



13: Israel's Hero

(1 Sam 16:14-17:58)

Today we explore one of the most famous stories in Scripture, but through a fresh lens—not as David the hero, but Yahweh the true Hero. Come discover how God points us from a shepherd boy in Bethlehem to the ultimate Shepherd and King, Jesus, who still fights our battles today.

beourguest

Thanks so much for joining us today! Please register with our **CONNECT CARD**.

- Use our **WI-FI: Worship Center Guest**

getourapp

Download our **CHURCH APP** for sermons & notes, ways to connect, upcoming events, online giving, & more.



CONNECT CARD



CHURCH APP

teachingnotes

* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) unless otherwise noted.

1 Samuel 16:14-17

Now the Spirit of the LORD had left Saul, and an evil spirit sent from the LORD began to torment him, so Saul's servants said to him, "You see that an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our lord command your servants here in your presence to look for someone who knows how to play the lyre. Whenever the evil spirit from God comes on you, that person can play the lyre, and you will feel better." Then Saul commanded his servants, "Find me someone who plays well and bring him to me."

The Spirit of Yahweh had left Saul. Saul used to be the anointed, and now no longer is. Now David is the anointed and the Spirit of Yahweh is on him.

- This is the chapter in the center of this writing, and it is the turning point from King Saul to the future king of Israel - David.
- Years later, when David sins greatly against Yahweh that David prays, "Do not banish me from Your Presence or take your Holy Spirit from me." (Ps 51:11)

While Yahweh takes the anointing of the Holy Spirit from Saul, Saul receives **an evil spirit sent from Yahweh**. The Hebrew word translated as "**evil**" has a *wide range of meanings from "misery" to "moral perverseness."* It could refer to a fallen angel OR it could mean an angel of judgment sent to punish fallen Saul.

🔥 Robert Bergen: "Saul's tortured state was not an accident of nature, nor was it essentially a medical condition. It was a supernatural assault by a being sent at the Lord's command, and it was brought on by Saul's disobedience."¹

Saul's consistent disobedience, honoring of himself rather than Yahweh, and unwillingness to genuinely repent, have resulted in torment from Yahweh. This is not 24/7 condition, but this evil spirit shows up from time to time.

The Hebrew term *kinnor*, translated into the English **lyre**, is a triangular musical instrument consisting of a sounding box with three to twelve strings. It was one of the most significant musical instruments of the ancient Jews, mentioned 42 times in the Old Testament. Considered a noble instrument, it was used in both sacred and secular music, played during family celebrations, in mourning, & religious praise. The sound of the lyre was gentle & expressive, with a calming tone.

1 Samuel 16:18-23

One of the young men answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is also a valiant man, a warrior, eloquent, handsome, and the LORD is with him." Then Saul dispatched messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a wineskin, and one young goat and sent them by his son David to Saul. When David came to Saul and entered his service, Saul loved him very much, and David became his armor-bearer. Then Saul sent word to Jesse: "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor with me." Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would pick up his lyre and play, and Saul would then be relieved, feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.

This last trait, "**Yahweh is with him**" - puts David in the company of Isaac, Joseph, Joshua, Judah & Samuel (cf. Gen 26:28; 39:2-3, 21, 23; Josh 6:27; Judg 1:19, 1 Sam 3:19).

God had now worked it out that His Spirit's anointing was still in the palace, just not in **Saul**. **David** had become an important source of relief from the spirit tormenting Saul as well as a trusted bodyguard to Saul as his **armor-bearer**.

There is a tension here, however: How can David already be known as "**a warrior**" before the Goliath event, his first recorded battle? And why does Saul seem not to know him in chapter 17 if he had already loved him & employed him in chapter 16? If we get caught up in the author's chronological precision, we might miss the author's POINT - building a BRIDGE - showing that while Yahweh's Spirit has left Saul, Yahweh's Spirit is WITH David.

¹ Robert D. Bergen, 1, 2 Samuel, vol. 7, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 182.

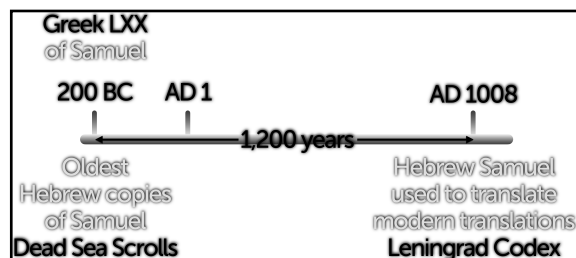
1 Samuel 17:1-4

The Philistines gathered their forces for war at Socoh in Judah and camped between Socoh and Azekah in Ephes-dammim. Saul and the men of Israel gathered and camped in the Valley of Elah; then they lined up in battle formation to face the Philistines. The Philistines were standing on one hill, and the Israelites were standing on another hill with a ravine between them. Then a champion named **Goliath**, from Gath, came out from the Philistine camp. **He was nine feet, nine inches tall.**

This height is based on the oldest Hebrew texts we had *BEFORE* the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, which say Goliath was "six cubits and a span" (roughly 9ft 9inches - cubit is about the length of a forearm to hand). This comes from a complete copy of Samuel that dates to AD 1008 (Leningrad Codex).

- The Hebrew text from the copies of Samuel found among the Dead Sea Scrolls predate this by 1,200 years.
- So does the Greek translation of the Old Testament - the Septuagint (LXX).
- ✓ And those texts have a different height, not "six cubits and a span", but "four cubits and a span" - about 6'9".²

The NET translates it this way.



1 Samuel 17:4 NET 2nd ed.

Then a champion came out from the camp of the Philistines. His name was Goliath; he was from Gath. **He was close to seven feet tall.**

Why mention this? KNOW that the further we have come from the story, the more reliable the manuscripts God has allowed us to find! At either height - 9'9" or 6'9", this champion stands at least a foot taller than other men, who - through skeletal remains - are found to be an average of 5'4". This man would have stood a foot and a half taller than them. Further, this massive man was STRONG.

1 Samuel 17:5-7

and wore a bronze helmet and bronze scale armor that weighed one hundred twenty-five pounds. There was bronze armor on his shins, and a bronze javelin was slung between his shoulders. His spear shaft was like a weaver's beam, and the iron point of his spear weighed fifteen pounds. In addition, a shield-bearer was walking in front of him.

This massive man wasn't only intimidating with his size, but also with his armor & weapons. While most Israelite soldiers wore only basic clothing in battle, this GIANT was sheathed in metal. This is the longest description of military dress in the Old Testament, spotlighting the obvious concern that this massive man looked invincible!³

As we've as we have previously read - the *OUTWARD APPEARANCE* was not what impressed Yahweh.

1 Samuel 17:8-11

He stood and shouted to the Israelite battle formations, "Why do you come out to line up in battle formation?" He asked them, "Am I not a Philistine and are you not servants of Saul? Choose one of your men and have him come down against me. If he wins in a fight against me and kills me, we will be your servants. But if I win against him and kill him, then you will be our servants and serve us." Then the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel today. Send me a man so we can fight each other!" When Saul and all Israel heard these words from the Philistine, they lost their courage and were terrified.

Who - based on his size - should be most capable of combatting this massive man? *How about King Saul*, who stood "a head taller than anyone else" (1 Sam 9:2, 10:23)? Instead, Saul was shaking in his sandals too.

1 Samuel 17:12-27

Now David was the son of the Ephrathite from Bethlehem of Judah named Jesse. Jesse had eight sons and during Saul's reign was already an old man. Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war, and their names were Eliab, the firstborn, Abinadab, the next, and Shammah, the third, and David was the youngest. The three oldest had followed Saul, but David kept going back and forth from Saul to tend his father's flock in Bethlehem. Every morning and evening for forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand. One day Jesse had told his son David, "Take this half-bushel of roasted grain along with these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. Also take these ten portions of cheese to the field commander. Check on the well-being of your brothers and bring a confirmation from them. They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah fighting with the Philistines." So David got up early in the morning, left the flock with someone to keep it, loaded up, and set out as Jesse had charged him. He arrived at the perimeter of the camp as the army was marching out to its battle formation shouting their battle cry. Israel and the Philistines lined up in battle formation facing each other. David left his supplies in the care of the quartermaster and ran to the battle line. When he arrived, he asked his brothers how they were. While he was speaking with them, suddenly the champion named Goliath, the Philistine from Gath, came forward from the Philistine battle line and shouted his usual words, which David heard. When all the Israelite men saw Goliath, they retreated from him terrified. Previously, an Israelite man had declared, "Do you see this man who keeps coming out? He comes to defy Israel. The king will make the man who kills him very rich and will give him his daughter. The king will also make the family of that man's father

² Ralph W. Klein, 1 Samuel, vol. 10, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1983), 175.

³ Robert D. Bergen, 1, 2 Samuel, vol. 7, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 190.

exempt from paying taxes in Israel." David spoke to the men who were standing with him: "What will be done for the man who kills that Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Just who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the Living God?" The troops told him about the offer, concluding, "That is what will be done for the man who kills him."

Young David is appalled that this pagan man is **defying the Living God**. Since Hebrew people would face severe punishment for speaking against God, this is likely the VERY FIRST TIME David has ever heard someone speak arrogantly and wickedly against Yahweh. David's righteous anger is only going to grow from this point on.

1 Samuel 17:28-33

David's oldest brother Eliab listened as he spoke to the men, and he became angry with him. "Why did you come down here?" he asked. "Who did you leave those few sheep with in the wilderness? I know your arrogance and your evil heart—you came down to see the battle!" [Remember that this is the oldest son and the first one Samuel thought God had anointed to be king in place of Saul.] "What have I done now?" protested David. "It was just a question." Then he turned from those beside him to others in front of him and asked about the offer. The people gave him the same answer as before. What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, so he had David brought to him. David said to Saul, "Don't let anyone be discouraged by him; your servant will go and fight this Philistine!"

But Saul replied, "You can't go fight this Philistine. You're just a youth, and he's been a warrior since he was young."

David is evidently under the age of 20, since this is the age allowing a man to serve in the military (Num 1:3; 26:2). This could have been the end of the meeting, but David pressed on.

1 Samuel 17:34-35

David answered Saul, "Your servant has been tending his father's sheep. Whenever a lion or a bear came and carried off a lamb from the flock, I went after it, struck it down, and rescued the lamb from its mouth. If it reared up against me, I would grab it by its fur, strike it down, and kill it."

The animals David most likely fought were the Asian **lion**, a powerful but slightly smaller cousin of the African lion, and Syrian Brown **Bear** - animals that could have weighed in over 300 lbs. BUT, David was not pointing to his own skill nor courage as a hunter. Instead, he says...

1 Samuel 17:36-37

Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." Then David said, "The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you."

Notice whom David credits with protecting him and helping him fight these battles - YAHWEH!

- *God has been faithful in the past, and He will be faithful in the future.*
- *God had also prepared David in private before He used David in public.* Be faithful to do what God has enabled you to do, when NO ONE is looking (but God), and when EVERYONE is looking (as you live for an audience of ONE).

Israel's Hero is not a King nor a Shepherd, but the Living God - **YAHWEH**.

1 Samuel 17:38-40

Then Saul had his own military clothes put on David. He put a bronze helmet on David's head and had him put on armor. David strapped his sword on over the military clothes and tried to walk, but he was not used to them. "I can't walk in these," David said to Saul, "I'm not used to them." So David took them off. Instead, he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the wadi and put them in the pouch, in his shepherd's bag. Then, with his sling in his hand, he approached the Philistine.

That's how he's going to battle this massive mountain of a man? If we didn't know the rest of the story, and if we didn't figure the God of the Universe into this, NO ONE would have bet on David - NO ONE.

1 Samuel 17:41-51a

The Philistine came closer and closer to David, with the shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he despised him because he was just a youth, healthy and handsome. He said to David, "Am I a dog that you come against me with sticks?" Then he cursed David by his gods. "Come here," the Philistine called to David, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts!"

David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with a sword, spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Armies, the God of the ranks of Israel—you have defied him. Today, the LORD will hand you over to me. Today, I'll strike you down, remove your head, and give the corpses of the Philistine camp to the birds of the sky and the wild creatures of the earth. Then all the world will know that Israel has a God, and this whole assembly will know that it is not by sword or by spear that the LORD saves, for the battle is the LORD's. He will hand you over to us."

When the Philistine started forward to attack him, David ran quickly to the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in the bag, took out a stone, slung it, and hit the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown to the ground. David defeated the Philistine with a sling and a stone. David overpowered the Philistine and killed him without having a sword. David ran and stood over him. He grabbed the Philistine's sword, pulled it from its sheath, and used it to kill him. Then he cut off his head.

1 Samuel 17:51b-54

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they fled. The men of Israel and Judah rallied, shouting their battle cry, and chased the Philistines to the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. Philistine bodies were strewn all along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron [roughly 10-16 miles from Valley of Elah]. When the Israelites returned from the pursuit of the Philistines, they plundered their camps. David took Goliath's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put Goliath's weapons in his own tent.

Jerusalem wasn't under Hebrew control until David conquers it much later (2 Sam 5:6-10), so this is likely referring to David later bringing Goliath's head to Jerusalem as a trophy of the great victory that day.

1 Samuel 17:55-58

When Saul had seen David going out to confront the Philistine, he asked Abner the commander of the army, "Whose son is this youth, Abner?" "Your Majesty, as surely as you live, I don't know," Abner replied. The king said, "Find out whose son this young man is!" When David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine's head still in his hand. Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" "The son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem," David answered.

As we've already noted, the HERO of this story is certainly NOT Saul, but neither is it David. **Israel's Hero is Yahweh**, the One who anointed David by His servant, Samuel. Yahweh then empowered David by His Spirit, set up the circumstances for David to get involved in this fight, and guided 1 small stone from David's sling, to demonstrate that if Yahweh is OUR Hero, then we can Depend on Yahweh & Do Our Best! We will trust God to empower His servants by the power of His Spirit.

▶ Remember that **Yahweh put on skin** - came to earth as the GOOD SHEPHERD, the ultimate KING of ISRAEL, born in the lineage of David, born in the same town where David once shepherded his sheep. This One was faithful to obey the will of the Father - doing what was right when everybody was looking & when no one but the Father was looking. And Jesus conquered much more than human enemies - Jesus the greatest enemy - DEATH. Jesus brings more than just moments of peace by playing a musical instrument. Jesus brings peace that fills our souls.

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Steve & Debbie Bass** (850-673-7952), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Derek & Emily Beaty** (813-763-4421), or **Tim & Joni Hughey** (850-464-1156).

discussionpoints

These discussion points are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your Family, Friends, or Small Group.

New Testament Applications: Jesus, Our True Shepherd & King

1. Jesus Is the Spirit-Anointed King

- **David:** Anointed by Samuel, the Spirit of Yahweh comes on him (1 Sam 16:13)
- **Jesus:** At His baptism, the Spirit descends like a dove and rests on Him (Matt 3:16-17)
- **Application:** Where Saul failed and David pointed forward, Jesus is the true King who perfectly rules by the Spirit. Our confidence is not in flawed leaders but in Christ, who reigns in righteousness.

2. Jesus Is the Good Shepherd Who Lays Down His Life

- **David:** A shepherd who fought off lions and bears to save the sheep (1 Sam 17:34-36).
- **Jesus:** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).
- **Application:** David risked his life; Jesus gave His life. In Him, we are fully safe, secure, and loved—even from our greatest enemies of sin, Satan, and death.

3. Jesus Conquers Our Ultimate Goliath—Sin and Death

- **David:** Faced Goliath when no one else would, declaring "the battle is the Lord's" (1 Sam 17:47).
- **Jesus:** Faced the cross, bore our sins, and triumphed over death (1 Cor 15:55-57; Col 2:15).
- **Application:** We don't overcome our giants by our strength but by trusting in Christ's finished work. The cross and resurrection prove the victory is the Lord's.

4. Jesus Is the Greater Son of David

- **David:** A surprising, humble choice for king, overlooked by men but chosen by God (1 Sam 16:7).
- **Jesus:** Born in David's line, humble and despised, yet declared God's chosen King (Luke 1:32-33; Acts 2:29-36).
- **Application:** God delights to use what the world considers weak to shame the strong (1 Cor 1:27). Our King is not who the world expects, but He is exactly who we need.

5. Jesus' Presence Brings Peace

- **David:** His music drove away Saul's tormenting spirit (1 Sam 16:23).
- **Jesus:** Speaks peace to the storm, casts out demons, and promises rest for weary souls (Matt 11:28-29; Mark 4:39).
- **Application:** The presence of Christ by His Spirit brings lasting peace—not temporary relief, but eternal rest for our troubled hearts.