

David the Great

1 Samuel 17

June 28, 2026

1 Samuel 17:1-11 (NLT)

¹ The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. ² Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. ³ So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them. ⁴ Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall! ⁵ He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. ⁶ He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. ⁷ The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield. ⁸ Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! ⁹ If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! ¹⁰ I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!" ¹¹ When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.

Observation of Goliath vs. David:

1. ***Words*** have power and influence!

Taunt - *kaw-raw'*; to *encounter*, whether accidentally or in a hostile manner. Making a jeering or mocking remark made in order to wound or provoke.

Champion— a "man between two"; that is, "a middleman", a person who, on the part of his own people, undertook to determine the national quarrel by engaging in single combat with a chosen warrior in the hostile army.

Defy - to *expose* (as by *stripping*); *defame*; blaspheme, openly resist;

1 Samuel 17:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army.

Proverbs 18:21 (ESV)

²¹ Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Observation of Goliath vs. David:

2. ***Faith*** in God changes our perspective!

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1 Samuel 17:41-46 (NLT)

⁴¹Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, ⁴²sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. ⁴³“Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. ⁴⁴“Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled. ⁴⁵David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel!

Leviticus 24:13-16 (NLT)

¹³Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹⁴“Take the blasphemer outside the camp, and tell all those who heard the curse to lay their hands on his head. Then let the entire community stone him to death. ¹⁵Say to the people of Israel: Those who curse their God will be punished for their sin. ¹⁶Anyone who blasphemes the Name of the LORD must be stoned to death by the whole community of Israel. Any native-born Israelite or foreigner among you who blasphemes the Name of the LORD must be put to death.

1 Samuel 17:47 (NLT)

⁴⁷And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD’s battle, and he will give you to us!”

5 Factors that led David to triumph...

- a. Deep **passion** for God.
- b. A concern for God’s **honor and reputation**.
- c. **Confidence** in God’s power was strong.
- d. **Trusted** not in himself, but **in God to bring victory** over Goliath and the Philistines.
- e. The **Spirit of God** resting in power on his life.

Observation of Goliath vs. David:

3. **Action** is necessary for victory!

1 Samuel 17:22-24 (NLT)

²²David left his things with the keeper of supplies and hurried out to the ranks to greet his brothers. ²³As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came out from the Philistine ranks. Then David heard him shout his usual taunt to the army of Israel. ²⁴As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright.

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1 Samuel 17:26b (NLT)

^{26b}Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?"

1 Samuel 17:32 (NLT)

³²"Don't worry about this Philistine," David told Saul. "I'll go fight him!"

1 Samuel 17:36-37a (ESV)

³⁶Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

1 Samuel 17:48-51 (NLT)

⁴⁸As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. ⁴⁹Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground. ⁵⁰So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. ⁵¹Then David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head.

Judges 20:16 (NLT)

¹⁶Among Benjamin's elite troops, 700 were left-handed, and each of them could sling a rock and hit a target within a hairsbreadth without missing.

James 2:25-26 (NLT)

²⁵Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. ²⁶Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

True **living faith in Jesus** will always be accompanied with **action**.

Action that is birthed through **prayer and intercession**.

Action that is **learned and practiced**.

Action that is **spoken and lived out**.

Action that says **I'm not giving up**, my God goes before me!