CHASING AFTER GOD'S HEART



David & Goliath

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. 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.

He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back.

1 Samuel 17:5-6 NIV

His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

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? Choose a man and have him come down to me.

1 Samuel 17:8 NIV

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."

On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified. For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

1 Samuel 17:10,16 NIV

For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

1 Samuel 17:23-24 NIV

David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

1 Samuel 17:26 NIV

... "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

1 Samuel 17:28 NIV

What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him. David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

1 Samuel 17:31-32 NIV

Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

But David said to Saul... 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 17:36 NIV

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."

God hasn't failed me yet, and He won't fail me now.

This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals,

1 Samuel 17:46 NIV

and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

1 Samuel 17:46 NIV

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."

God takes ultimate responsibility for the final outcomes in our life.

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.

ln you, Lord my God, l put my trust... No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame,

Trusting God expands my perspective.

Trusting God increases my confidence.

Trusting God shapes how we see everything else in life.

No matter how big the enemy may be, or how great the enemy may be...God is bigger, and God is greater!

Battles are unavoidable. Victory is inevitable.