a skilled harp player was brought in to play when he was having these fits. Amazingly enough, David was that skilled harp player. So, David played for Saul and Saul loved David greatly.

It was during this time that Israel and the Philistines went to war against each other. This event follows Saul's failure to destroy the Amalekites. Connected to this, the LORD brings the Philistines against them. But as we shall see, the LORD is working to bring to the forefront Israel's new king. David for the time being has been sent back home to tend to the flocks of his father Jesse. Evidently David is not quite of the age to partake in the civil responsibilities that men of age (beginning at about 20 yrs. of age) share. Saul and the men of Israel have positioned themselves on one side of a valley, and the Philistines on the other.

Chapter 17

1 ¶ Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shōchōh, which [belongeth] to Judah,

see, Socoh

and pitched between Shochoh and Azēkah, in Ephesdámim.

So the battle takes place in the southern territory of Canaan, in Judah's portion. Shochoh is about a mile northwest of Azekah.

2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.

3 And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and [there was] a valley between them.

Perhaps because the southern part of Canaan is a Philistine stronghold, where their five major cities are located that the Philistines took to the south side of the valley of Elah and Israel took to the north side.

אִישׁ־הַבָּנִים
4 And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines,
a man between (the two)
'A Dueler'

champion, אִישׁ־הַבָּנִים,
Robert Young (Concordance) defines this as *a man of intervention*. בֵּין, tss. *between, within, between, betwixt, among, midst*.

H. W. F. Gesenius (Lexicon), "one who comes between." (cf. 1Sa.17.4, 23)

named Goliath, of Gath, whose height [was] six cubits and a span.

Goliath, if of the verb גָּלָה, could mean 'The Departed, The Captor, The Exiler.'

whose height, of the verb גָּבַהּ, also tss. *to be lifted up, to be haughty, to be higher, to be high, to be exalted, to the height, to be proud, to be upward, to mount up*; the adj. גָּבוֹהַּ, is 1Sa.2.3, **exceeding proudly**; 9.2, **higher**; 16.7, **the height of**; the masc. noun גִּבְהָהּ, 1Sa.17.4, **whose height**.

Goliath – He is very likely of the children of Anak, who are otherwise called the Anakims. This people is called giants. A very large and tall people.

Nu.13.33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, [which come] of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

De 9:2 A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and [of whom] thou hast heard [say], Who can stand before the children of Anak!

In the days of Joshua the Anakims were driven out of Canaan to their present location in the southwest.

Jos.11.21 And at that time came Joshua, and cut off the Anakims from the mountains, from Hebron, (and southwest of there) from Debir, from Anab, and from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel: Joshua destroyed them utterly with their cities.

22 There was none of the Anakims left in the land of the children of Israel: only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained.

Goliath, depending on the measurement of a cubit, which is said to be between 18-21", and span which is said to be about 10", Goliath was from 9'-10" – 12'-1".

5 And [he had] an helmet of brass upon his head, and he [was] armed with clothed

armed, of the verb לְבַשׁ, tss. to put on, to come upon, to wear, to cloth with, to apparel, to array. vss. 5, 38.

a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat [was] five thousand shekels of brass.

coat of mail, שָׂרָיִן, a masc. noun tss. coat of mail (vss.5, 38), coat (v.5), habergeon. The fem. noun שָׂרָיִן, is tss. harness (Wigram, marg. breastplate), breastplate.

The weight of this coat of mail could be anything from 80 – 156#.

6 And [he had] greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.

greaves, חֲזָזִים, a fem noun this once in the OT, & an English dictionary defines greave as armor for the leg below the knee – usually used in pl.

Brass is representative of judgment, or in this instance of condemnation.

7 And the staff of his spear [was] like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head [weighed] six hundred shekels of iron:

Gill says that was 26' long, and weighed 12-18#.

and one bearing a shield went before him.

Iron breaks and crushes into pieces and subdues all things.

8 And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set [your] battle in array?

(Such a senseless conflict. Let's have us a 'one-on-one' conflict.)

[am] not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.

... for a duel; Let's have it out once for all. Goliath's saying, I am the champion over all of my people. Send me a champion of your own.

Isa 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, [in whom] my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

9 If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants,

– able to –

and serve us.

10 And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day;
shame

defy, of the verb דָּפַק, tss. to reproach, to jeopardy, to upbraid, to defy, to blaspheme, to rail. vss. 10, 25, 26, 36, 45; see also the fem. noun דְּפִיקָה, tss. a reproach, a shame, a rebuke, v.26.

give me a man, that we may fight together.

(to)

I defy you to send one man to fight against me and win.

11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

were dismayed, of the verb דָּמָה, tss. to be dismayed, to be amazed, to be afraid, to be chapt, to be broken down, to be beaten down, to be confounded, to be terrified.

12 ¶ Now David [was] the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name [was] Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men [for] an old man in the days of Saul.

13 And the three eldest sons of Jesse went [and] followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle [were] Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.

Shammah also called Shimea/Shimeah. (2Sa.13.3; 1Chr.20.7)

14 And David [was] the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul.

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

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

stood, Hithpael (reflexive act.) fut. of the verb **בָּצַב**, also tss. *to resort, to remain, to present, to stand forth, to be set*; **1Sa.10.19, present yourselves** (Hithpael fut.); **1Sa.12.7, stand still** (Hithpael fut.); **1Sa.12.16, stand** (Hithpael fut.); **1Sa.3.10, and stood** (Hithpael fut.); **1Sa.10.23, when he stood** (Hithpael fut.); **1Sa.17.16, and presented himself** (Hithpael fut.).

Forty, a number for testing, tempting, trying, proving. Israel was being tested.

17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched [corn], and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; roasted (grain)

parched corn, **קָלִי** or **קָלִיאַ**, a masc. noun tss. *parched* (1), *parched corn* (5).

חֲרָצִי הַחֶלֶב

18 And carry these ten cheeses **unto the captain of [their] thousand,**
(of milk)
wedges of cheese

milk, **חֶלֶב**, tss. *milk (oft)*, *sucking lamb* (1).

cheeses, **חֶרֶץ**, a masc. noun also tss. twice *harrow*; tss. *cheese* once.

and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.

surety

pledge, **עֶרְבָה**, a fem. noun twice in the OT, once tss. *pledge*, and once *surety*; see also **עֶרְבֹן**, masc. noun, which is three times in the OT. and tss. *pledge*.

Jesse, sends his son David to his own brethren to take the debts that they've incurred in this conflict and so that they might be settled in the meantime.

19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, [were] in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

Elah, אֵלָה, a fem. noun, is tss. *oak*, *Elah*, and *elm*. אֵלָה, a fem. noun (note the different vowel point, Qamets) is tss. *curse*, *oath*.

20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper,

David proves himself to be a very responsible young man.

and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench,

trench, מַעְגָּלָה, a fem. noun tss. *trench* (Wigram, marg. a place of carriage), *path*, *way*, *going*.

as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.

David went to do the will of his father. And he came to the trench, to the line where the battle was engaged he shouted out with a shout of victory.

21 For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army.

22 And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage,

carriage, כֶּלִי, a masc. noun tss. *jewels*, *weapons*, *sacks*, *vessels*, *stuff*, *pot*, *furniture*, *armour* (v.54), *carriage* (v.22), *bag* (v.40, 49).

and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.

וַיִּשְׁאַל לְאַחֵיו לְשָׁלוֹם
asked his brethren of their welfare (peace).

23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion,
a man between, v.4
contender/dueler

the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard [them].

24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

No man could stand before this terrible foe.

25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up:

defy, of the verb **הָרַךְ**, tss. *to reproach, to jeopardy, to upbraid, to defy, to blaspheme, to rail.* vss. **10, 25, 26, 36, 45**

and it shall be, [that] the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches,

enrich, of the verb **עָשַׁר**, tss. *to enrich, to wax rich;* and *riches*, of the noun **עֲשָׂרָה**, always tss. *riches.*

and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

free, **חָפְזִי**, an adj. tss. *free, liberty.*

Saul promised to enriched the victor with great riches, give him a bride of his daughters, and his house free of taxation.

26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to

וְסוּר, v.39

the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel?

put shame

reproach, **חֶרְפָּה**, a fem. noun tss. *a reproach, a shame, a rebuke,* v.26; see also *deny*, of the verb **הָרַךְ**, tss. *to reproach, to betroth, to jeopardy, to upbraid, to defy, to blaspheme, to rail.* vss. **10, 25, 26, 36, 45.**

David could hardly believe that the king would promise such to the man that would kill a man like this. In the eyes of David Goliath was obnoxious. He was full of hot air.

for who [is] this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

The people confirmed to David that the king really would reward the man that killed Goliath in this way.

27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride,
presumption

pride, יָדָר, a masc. noun tss. presumptuously, pride, proud.

and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou
wickedness

naughtiness, רָעָה, a masc. noun tss. bad, badness, evil, sorrow, sadness, wickedness.

mightest see the battle.

David's own brother reproached him for telling the truth. Of course that truth was convicting to Eliab and to the other man because they had not the courage of this young man. But also, perhaps Eliab, recalling that Samuel had anointed his little brother as king that he felt David came down to the conflict only to advance himself.

29 And David said, What have I now done? [Is there] not a cause?

(... for my coming? for my father sending me; for being incensed at the foes blasphemy! cf. Gill)

cause, כִּזְבִּיל, a noun in **vss. 11, 23, 31, words, 27, 30, manner, 29, cause, 30, 31**; also tss. *a case, a sentence, a matter, a commandment*, etc.

David would not be deterred from his sentiment. He was right to be zealous for the name of the LORD and for His people. He was right to take exception to the blasphemy of this brute beast.

30 And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

31 ¶ And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed [them] before Saul: and he sent for him.

King, there is a young man that is quite confident that he can kill Goliath. At this report the king had David brought to him.

32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

David's faith was clear and strong. And he communicates that to the king. He is fully persuaded that the LORD is with him and that this man cannot prevail against him.

2Sa.3.18 (Abner said concerning David) Now then do [it]: for the LORD hath spoken of David, saying, By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, and out of the hand of all their enemies.

33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou [art but] a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

David proves to the king that he is capable for the task. There was a time when a lion came and took a lamb, and that there was another time when a bear came and took a lamb.

35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered [it]
(each one) (the lamb)

out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught [him] by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear:
(in the manner he describes)

and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

defy, of the verb פָּרַח, tss. to reproach, to jeopardy, to upbraid, to defy, to blaspheme, to rail. vss. 10, 25, 26, 36, 45

Goliath is only a man. The LORD He is God.

37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me מִיַּד
out of the paw of the
paw, of the common noun יַד, hand.
from the hand

וּמִיַּד מִיַּד
lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me מִיַּד
from the hand **out of the hand of**
from the hand

this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.
Proceed

38 And Saul armed David with his armour, and he נָתַן
put an helmet
clothed gave

armed, of the verb לְבַשׁ, tss. to put on, to come upn, to wear, to cloth with, to apparel, to array. vss. 5, 38.

of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.
clothed

helmet, כְּבוֹדָע, a masc. noun always tss. helmet (6).

coat of mail, שָׁרְיָן, a masc. noun tss. coat of mail (vss.5, 38), coat (v.5), habergeon. The fem. noun שָׁרְיָן, is tss. harness (Wigram, marg. breastplate), breastplate.

Saul clothed David in the similar attire of Goliath.

39 And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go;
strapped began

girded, of the verb הִגָּר, tss. to gird, to restrain, to put on, to appoint.

assayed, of the verb יָצַל, tss. to take upon, to begin, to be content, to be pleased, to be willing, to assay.

for he had not proved [it]. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these;
tested, tried

proved, of the verb נִסָּה, tss. to prove, to tempt, to assay, to adventure, to try.

סִוֵּר, v.26

for I have not proved [them]. And David put them off him.
tested, tried put them away

1Co.1.27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, [yea], and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 *That no flesh should glory in his presence.*

40 ¶ And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had,

bag, כֶּלִי, a masc. noun tss. jewels, weapons, sacks, vessels, stuff, pot, furniture, armour (v.54), carriage (v.22), bag (v.40, 49).

Why five smooth stones? Why not 1, 2, 3 or four stones?

David chose him five smooth stones, the LORD signifying by this number of stones that He would destroy all five sons born of the giant, either referring to Anak (of whom are the Anakims), or to his father, Arba. (cf. Jos.21.11)

The other four:

2Sa.21.15-21 **1. Ishbibenob** (v.16) – **2. Saph**, or Sippai (v.18) – **3. the brother of] Goliath the Gittite**, named Lahmi (v.19) – **4. another** only known as having 6 fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot (v.20)

22 These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants. (cf. 1Chr.20.4-8)

even in a scrip; and his sling [was] in his hand:
(a small bag)

scrip, יִלְקוּט, a masc. noun only this once in the OT.

sling, קֶלֶע, a masc. noun tss. a sling; the verb קָלַע, is tss. to carve, to sling.

and he drew near to the Philistine.

41 And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield [went] before him.

42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for despised

disdained, of the verb **בָּזָה**, also tss. *to despise, to contemn, to be*; Qal fut., 1Sa.10.27; 17.42; 1Sa.2.30, Qal part. Poel.

אַדְמוֹנִי, adj.

he was [but] a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.
red (1Sa.16.12)

43 And the Philistine said unto David, [Am] I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

cursed, Piel fut. of the verb **קָלַל**, tss. *to abate, to be swift, to despise, to lightly esteem, to seem a light thing, to be more vile, to be cursed, to revile, to be accursed, to be afflicted, to set light by, etc.*;
1Sam.2.30, Qal fut., *shall be lightly esteemed*; **1Sa.17.43**, Piel fut., *and ... cursed*; **1Sa.3.13**, Piel part., *made ... vile*; **1Sa.6.5**, Hiphil fut., *he will lighten*.

Goliath is saying to David, 'You actually came out here with staffs to guide me around as if I were one of your dogs?'

44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

defied, of the verb **רָחַק**, tss. *to reproach, to jeopardy, to upbraid, to defy, to blaspheme, to rail*. vss. **10, 25, 26, 36, 45**

46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand;
shut you up by my hand
enclose

will ... deliver thee, of the verb **סָגַר**, tss. *to shut, to shut up, to inclose, to repair, to shut in, to shut out, to deliver*.

and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, dead bodies

carcasses, פִּגְרָה, a masc. noun tss. carcasses, corpses, dead bodies, dead carcasses.

and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

יָדַע

47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword

assembly, קְהָל, a masc. noun, tss. a multitude, a company, an assembly, a congregation.

נָתַן 2ppl.

and spear: for the battle [is] the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.
you all

יָלַךְ

48 ¶ And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh
proceeded

to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.
ranks

hasted, of the verb מָהַר, tss. to carry headlong, quickly, to be fearful, to haste, to be soon, to be swift, to fetch quickly, to make speed, to make ready.

army, מַעְרָכָה, a fem. noun tss. in order, rows, ordered place, army, the fight, the rank.

49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang [it], and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone,

armour, כְּלֵי יְ, a masc. noun tss. jewels, weapons, sacks, vessels, stuff, pot, furniture, armour (v.54), carriage (v.22), bag (v.40, 49).

The sword of Goliath is later kept by the priest Ahimelech. (cf. 1Sa.21.9; 22.10)

55 And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, Abner, whose son [is] this youth? And Abner said, [As] thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell.

The question is, ‘Who is David’s father?’ not ‘Who is David?’ Of course he knows who David is. He is the young man that played skillfully for him upon the harp. But Saul could not recall who David’s father is. Of course the answer to this question is given in v.58.

56 And the king said, Enquire thou whose son the stripling [is].

Ask

adolescent

stripling, עֶלְם, a masc. noun twice in the OT, tss. young man, stripling; the fem. noun עֶלְמָה, tss. a maid, a virgin, damsel; and so an adolescent boy or young man.

Definition of an adolescent boy: the period of life from puberty to maturity terminating legally at the age of majority (majority, meaning **2 a** : the age at which full civil rights are accorded; *esp* : the age of **21 b** : the status of one who has attained this age). (The Scriptures put the age of majority at 20. [cf. Lev.27.3; Nu.1.3, 18])

57 And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

58 And Saul said to him, Whose son [art] thou, [thou] young man? And David answered, [I am] the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.

At this point David is not allowed to return him, but is kept as his personal, skilled musician to calm him when he is stricken with fits of terror. Until now Saul loved David greatly. But he becomes quite angry when they return from the battle, perhaps to Gibeah, when he hears how the people attribute to him thousands slain, but to David ten thousands. *Saul eyed David from that day and forward.* And soon he begins to apply several methods to bring about David's death.

This chapter, and the persons of David and Goliath, presents great parallels to the Person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ and the great adversary, Satan. For example:

- David, to do his father's will, left his sheep in the care of a keeper of the sheepfold. (v.20) Christ, to do His father's will, left His sheep in a sheepfold until His redemptive work was complete. (Jn.10.1-5)
- David went to the Valley of Elah. Elah, with a variation in the Hebrew vowel pointing, is tss. *curse* or *oath*. (vss.19, 20) Christ was made a curse for us, the elect of God. (Gal.3.13)
- David received the pledges of his brethren. The word *pledges* is also translated *surety*. (v.18) So, Christ was made a surety of a better testament. (He.7.22)
- David came among his brethren and *left* his carriage, baggage, stuff. (v.22) Christ came and emptied himself, *made himself of no reputation*, the kenosis, and took on him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. (Phl.2.7)
- David was forsaken by all when Goliath at the appearance of Goliath. (vss.23, 24) When the adversaries appeared to apprehend Christ He was forsaken in the hour of his great temptation. (Mk.14.50)
- David was reproach by his brother. (v.28) Christ bore the reproaches of his brethren, or, His own received Him not. (Ro.15.3; Jn.1.11)
- David spoke peace to his brethren, that he shall prevail. (v.32) Christ spoke peace to His brethren because He had overcome the world. (Jn.16.33)
- David slew Goliath & delivered Israel. (vss.50, 51) Christ destroyed the works of Satan, shall destroy his person, and bring about a full salvation of His own. (He.2.14; 1Jn.3.8; Re.20.10; Heb.7.25)