

KING DAVID — ♦ — AND HIS KING



David and Goliath – 1 Samuel 17

January 28th, 2024

The famous story of David and Goliath: The small, seemingly chanceless man standing up to the mighty giant and – against all odds – defeating him. A story about facing our fears and enemies. Or is it?

1 Samuel 17 shows us how David, the one anointed to be king over Israel in Saul's place, has a heart that seeks to bring glory to God. When he sees Goliath threatening his people and, most importantly, mock the God of Israel, he does what Saul should have done and faces him in battle, trusting that God will give him victory. The heavily armored, seemingly invincible Goliath falls through one single sling-shot, David kills him and the Philistines, Israel's enemies, flee. Through David, God has rescued his people. God has shown David to be a better king than Saul. In this, David mirrors Jesus. Jesus is the true king and redeemer of his people who has defeated sin and death by giving himself for us. We are not David, facing our own Goliaths. Jesus is the greater David, who has defeated our enemies and rescued us from foes against which we were powerless.

[If you're working through these in a group, jump straight to Apply]

For personal reflection/community discussion

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Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasized, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarize these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does this reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his readers to respond to these words?

Apply – After seeking to understand God’s Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- Consider how the different groups and persons are portrayed (David, Goliath, the Israelites): What are the themes that run through this story? Who is David portrayed to be? Who are we to identify with?
- How does this story speak of the Gospel? Is there an expectation for a greater king? A fuller salvation?

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- Read Colossians 2:9-15. Consider how David mirrors Jesus. How is Jesus the greater king and savior?