



# The KING - Part 1

## Giant Slayer

I Samuel 17, Psalms 25  
May 5th, 2019



### The KING Series GRAPHIC

**The story of King David began about 1000 BCE (3000 Years Ago)**

In a time that was DEFINED by **violent, barbaric warfare**

Although hollywood has helped us glamorize it, fictionalize it, and sanitize it.....we can 'kinda' envision what an epic battlefield of biblical proportions would be like.....we **really** can't imagine it.

#### **What would it have been like to be an ancient warrior?**

To leave your families, jobs, homes, farms, livestock to go fight for the betterment of their people....fight off invaders or BE the invader.

To line up with your countrymen against a common enemy and fight to the death....it would truly be indescribable.

We can picture it, but we can't feel the tension built by a combination of fear, nervousness and excitement.

We can't hear the war cry of young men trying to summon courage and face this fight with courage.

We can't smell the body odor of a group of men who have been traveling, eating and going to the bathroom together, with their livestock for days, weeks, months on end.

And as you looked across that line, you looked into the eyes of your enemy.

In modern warfare (which is just as horrific, but in different ways), you **USUALLY** kill your enemy within RIFLE RANGE

-in 1000BCE you killed them within **ARMS REACH**

You smelled the breath of your opponent, you saw their fear, their savagery, or the drug/drink induced gaze to help them summon the courage.

The **WORST** thing you could see as you looked over the top of your shield was a calm, stoic face.....because that meant you were facing a seasoned veteran of ancient combat and chances are....you didn't stand a chance against this trained killer.

Few died instantly in a world of dull steel and wooden clubs.  
You could suffer for hours, praying for death

If your injuries weren't life threatening, it would take time for the adrenaline to subside before you could tell the difference between YOUR blood and THEIR blood.

If you could stop the bleeding, there was still a chance you would die of infection. Men often fought naked to reduce the chance of infection, should a piece of filthy clothing get lodged in a wound.

If your fellow soldiers turned and ran, you would die where you stood.

Long before anyone retrieved your body, birds of prey would feast on your flesh—often before you were dead - and your family would no longer have a provider - wife a widow - your children orphans - your life reduced to a pile of bones in a valley.

The making of a battle just like that is described for us by a man named Samuel - Prophet for the Nation of Israel

### **1 Samuel 17:1-2**

Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah.

Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines.

### **1 Samuel 17:3-4**

The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span.

*(between 6'9" and 9'6")*

### **1 Samuel 17:7-8**

His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels.

*(9'9" weaver's rod + 15lbs spearhead = stabbing spear)*

Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul?"

### **1 Samuel 17:8-9**

Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects;

but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us."

### **1 Samuel 17:10–11**

Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.”

On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

This went on for weeks. Israel needed a champion.

When we are dismayed and terrified, we normally do what they did

### **We put our hope in our greatest resource**

We put our HOPE in what we feel like is our best RESOURCE at that time  
-Abilities, talents, someone else, wife, boss, job, experience, money, etc  
We depend on our greatest resource to help us out

Israel looked to their king - **their 1st King - SAUL**

That’s where their hope lay.

We place our hope in our greatest resource

### **We place our hope in another PERSON - often leads to disappointment**

When they disappoint, hope can turn to HATE

Why you have the potential to resent your spouse more than anyone else.

You have a lot of HOPE placed in that relationship

You never placed any hope in the couple living across the street.

### **Israel thought that their best chance of killing this GIANT was SAUL**

Saul was their leader - and he really looked the part

Head and shoulders above the rest of Israel’s Men

Competent Leader, Soldier and King

But Saul was conspicuously missing.

His credibility slipped away as each day passed with no response.

As his credibility waned, the army’s hope did as well.

### **Something always goes wrong when we put our HOPE in a PERSON**

Nobody is as good as we want them to be or hope they will be.

Destroyed hope creates deep disappointment and anger.

That’s why you get so mad when your favorite team loses

- you HOPED they would win

Israel placed it's HOPE in it's greatest RESOURCE - SAUL  
But he wasn't stepping up  
And they were getting angry

Which is funny, because:

### **God never wanted Israel to have a King**

God wanted Israel to place their hope in him.  
He wanted HIS People to see HIM as THEIR Greatest RESOURCE  
He wanted them to place their hope in HIM

**God Intended Israel to Be a Theocracy.**  
—a nation of law, administrated by judges.

This put Israel ahead of their time by thousands of years, which was amazing considering the prevailing model: Egypt/King/Ultimate Ruler

But eventually, the people insisted on having a king. In the eleventh century BC, they complained to the authority figure—the prophet Samuel.

The final authority was the LAW as handed down from God.

This was amazing considering Moses could have claimed the role of king; he was certainly their hero.

### **But Israel Insisted . . .**

The Law and judges ruled Israel. But the judges weren't just, so the people went to their authority figure, the prophet Samuel, because it was partly his fault. Here's what happened:

#### **1 Samuel 8:1-4**

**When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's judges. But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice. So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah.**

#### **1 Samuel 8:5**

**They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."**

All the cool kids have a king  
God established Israel for a purpose beyond Israel.  
Israel would indeed produce a king—the King - different kind of Kingdom



## 1 Samuel 8:6-9

But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord.

And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.”

A king will tax you, take your land, parts of herds and crops, daughters for servants and sons for soldiers

This isn't going to be as great as you think it is

Israel begged for a king - so Samuel appointed Saul to be their first king

THAT set the stage for one of the most detailed narrative accounts in ancient literature: the story of:

## King David

Competent – Confident – yet somehow, Humble

Unlike the typical king, David loved the law.

Even when it condemned him . . . he COULD have changed the law  
He believed God gave the law.

That conviction provided him with extraordinary clarity.

David knew that he would eventually be Israel's TEMPORARY King

But he was never confused about the identity of Israel's true King

He was never confused about his limited role, in spite of his popularity, military success, and power.

It's hard to stay humble when you are THE BEST at EVERYTHING

David WAS the best at everything

Ruddy & Handsome, Feared Warrior, Talented Musician, Leader

**Success confuses the best of us - \*\*\*lots of examples\*\*\***

But David - even when he made mistakes - which he DID

NEVER got confused about who the REAL KING of Israel was

We catch our first glimpse of his unusual perspective while he was a shepherd boy trying to stay out of the way of his older brothers while he delivers them a package to the front line of this epic battlefield of the Israelites and the Philistines:

### 1 Samuel 17:11

**On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified**

David is a BOY (14 Years Old) - NOT a Soldier

He was there on an errand

But he heard Goliath's Threats

He was NOT dismayed and terrified

David was OFFENDED

David hears Goliath mock his God and his Nation

He hears that Saul is looking for a champion/hero to fight the giant

The questions that he begins to ask reveal a lot about his perspective:

### 1 Samuel 17:26

**David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel?"**

Disgrace from Israel? - we don't think of it like that - we are just scared

### 1 Samuel 17:26

**Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"**

Uncircumcised = outside God's covenant

Claiming territory given by God.

Who does he think he is?

Why hasn't someone done something

Word gets to Saul, who sends for David.

Saul sees that he is just a boy

Doubts his chances against such a warrior

### 1 Samuel 17:36

**"Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.**

### 1 Samuel 17:37

**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."**

THE LORD - I'm good, but not that good - THE LORD will handle this

And I am confident that he can use ME to do it

David's hope was in his God.

He wasn't telling Saul to trust DAVID - he was telling Saul to trust God and that same:

**God wants us to put our hope in HIM**

[Those whose hope is in the Lord](#)

[See clearly](#)

[Walk humbly](#)

[Live confidently](#)

**That is EXACTLY what David did.**

**David - when faced with a giant:**

could **SEE CLEARLY** that the GIANT wasn't the real problem  
the problem was NOT trusting God to fix the problem  
was **CONFIDENT** that God would use HIM to remove the obstacle  
was **HUMBLE** enough to put his HOPE in God

He understood this.

In fact, David wrote - his own words:

The man or woman whose hope is in the Lord need not fear.

[Psalm 25:1](#)

[In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.](#)

Not in my position or power.

You.

That was the posture God desired for the nation of Israel

Even as king, David got it.

[Psalms 25:3](#)

[No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame.](#)

This next part is so unusual for a king:

[Psalms 25:5](#)

[Guide me](#) (but you are the king...you are supposed to guide US)

[in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.](#)

So David, clear eyed, confident, and humble, made his way down.

Saul offered him his armor - but it didn't fit - so he left it

### 1 Samuel 17:40-41

Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David.

### 1 Samuel 17:42-44

He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"

### 1 Samuel 17:45-46

David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head.

### 1 Samuel 17:46-47

This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

### 1 Samuel 17:48-49

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

### **1 Samuel 17:50-51**

**So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.**

**David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.**

### **1 Samuel 17:51-52**

**When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.**

**52 Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.**

### **1 Samuel 17:53-54**

**When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp.**

**David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem; he put the Philistine's weapons in his own tent.**

And on that day - DAVID became the most famous person in Israel

He did what King Saul SHOULD have done

Because he placed HIS HOPE in the THE LORD

### **Those whose hope is in the Lord**

**See clearly**

**Walk humbly**

**Live confidently**

And that is how ALL of us SHOULD be if we place our HOPE in our GREATEST RESOURCE - GOD

**That is what being a 'Jesus Follower' is all about**

We recognize that we can't control outcomes because we have little control over the variables required to control outcomes.

Instead, we lean the weight of our lives against the One who has the whole world—all the variables—in his hands.

**So how does that apply to YOU???**

Well, I guess it depends on what giant is in front of you today  
Really depends on the battle line you are standing in

**\*Mr. Chamness - Praise God for Heart Disease!**

See Clearly enough to recognize that he is 88 - inevitable  
Humble enough to know he can't beat it  
Confidently enough to STILL TRUST GOD

That is INSPIRING!

Maybe you think THIS is inspiring

**\*\*\*CBCC is just a group of people placing their HOPE in God**

See Clearly enough to know there is a need  
Walk humbly enough that we can't fix it on our own  
Live Confidently knowing that GOD is going to do it THRU us

It's just a matter of where YOU place YOUR hope  
Greatest resource is GOD

I don't know how this applies to YOU

Too many variable - giants - situations - battlefields  
It really depends on the stage of life - relationships - etc

But no matter WHAT you are looking across the battlefield at, remember

**Those whose hope is in the Lord**

**See clearly**

**Walk humbly**

**Live confidently**

**Psalm 25:1, 5**

**In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. My hope is in you all day long.**

Say this verse out loud - NOW

Say it out loud every day for the next five weeks for this series

I'll do it if you will

Write it down and declare it every morning

- as a reminder of where you put your hope

As you do - I am praying that it will help you:

See clearly

Walk humbly

Live confidently

David was Israel's greatest king because as king,  
he never confused himself with the King.

But in his early years, that wasn't always the case.  
We will pick it up there next week.

**Prayer - The KING Series Graphic**