

XLVII. DAVID AND GOLIATH: 1 Samuel 17

INTRODUCTION. 1 Samuel 17 is one of the most well-known and celebrated stories in all of the Old Testament—in it God reveals what happened between David and Goliath.

It seems to me there have been two major ways this passage has been approached by Christians:

Option 1: Be like David. You have giants to slay, so get after it.

Option 2: You are not David! Christ is David. Stop making the Bible all about yourself and see that it is ultimate all about Christ.

I would like to present to you

Option 3: Christ is David, and you and I should both trust in Christ for salvation and imitate Christ for sanctification.

BOYS AND GIRLS...

OUTLINE.

- I. Exposition.
- II. How this passage should direct our everyday lives.
- III. How this passage points us to Christ.

CON(TEXT). David has been chosen and anointed by the LORD and His prophet, but Saul is still king, though the Holy Spirit is no longer empowering him for his office. This is *The Rise of David!*

DOCTRINE. Christ is like David but far greater, and we must trust Him for salvation and imitate Him for sanctification.

I. EXPOSITION (1 Sam. 17). **15 specifics*

I) Goliath Called for a Champion (1 Sam. 17:1-10).

1 Samuel 17:1-10

"1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. 3 And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. 4 And there came out

from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, (see 2 Samuel 21:15-22, *Four Giants killed by David and his servants in the wars against the Philistines* - **BOYS AND GIRLS**: Jonathan killed a giant who had 6 fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot) 4b whose height was six cubits and a span (9'6" **BOYS AND GIRLS**). 5 He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. (125lbs **BOYS AND GIRLS**) 6 And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. 7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron (15lbs **BOYS AND GIRLS**). And his shield-bearer went before him. 8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." 10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together."

- **You and I are being set up as we read this. Or you could say we are being tested.** In chapter 16 of 1 Samuel the LORD has just warned us about looking on the outward appearance. "Man looks on the outward appearance but the Lord looks on the heart."

Q1. Will you continue to look on the outward appearance and be terrified by Goliath? **Q2.** Or will you see that the LORD will not be mocked, and will surely grant victory to His faithful servants who stand for His glory and do not fear any man?

II) Saul and all Israel were shaking in their boots, fearing the Philistine of Gath rather than the LORD of heaven and earth (1 Sam. 17:11).

1 Samuel 17:11

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

III) David was engaged in his ordinary duties when the providence of God brought him before a giant (1 Sam. 17:12-23).

1 Samuel 17:12-23

"12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years. 13 The three oldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 David was the youngest. The three eldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. 16 For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

17 And Jesse said to David his son, "Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. 18 Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them."

19 Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. 20 And David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and took the provisions and went, as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the encampment as the host was going out to the battle line, shouting the war cry. 21 And Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. 22 And David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the ranks and went and greeted his brothers. 23 As he talked with them, behold, 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."

IV) Israel fled from the giant while David wondered why no man among them was up for the fight (1 Sam. 17:24-27).

1 Samuel 17:24-27

"24 All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid. 25 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.' 26 And David said to the men who stood by him, '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?' 27 And the people answered him in the same way, 'So shall it be done to the man who kills him!'"

– **Maybe David had Numbers chapter 13 in mind.**

– **BOYS AND GIRLS, let me tell you a story.**

– **Numbers 13:25-33** "25 At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. 26 And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 And they told him, "We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan."

30 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said,

"Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." 31 Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are." 32 So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. 33 And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.""

V) David was wrongfully scolded by his eldest brother, Eliab (1 Sam. 17:28-30).

1 Samuel 17:28-30

"28 Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle." 29 And David said, "What have I done now? Was it not but a word?" 30 And he turned away from him toward another, and spoke in the same way, and the people answered him again as before."

– **BOYS AND GIRLS, do not be like Eliab.**

VI) David willingly volunteered to fight the giant (1 Sam. 17:31-32).

1 Samuel 17:31-32

31 When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul, and he sent for him. 32 And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

VII) David was wrongfully discouraged by his king, Saul (1 Sam. 17:33).

1 Samuel 17:33

"And Saul said to David, 'You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth.'"

VIII) David used past deliverances to build his faith for future endeavours (1 Sam. 17:34-37).

1 Samuel 17:34-37

"34 But David said to Saul, 'Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. 36 Your servant has struck

down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.' 37 And David said, 'The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.' And Saul said to David, 'Go, and the Lord be with you!'"

IX) David trusted in the LORD as well as his training (1 Sam. 17:38-39).

1 Samuel 17:38-40

"38 Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, 39 and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off."

40 Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine."

X) Goliath mocked, cursed, and threatened David (1 Sam. 17:41-44).

1 Samuel 17:41-44

"41 And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. 42 And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. 43 And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field."

XI) David responded to Goliath's taunts with faith-filled promises of destruction to the Lord's enemies for the Lord's glory (1 Sam. 17:45-47).

– **BOYS AND GIRLS, listen how David responds to Goliath—all of the Lord's glory, not David's glory.**

1 Samuel 17:45-47

"45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and 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. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."

XII) David ran towards Goliath and both sunk a stone in between his

eyes and cut off his head (1 Sam. 17:48-51a).

1 Samuel 17:48-51a

"48 When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. 49 And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. 51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. . ."

XIII) When their champion won for them, God's people also arose and fought (1 Sam. 17:51b-53).

1 Samuel 17:51b-53

"51b "When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled." 52 And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron. 53 And the people of Israel came back from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp.

XIV) David displayed and enjoyed the signs of his victory (1 Sam. 17:54).

1 Samuel 17:54

"And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent."

XV) Saul took special notice of David from then on (1 Sam. 17:55-58).

1 Samuel 17:55-58 "55 As soon as Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know." 56 And the king said, "Inquire whose son the boy is." 57 And as soon as David returned from the striking down of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

II. HOW THIS PASSAGE SHOULD DIRECT OUR EVERYDAY LIVES (1 Sam. 17). ***9 specifics**

I) The godly will be tempted to look on the outward appearance of

their enemies, rather than trusting in Christ to deliver them (1-11).

- Look at Goliath!
 - **Q.** Are there any giants bigger than Satan, sin, and death?

If Christ can slay the dragon, remove your guilt, and empty the graves then you are going to be just fine with whatever you are facing, Christian!

II) The godly are committed to their everyday duties (1 Sam. 17:12-23).

- **1 Samuel 16:12-23**

"12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years. 13 The three oldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 David was the youngest. The three eldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. 16 For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

17 And Jesse said to David his son, "Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. 18 Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them."

19 Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. 20 And David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and took the provisions and went, as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the encampment as the host was going out to the battle line, shouting the war cry. 21 And Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. 22 And David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the ranks and went and greeted his brothers. 23 As he talked with them, behold, 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."

- **BOYS AND GIRLS . . .**

III) The godly hate when the LORD and His people are defied (1 Sam. 17:26).

- **1 Samuel 16:26**

"And David said to the men who stood by him, '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?'"

IV) The godly live by this maxim: *If God is for us who can be against us?* (1 Sam. 17:26).

1 Samuel 16:26

"And David said to the men who stood by him, '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?'"

- **GORDON KEDDIE:** "The progression in David's thought was from the premise that Goliath and the Philistines were defying God when they defied Israel,³ to the conclusion that no one ought to lose heart on account of the Philistine and finally to the conviction that he ought to be the one to fight Goliath. This suggests to us a very important fact of life that is so easily ignored: many of the most practical questions in life are essentially theological. For the Christian, sound theology is his practical day-to-day philosophy. Theological truth is father to God-honouring practicality. This is faith at work." — **Gordon Keddie, 1 Samuel - Dawn of a Kingdom, pg. 195**
- **Romans 8:31-32** "31 If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"
- **BOYS AND GIRLS . . .**

V) Bravery is sometimes mistaken for pride, and the bold are sometimes scolded because of the soldiers' envy (1 Sam. 17:28-30).

1 Samuel 16:28-30

"28 Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle." 29 And David said, "What have I done now? Was it not but a word?" 30 And he turned away from him toward another, and spoke in the same way, and the people answered him again as before."

- **Proverbs** "Wrath is cruel and anger is outrageous, but who can stand before envy,"
- **HENRY:** "See the folly, absurdity, and wickedness, of a proud and envious passion; how groundless its jealousies are, how unjust its censures, how unfair its representations, how bitter its invectives, and how indecent its language. God, by his grace, keep us from such a

spirit!" — **Henry, Matthew. Unabridged Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible (best navigation) . OSNOVA. Kindle Edition.**

Keep this in mind as you fight the good fight of the faith, Christian:

You may have to overcome more than just the actual enemy.

You will have to overcome those who scold you like Eliab.

You will have to overcome those who discourage you like Saul.

Then you will have to overcome the actual enemy.

Keep your eyes of faith on Christ, your feet on the path of God's Law, and your knees bent in prayer.

- **DALE RALPH DAVIS:** "One might say David has to fight three Goliaths in this chapter, for in Eliab he faces the contempt of Goliath and in Saul he meets the mind of Goliath (i.e., it's only the experienced [v. 33] and equipped [vv. 38-39] warrior who carries the odds of winning). All that before he faces the carcass of Goliath himself (vv. 41-50)."

VI) Faith and training go together and should not be pitted against one another (1 Sam. 17:32-36).

- **1 Samuel 16:32-37**

"32 And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. 36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God."

David was in no way untrained. Yet he trusted not in himself but in the Lord!

- **BOYS AND GIRLS . . .**

VII) Remembering past deliverances will fuel faith and courage for future endeavors (1 Sam. 17:37).

- **1 Samuel 17:37** "And David said, 'The Lord who delivered me from the

paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

- **JOHN FLAVEL:** "This is the food our faith lives upon in days of distress! From providences past, saints used to argue to fresh and new ones to come! So David (1 Sam. 17:37)-The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. If these are forgotten, the hands of faith hang down!" — **John Flavel, Works, vol. 4, pg. 413-415**

VIII) The godly can respond to theirs and the LORD's enemies with faith-filled promises of their destruction for the LORD's glory (1 Sam. 17:37).

- **1 Samuel 17:45-47**

"45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and 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. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."

- **Romans 16:20** "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."

IX) Christ's people need Men of Valor to lead, and when they lead others are encouraged to also act valiantly (1 Sam. 17:50-54).

- **1 Samuel 16:50-54**

"50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. 51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. 52 And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron. 53 And the people of Israel came back from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. 54 And David took the head of the Philistine

and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent."

III. HOW THIS PASSAGE POINTS US TO CHRIST (1 Sam. 17).

I) Christ is our Champion, and, in our sin, we are like the Israelites cowering in the shade of the giant.

II) Just like David willingly volunteered to fight Goliath, Christ willingly volunteered to fight the giants of Satan, sin, and death in the Covenant of Redemption.

Christ said, "I will fight the giant!" And He not only sunk a stone in between the eyes of Satan, sin, death by His crucifixion, He also cut off their heads in His resurrection.

Unbeliever, this story is useless to you unless you see the giant that you cannot overcome and the Christ who can slay it as your Champion!

Believer, keep trusting Christ—the greater David—for salvation and imitating Him for sanctification!