

Josh, please open only with verses 1-11

I. Days of War in Israel (1-3)

A. A persistent enemy returns (1) - “Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle...”

B. A powerless leader postures (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.”

C. A prolonged standoff ensues (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.”

II. Days of Worry for Saul (4-11)

A. Intimidating obstacles (4-7) - And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 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. 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. And his shield-bearer went before him.”

B. Unavoidable opposition (8-9) - “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.”

C. Faithless response (10-11) - “And the Philistine said, “I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together.” 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.”

III. Days of Waiting for David (12-20a)

A. David and his duties (12-15) - “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.”

B. David and his dispatch (16-18) - “Take for your brothers...parched grain...these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brother... Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand.”

C. David and his diligence (19-20a) - “David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and took the provisions and went as Jesse had commanded him...”

IV. Days of Wonder from David (20b-30)

A. Amazing unbelief (20b-24) - “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. 24 All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid.”

B. Amazing carnality (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."

C. Amazing faith (26-30) - "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." 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."

1. Faith revealed (26) - "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

2. Faith resisted (27-28) - "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."

3. Faith reinforced (29-30) - "And David said, "What have I done now? Was it not but a word?"