

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

This evening we come to the chapter in scripture that gives us insight on what happened that day between little David and the giant Goliath.

Now, this is probably the best known story in all of scripture. Even many nonbelievers can recite the story of David and Goliath.

It is the story of overcoming incredible odds – how a young boy can take down a massive giant with his slingshot and a pebble –

That is how we all know the story right.

Well, it all wrong.

That is not what 1 Samuel 17 is all about.

Believe it or not – 1 Samuel 17 provides us with a picture of what Jesus Christ did on the cross by defeating Satan.

Let's pray...

[1Sa 17:1-58 NKJV] 1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered at Sochoh, which [belongs] to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim. 2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines. 3 The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

The Philistines and the Israelites are at war again.

During the period of the judges, Samson was constantly battling the Philistines and even through our study through 1 Samuel, we have seen them battle each other over and over again.

First Samuel led the Israelites against the Philistines and then we had King Saul and a few weeks ago we even saw Jonathan and his armor bearer leading the Israelites into war against the Philistines.

4 And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height [was] six cubits and a span. 5 [He had] a bronze helmet 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 bronze javelin between his shoulders. 7 Now the staff of his spear [was] like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead [weighed] six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.

A few weeks ago, we read that the Israelites failed to destroy all the Anakim within the Promised Land (Joshua 11:22 told us that the Anakim remained in three cities. And one of those cities was Gath) – here we have the consequences of their inaction.

How big was Goliath???

Goliath's height was anywhere between 8'5" – 9'2"

His armor weighed 5000 shekels of bronze – 200 lbs

His spear alone weighed six hundred shekels of iron – 25 lbs

8 Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? [Am] I not a Philistine, and you the 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." 10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies 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.**

The Philistines come up with an alternative way of settling their dispute.

Instead of all-out war – let's just have our two best guys go at it and the one who is victorious that is the side that wins.

However, there are two reasons that they propose the plan.

1. They have Goliath – they know that the Israelites have no one who could put up a fight against their champion.
2. The hope that once the Israelites see Goliath, they will be so fearful that they would simply give up without a fight.

Now, Saul had every reason to be afraid because he was supposed to be heads and shoulders above all the Israelites.

He was the logical choice to face Goliath.

12 Now David [was] the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name [was] Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced [in

years], in the days of Saul. 13 The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone to follow Saul to the battle. The names of his three sons who went to the battle [were] Eliab the firstborn, next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 David [was] the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul. 15 But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

In our study, we found David at the end of Chapter 16, soothing Saul with the playing of his harp.

So, It seems David was only called to the palace as needed, when Saul was afflicted by the distressing spirit.

During the other times, he still had to do chores around the house – and being a shepherd, that meant that he had to take care of his father's sheep.

16 And the Philistine drew near and presented himself **forty days, morning and evening.**

Now, 40 in scripture is the number of testing or trial.

- Rain fell on Noah's ark for 40 days
- The Children of Israel wandered the Wilderness for 40 years
- Jesus, Himself, was tempted for 40 days.

So for 40 days and 40 nights Goliath taunted and mocked the Israelites exposing them as cowards.

17 Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried [grain] and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp. 18 "And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of [their] thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them." 19 Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel [were] in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. 20 So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took [the things] and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle.

Jesse sends his son, David, on an important mission, to provide bread for his brothers.

Jesus was also sent His father, not to bring us bread but to become Bread for his brothers. [Jhn 6:48 NKJV] 48 "I am the bread of life.

Keep in mind that it is a 15 mile walk from Bethlehem to where the Israelites and the Philistines are preparing for battle.

21 For Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army. 22 And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers. 23 Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard [them]. 24 And all the men of

Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.

David shows up at the battlefield, he sees his brothers but he also sees and hears that taunts that were coming from Goliath. Not one of the men was willing to take on Goliath. Remember – this has been happening every day for 40 days now.

25 So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be [that] the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption [from taxes] in Israel."

Because no one was willing to battle Goliath, a reward is promised to help entice anyone to come forward and defeat Goliath.

Now, I asked you to make note of the reward.

Because the Son of David, Jesus Christ when He defeated Satan also gained these three rewards.

Let me explain

1. Enrich with great riches – By defeating Satan on the cross, we are His treasure. Turn with me to the gospel of Matthew – there are two parables that speak of believers as treasure to Him. That is how much He values us.

[Mat 13:44-46 NKJV] 44 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells

all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 "who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

2. Gain a wife – by defeating Satan on the cross – we became His bride. Rev 21:9

3. Gain freedom - [Jhn 8:36 NKJV] 36 "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

26 Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "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?"

As the other soldiers focused on the dangers of facing Goliath and the material rewards that were to be won, David's focus was on the reputation of Israel and the honor of the living God.

We can say that David saw things from the LORD's perspective, but the men of Israel saw things only from man's perspective.

27 And the people answered him in this manner, saying, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him." 28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have

come down to see the battle." 29 And David said, "What have I done now? [Is there] not a cause?" 30 Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones [did].

Now, we see David's brothers turn against David. They think that he has only showed up hoping to see a fight.

Eliab, being the oldest and possibly the tallest, remember that Samuel thought that he was the obvious choice at first because of his outward appearance – he must have thought that David was trying to provoke him into fighting Goliath.

However, they didn't know David's heart.

31 Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported [them] to Saul; and he sent for him. 32

Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you [are] a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

Saul thought David was disqualified because of his age, size, and inexperience.

Goliath has been fighting longer than you've been alive
David!!!

This shows that Saul looked at the battle purely in natural, outward terms.

You see, the outward "tale of the tape" said there was no way David could win.

However, the “tale of God’s tape” said there was no way David could lose.

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, 35 "I went out after it and struck it, and delivered [the lamb] from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught [it] by its beard, and struck and killed it. 36 "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."

Saul didn't realize that God had been preparing David for this battle his entire life. Even as a shepherd, God prepared David.

This is generally God's pattern for preparation. He calls us to be faithful right where we are and then uses our faithfulness to accomplish greater things.

If David ran scared at the lion or the bear, he would never have been ready to fight Goliath now.

But he was faithful then, so he will be faithful now.

37 Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

During those times on our lives when we are being prepared – those times of preparation, for the most part - we have no idea of what God is preparing us for.

However, it is when we come face to face with the event that God has prepared us for, that we can look back and know that the same God who delivered us back then, will also deliver us now.

That is what David is doing here and that is why he could say it with boldness.

Not with boldness of his own ability but boldness of His God.

38 So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. 39 David fastened his sword to his armor

and tried to walk, for he had not tested [them]. And

David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested [them]." So David took them off.

Saul, still thinking in fleshly terms, feels that there is no way that David can defeat Goliath without the best armor – his armor.

However, Saul was tall and David wasn't.

David couldn't even walk with Saul armor on him – so he removes it.

You see, it isn't the armor that was going to win the battle, it is going to be the Lord God of Israel that will defeat Goliath.

40 Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

Why five stones – why not 6 or 2?

Actually he really only needed one.

There are two possibilities as to why five.

- five in scripture is the number of grace. And David knew that the victory was not going to come about because of whom he was or what he had done, but it was going to be solely because of God's grace.
- We also find in scripture that Goliath had four other siblings (2 Sam 21:18-21)

41 So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield [went] before him.

So, not only does David have to battle the giant Goliath – there is also the armor bearer he has to contend with.

42 And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was [only] a youth, ruddy and good-looking. 43 So the Philistine said to David, "[Am] I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!" 45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will

strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

Once again, David demonstrates his boldness in the Lord and not in himself.

Notice that he makes the contrast between Goliath's weapons and his. You got nice weapons Goliath – but I have something even better.

47 "Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle [is] the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands."

Here we have the reason that David took the fight to Goliath. He didn't do it to make a name for himself, he did it so that God can receive the glory.

48 So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. 49 Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung [it] and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But [there was] no sword in the hand of David. 51 Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its

sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

For forty days and forty nights, the entire Israelite army figured – Goliath is so huge, there is no way we can beat him.

However David, figured Goliath is so huge – there is no way I can miss him and he proceeded to land a stone on his forehead and cause him to fall on his face.

Back in chapter five, when the Philistines took that Ark of the Covenant from the Israelites – you might remember that they place the ark in one of their temple for the god Dagon – and when the priests show up the next day, Dagon had fallen on its face as well.

Not only does David knock him down, he takes Goliath's sword and cuts off his head with it.

52 Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron. 53 Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents.

Now, remember the conditions that the Philistines had set for the battle, whoever loses would have to serve the other.

But the Philistines don't honor that agreement and take off once they see that their champion has been defeated.

54 And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent. 55 When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son [is] this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know." 56 So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man [is]." 57 Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 And Saul said to him, "Whose son [are] you, young man?" So David answered, "[I am] the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

We know that David had been playing the harp for Saul for some time now.

It is not that Saul did not recognize who David was – maybe it had to do with one of the conditions of the reward that stated that the entire family was going to be free from having to pay taxes.

Church, David victory over Goliath was a great victory – but Jesus' victory over death is the greatest victory.

Amen.

Let's pray...

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