

7/12/09

**David Defied Goliath**  
**1Sam. 17:1-58**

The story of the shepherd boy David striking Goliath on the forehead with a stone and killing him, is familiar even to unbelievers.

This account and many others are recorded by the inspiration of God's Spirit to reveal on how God worked through individual for the community of faith, knowing that God can not lie.

1. "For whatever things were written before were written for our **learning**, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Rom. 15:4

2. "Now all these things happened to them as **examples**, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." 1Cor. 10:11

Saul has been rejected by God as king, due to disobedience, therefore God sought a better man, one who would do the will of God not the will of the people or his own. 1Sam. 15

Samuel was sent down by God to anoint a new king, the first seven were rejected by God.

1. God told Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I

have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1Sam. 16:7

2. Samuel asked if there were more sons, David was called from tending the sheep in the field. "He was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good looking. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him: for is the one." 1Sam. 16:12

3. Samuel anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the **Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward**. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah. **But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul**, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him." 1Sam. 16:12-13

\* Yet David went back to the field to tend the sheep, being a humble young man.

The servants of Saul sought out a man to play the harp to sooth the heart of Saul, from the troubling spirit and David was chosen, skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him." 1Sam. 16:18

1. David was brought before Saul.

2. God used this time to prepare David for greater things.

3. The people used by God in the Scriptures were brought up slowly, the promotions of God are not over night and are in His time.

4. David was a man of like passions like any other man. He was a sinner and failed horribly, but David is said to be “a man after God’s own heart”, a heart of repentance, to be reconciled to God!

Though David has been anointed to be king, he is still being a shepherd, over his father’s sheep!

This is the backdrop to the slaying of Goliath by David, which unfolds for us in three movements:

- I. The intimidation by Goliath. vs. 1-11
- II. The conversation about Goliath. vs. 12-30
- III. The destruction of Goliath. vs. 31-58

### I. The intimidation by Goliath. vs. 1-11

- A. The Philistines went to war with Israel. vs. 1-3
  1. The Philistines made their encampment against Israel. vs. 1
    - a. The Philistines gathered their armies together to battle. vs. 1a
    - b. The location was at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim. vs. 1b-c
  2. The Israelites made their encampment against the Philistines. vs. 2

- a. Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah. vs. 2a-b  
\* About 16 miles southwest of Jerusalem.
- b. They drew up in battle array against the Philistines. vs. 2c
3. The armies faced each other. vs. 3
  - a. The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side. vs. 3a
  - b. The Israelites stood on a mountain on the other side. vs. 3b
  - c. The valley was the only thing between them. vs. 3c
- B. The Philistines had a formidable champion. vs. 4-7
  1. He was a giant. vs. 4
    - a. He was a champion, meaning a man between two armies, he went out from the camp of the Philistines. vs. 4a
      - 1) He is called a champion 3 times. vs. 4, 23, 51
      - 2) Philistines is mentioned 28 times.
    - b. He was named Goliath, “Golyath”, which means splendor, appearing only two times. vs. 4b, 23d
    - c. He was from Gath, one of 5 Philistine cities. vs. 4c
    - d. He was 9’6” feet tall, a cubit being 18 inches, a span 6-9 inches. vs. 4d

\* Og king of Bashan had a bed more than 13 feet long. Deut. 3:11

2. He was fully armored. vs. 5-6
  - a. He had a bronze helmet on his head, symbolic of judgment. vs. 5a
  - b. He had a coat of mail, the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze, 125-200 pounds. vs. 5b-c
  - c. He had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. vs. 6
3. He was armed with a weapon. vs. 7
  - a. The staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam. vs. 7a
  - b. The iron spearhead weighed 600 shekels, about 24 pounds. vs. 7b
  - c. He had a shield-bearer that went before him. vs. 7c

C. The Philistine Goliath made a direct challenge. vs. 8-11

1. Goliath belittled them. vs. 8
  - a. He stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle?" vs. 8a-c
  - b. He exalted himself, "Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul?" vs. 8d-e

- c. He asked that an Israelite fight him, "Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me." vs. 8f-g
2. Goliath stipulated the conditions. vs. 9
  - a. He said, "If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants." vs. 9a-b
  - b. He said, "But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." vs. 9c-d
3. Goliath provoked the soldiers. vs. 10
  - a. He was proud, "And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day." vs. 10a-b
  - b. He was arrogant, "Give me a man, that we may fight together." vs. 10c
4. Goliath succeeded in making them cower. vs. 11
  - a. Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine. vs. 11a
  - b. Saul and all Israel were dismayed and greatly afraid. vs. 11b
    - 1) Their confidence was taken from them, dismayed "chathath", means shattered and broken.
    - 2) Their courage was destroyed, becoming greatly afraid "m@'od' yare'", exceedingly fearful.

### Illustration

We can all relate to the bully at school who attempts to intimidate everyone with the size of his mouth and body! This was Goliath bullying Israel!

### Application

1. The believer is born into spiritual warfare and there will be many Goliaths in life's experiences.
  - a. No one is exempt from this, "in Christ".
  - b. The instant you are born again, you become an enemy of Satan.
  - c. The world is not your friend and whenever it seems like it, know that it is deceiving you.
    - \* Paul told the Ephesians, "For we do not **wrestle** against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Eph. 6:12
2. The Goliaths in our lives will be different for all of us, but they will come from three places.
  - a. The world, the fallen sinful sea of humanity that we are part of, pulling and attacking us from the outside.
  - b. The flesh, my own sin-nature that is ever present, till the day I die, pulling and attacking us from the inside.
  - c. The Serpent, Satan, the enemy of God and source of pride, that reminds us of our self-sufficiency and rights.
    - \* "For all that is in the world--the **lust** of the flesh, the **lust** of the eyes, and the pride

of life--is not of the Father but is of the world." 1Jn. 2:16

3. The Goliath challenges by the enemy Satan can be very intimidating, if we look to ourselves to defeat the enemy.
  - a. Yes he is the god of this world but he has been defeated by Jesus. 2Cor. 4:4
  - b. Yes he does go about as a roaring lion, seeking who he may devour, so I am to be sober and vigilant. 1Pet. 5:8
  - c. Yes, he can masquerade as an angel of light, but we have the word of God to expose him. 2Cor. 10:12
  - d. Yes he can be intimidating, But greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. 1Jn. 4:4

*The intimidation by Goliath worked because they were not looking to the Lord!*

### **II. The conversation about Goliath. vs. 12-30**

- A. The occasion occurred as David was sent to the camp of Israel by his father. vs. 12-19
  1. David's family identity is stated. vs. 12
    - a. Jesse was the father of David, the Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah. vs. 2a-b, 16:3-4, 18
    - b. Jesse had 8 sons and was an old man in the days of Saul, vs. 2c-f, 16:10-11
  2. David's brothers. vs. 13-14

- a. The three oldest had gone to follow Saul to the battle. vs. 13a
- b. Their names were Eliab the firstborn, next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. vs. 13b-d, 16:6-9
- c. David was the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul. vs. 14
- 3. David had two responsibilities. vs. 15
  - a. David served Saul as a minstrel.
  - b. David was a shepherd, occasionally returned home from Saul, to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.
- 4. David was sent by his father to the camp of Israel. vs. 16-19
  - a. The Philistine Goliath was being a persistent nuisance, drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening. vs. 16
  - b. Jesse, the father of David, told him to take to his brothers an ephah of this dried grain and ten loaves, at the camp. vs. 17
  - c. David was to also carry ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand. vs. 18a
  - d. The purpose of the visit was to see how his brothers were doing and bring back news of them. vs. 18b-c
  - e. David was going into a war-zone, Saul, his brothers and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. vs. 19

- B. The arrival of David at the camp allowed him to witness the words of Goliath and their affect on the soldiers. vs. 20-27
  - 1. David promptly obeyed his father Jesse. vs. 20-22
    - a. He rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. vs. 20a-c
    - b. He came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight, shouting for the battle. vs. 20d
    - c. Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army. vs. 21
    - d. David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers. vs. 22
  - 2. David observed the enemy Goliath and the Israelites. vs. 23-25
    - a. The giant appeared suddenly, "Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them." vs. 23
    - b. The Israelites ran, "And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled

from him and were dreadfully afraid.”  
vs. 24

\* There is a play on words in Hebrew,  
between the word saw and fled.

3. David heard the men of Israel speaking to one another. vs. 25
  - a. He heard how impressed they were with Goliath, “So the men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel” vs. 25a-c
  - b. He heard about the three-fold prize offered to the one killing Goliath, “And it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, give him his daughter, and give his father’s house exemption from taxes in Israel.” vs. 25d-f
4. David spoke to the men of Israel. vs. 26-27
  - a. David recognized this was a shame to Israel. vs. 26a-c
    - 1) David responded in surprise to the men who stood by him, saying, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine,
    - 2) David knew killing Goliath alone, would remove their shame, “And takes away the reproach from Israel? vs. 26a-c

\* Saul had removed the reproach of the Ammonites, after being anointed, now David will remove the reproach of Goliath!

- b. David responded in anger. vs. 26d-e
    - 1) David disdained Goliath, “For who is this uncircumcised Philistine.” vs. 26d  
\* David was not politically correct, Goliath was his enemy, he did not read Goliath his Miranda rights!
    - 2) David was outraged at Goliath, not intimidated by Goliath, “That he should defy the armies of the **living God?**” vs. 26e  
\* Goliath served a dead god, Dagon!
  - c. David re-heard the same answer from the men, saying, “So shall it be done for the man who kills him.” vs. 27
- C. The occasion resulted in the rebuke of David by his brother Eliab. vs. 28-30
1. David got an ear-full from his older brother. vs. 28
    - a. Eliab witnessed the words of David, he heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab’s anger was aroused against David. vs. 28a-b
    - b. Eliab questioned his motive for coming, “Why did you come down here? vs. 28c-d

- c. Eliab accused David of being irresponsible, degrading him, “And with whom have you **left those few sheep** in the wilderness?” vs. 28e
  - d. Eliab said David was self-willed, “I know your pride and the insolence of your heart.” vs. 28f
  - e. Eliab said he was merely curious, “For you have come down to see the battle.” vs. 28g
    - 1) Eliab could have been bitter for not being picked king, as the eldest?
    - 2) Eliab knew David was already in the king's court, he did not want David to outshine him, the elder?
2. David gave a mouth-full to his older brother and the men. vs. 29-30
- a. He did not see himself as having done anything wrong, “And David said, “What have I done now?” vs. 29a-b
  - b. He exposed the complacent attitude of his brother, “Is there not a cause?” vs. 29c
    - \* This is a key verse of the chapter!
  - c. He repeated this to others, “Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing.” vs. 30a
  - d. He heard the men respond by telling him about the reward, “And these people answered him as the first ones did.” vs. 30b

### Illustration

“And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Heb. 11:32-34  
\* They were not afraid or intimidated!

### Application

1. David in going about his duties of a normal day was sensitive to the cause of God.
  - a. He was like any other person of flesh and blood, a shepherd.
  - b. He was obedient to his father.
  - c. But in all that he did, be it seeing or hearing, he did so, through his relation to God.
  - d. Are you open to God's appointments?
    - \* “You therefore must endure hardship as a good **soldier** of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a **soldier**.” 2Tim. 2:3-4
2. David had a heart for God and took the challenge of Goliath to the nation as personal.

- a. Each of us should take the doctrinal challenges against the church today, as Goliath's defying God.
  - b. The lie that psychology and the Bible can be integrated and are one, under the label of "Christian Psychology".
  - c. Rick Warren of the "Seeker Friendly Church Movement", preaches a cross-less gospel, emphasizing unity at the expense of doctrine for social and cultural unity.
  - d. The "Emergent Church Movement" that attacks the trustworthiness of the word of God, as God's complete truth and standard for truth, teaching meditation, contemplative prayer, imagery through Hinduism, New Age and Monastic methods and practices, taping into demons. 1Tim. 4:1
3. David did not allow the complacency, compromise or lack of courage by the intimidation of Goliath to affect his own responsible faith, neither should we.
- a. Be it regarding doctrinal error.
  - b. Be it regarding church discipline.
  - c. Be it regarding making judgments, without fear of "political correctness" of our day.
  - d. Be it in the acceptance of multi-cultural oneness under the guise of love, rather than Jesus and doctrine.
  - e. Be it to embrace human methods to build and run the church as an organization, rather than an organism, allowing the word of God

- and the Holy Spirit of God to add to the church and transform it.
- f. Biblical transformation is quite superior to "behavioral modification" or "Church Growth and Marketing principles".
    - 1) The responsibility of every believer is to be a Berean, "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." Acts 17:11
    - 2) "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God," 2Tim. 1:7-8

*The conversation about Goliath was because David knew the Lord!*

### III. The destruction of Goliath. vs. 31-58

- A. The confidence of David was in his God. vs. 31-39
  - 1. The hope of Saul was David. vs. 31-33
    - a. The words of David had been reported to Saul, so he sent for him. vs. 31



- b. The words of David to Saul were, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” vs. 32
  - c. The words of Saul to David were emphatic, “**You** are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and **he** a man of war from his youth.” vs. 33
2. The hope of David was God. vs. 34-37
- a. As it had been while being a shepherd, “But David said to Saul, “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.” vs. 34-35  
\* Israel had many forest, lions and bears!
  - b. So it would be against Goliath, “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. Moreover David said, “The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He

- will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” vs. 36-37d  
\* The living God, apposed to dead idols of the Philistines!
3. The hope of Saul was in mere victory. vs. 37e-39
- a. Saul thinking he was in command said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you!” vs. 37e-g
  - b. Saul attempted to prepare David for battle, clothing him with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. vs. 38
  - c. Saul observing David as he fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. David said to Saul, “I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them.” So David took them off.
- B. The dependency of David was on his God. vs. 40-51
- 1. David trusted the weapons God had trained him with, “Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.” vs. 40

- 1) David knew Goliath had four sons.  
2Sam. 21:22
- 2) David did not plan on missing, all he needed was five stones!
2. Goliath came forth, “So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him.” vs. 41
3. Goliath was insulted by the presence of a boy, rather than a soldier. vs. 42-44
  - a. He despised David in heart, “And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking.” vs. 42
  - b. He cursed David by his god in words, “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.” vs. 43
  - c. He mocked David, “And the Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!” vs. 44
3. David responded to Goliath. vs. 45-47
  - a. He announce his coming as the representative of God, “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.” vs. 45
- \* The phrase LORD of hosts means the Captain of the armies of heaven, who Goliath had defied!
- b. He announced his victory beforehand and the purpose, “This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.” vs. 46
  - c. He announced that the doing and glory would be God’s, “Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD’S, and He will give you into our hands.” vs. 47
4. David ran out to slay the giant Goliath. vs. 48-51
    - a. He faced his enemy, “So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.” vs. 48
    - b. He defeated his enemy, “Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a

stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.” vs. 49

- d. He killed his enemy, “So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.” vs. 50
- e. He cut off the head of his enemy, striking fear in the enemy. “Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.” vs. 51  
\* Like his god Dagon, he laid face down, without his head.

**C. The instrument of faith was David. vs. 52-58**

- 1. One man who trusted God made a big difference to the nation. vs. 52-53
  - a. The men took courage, “The men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron”. vs. 52a-b
  - b. The men defeated the enemy, “And the wounded of the Philistines fell

along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron.” vs. 52c-d

- c. The nation was enriched by David, “Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents. vs. 53
- 2. The man David took his trophy with him . vs. 54
  - a. The mind that challenged God, “And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem,” vs. 54a  
\* The Jebusites, who occupied the city were put on alert by David!
  - b. The armor that was insufficient to defeat God, “But he put Goliath’s armor in his tent.” vs. 54b
- 3. The man of God is not recognized by the people in power. vs. 55-56
  - a. Saul was impressed, “When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, “Abner, whose son is this youth?”” vs. 55a-c
    - 1) Saul could have been inquiring the standing of his family.
    - 2) Time could of lapse and David’s had changed.
    - 3) Some even suggest Saul’s mental fits, affecting his mind?

- b. Abner was oblivious, “And Abner said, “As your soul lives, O king, I do not know.” vs. 55d-g
- c. Saul was interested in David, “So the king said, “Inquire whose son this young man is.” vs. 56
  - 1) The believer is acknowledge by those in power, only when they appear to do great things.
  - 2) It is self-serving, gathering the best men to themselves, for self-glory!
- 4. David was not impressed with himself. vs. 57-58
  - a. David came before Saul with his trophy in his hand, “ Then, 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.
  - b. David came in humility, “And Saul said to him, “Whose son are you, young man?” So David answered, “I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.” vs. 58

### **Illustration**

A famous quotes of CHESTY PULLER, USMC, “We’re surrounded. That simplifies the problem!”

### **Application**

- 1. The confidence of the believer must be in God alone to simplify the problem of life.
  - a. At times the believer trusts in his own abilities.
  - b. At other times the believer trusts the abilities of others.
  - c. But, though God may use abilities and other people to do His work, we must be sure that our confidence is in God, leading and directing us in what we are doing.
    - \* “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 2:5
- 2. The dependency of the believer must equally be in God alone.
  - a. Not on how God worked in others lives.
  - b. Not in methods or patterns that are passed off as sure formulas for success.
  - c. Not in word only but in deed, every step of the trial or situation, despite the difficulty.
    - 1) Jesus said, “Apart from Me, you can do nothing.” Jn. 15:5
    - 2) Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.” Phil. 4:13
- 3. The believer must used only the weapons of God to insure victory.
  - a. The posture of prayer. Phil. 4:6-7
  - b. The power of the Holy Spirit. Eph. 5:18
  - c. The pure word of God. Heb. 4:12
    - \* Jesus demonstrated this in His victory over Satan’s temptations in the wilderness!

4. The believer must confront the Goliaths of life, in faith, not run from them.

- a. It might be your old life of drugs, sex, etc.
- b. It might be your marriage.
- c. It might be one of your children.
- d. It might be a person, a thorn in your flesh.

\* “Those that come to God must believe that He is and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Heb. 11:6

5. The believer will make a big difference in others lives.

- a. Your family and friends.
- b. Your wife and children.
- c. Your neighborhood or job.
- d. Your church.

\* We are to be servants of all, like our master. Mk. 9:35

***The destruction of Goliath was because David trusted in the Lord!***

### **Conclusion**

The record of David slaying Goliath has unfolded for us in these three movements:

- I. The intimidation by Goliath worked because they were not looking to the Lord!
- II. The conversation about Goliath was because David knew the Lord!

**III.** The destruction of Goliath was because David trusted in the Lord!