

1 Samuel 17 - David & Goliath; David as a Type of Christ

IV. Transition from the house of Saul to the house of David (1 Samuel 16:1—31:13)

(1) David on friendly terms with Saul (16:1—17:58)

(C) David slays Goliath (17:1-58)

1 Samuel 17

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1 Now the **Philistines gathered their armies for battle**; and they were gathered at Socoh which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah, in **Ephes-dammim**.

1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim.

1 The Philistines assembled their army for battle. They were assembled at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim.

1 Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim.

- "...Philistines gathered their armies for battle" - they were more technologically advanced than Israel (13:19); Israel couldn't make weapons

— They were more culturally advanced, they were a formidable enemy; Israel was immediately intimidated

- "...Ephes-dammim" - the coast of Dammim, called Pasdammim. Shochoh is the modern Shuweikeh, some 14 miles west of Bethlehem.

God promised Abraham an area encompassing about 300,000 square miles. At this time, Israel was occupying only about 30,000 square miles, 10% of what God promised. The reason Israel hadn't taken all of the Land was because they didn't obey God to engage the enemy and take what they were promised (Deut 31:1-8; Joshua 1:1-9; 13:1-2). There shouldn't have been Philistines in the Land in the first place if Israel had obeyed God and gone in and taken it from them...God said that He would defeat their enemies, but Israel didn't engage them...instead they compromised. Fear, doubt and apathy kept Israel from obeying God...now they are paying the price for it by having to deal with this.

2 Saul and the men of Israel were assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah, and they drew up in battle formation to confront the Philistines.

2 Saul and the men of Israel were gathered and camped in the valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array to encounter the Philistines.

2 Saul and the Israelis assembled and camped in the valley of Elah, where they set up their forces to meet the Philistines.

2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.

- The armies were drawn up on opposite sides of the Valley of Elah, a few miles southwest of Jerusalem

3 The Philistines were standing on the mountain on one side, while Israel was standing on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.

3 The Philistines stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.

3 The Philistines were standing on the hill on one side while the Israelis were standing on the hill on the other side, with the valley between them.

3 And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them.

4 Then a champion came forward from the army encampment of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath. His height was **six cubits and a span**.

4 Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

4 A champion named Goliath from Gath came out from the Philistine camp. He was four cubits and a span tall,

4 And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

- Apparently intimidated by each other, they decided that the outcome should be determined by a contest of champions who would engage each other in combat

- "...six cubits and a span" - a cubit is approximately 18 inches, a span about 9 inches. Goliath stood 9' 9" tall.

- Goliath was a survivor of the ancient race of Anakim, a remnant of which found refuge in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod, when Joshua "cut them off" (Joshua 11:21-22) from the mountains of Judah

— He was "the Philistine" (v8), their great champion, and so terrifying was he that he threw the Jewish army into panic (v11)

Had Saul been a godly leader, he would have claimed Deut 20 and led his army to victory; but when people are out of fellowship with God, they can only lead others into defeat. There should have been a rush to volunteer to take down this giant because of God's promises to them. They should have all been fighting for the chance to fight Goliath.

5 And *he had* a bronze helmet on his head, and he wore scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of **bronze**.

5 *He had* a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze.

5 wore a bronze helmet on his head, and wore bronze scale armor that weighed about 5,000 shekels.

5 And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass.

- The weight of the coat was 126 lbs

- Bronze armor on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders

— The shield-bearer went before him

- "...bronze" - apart from the javelin, all of Goliath's defensive weapons were of bronze, while those used for attack were iron

6 *He also had* bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze **saberslung** between his shoulders.

6 *He also had* bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin *slung* between his shoulders.

6 He had bronze armor on his legs and carried a bronze javelin slung between his shoulders.

6 And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.

- "...saber" - or "gorget," a piece of armor protecting the throat; an ornamental collar covering the throat and shoulders

7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear *weighed* **six hundred shekels of iron**; and his shield-carrier walked in front of him.

7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron; his shield-carrier also walked before him.

7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam and the iron point of his spear weighed 600 shekels. A man carrying his shield walked in front of him.

7 And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.

- "six hundred shekels of iron" - the tip of Goliath's spear weight 15 pounds!

8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them, "Why do you come out to draw up in battle formation? Am I not the Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man as your representative and have him come down to me.

8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them, "Why do you come out to draw up in battle array? Am I not the Philistine and you servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me.

8 He stood still and called out to the ranks of Israel, "Why should you move into position for battle? Am I not a Philistine and you Saul's servants? Choose a man for yourselves to come down against me.

8 And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.

- Goliath wanted to fight "mano-a-mano" but he wasn't defying Israel with his taunting...he was defying God. He was detracting from God's glory.

- God promised to protect Israel (Deut 20:1ff). In fact, He made a number of promises to them, but they've shown a lack of faith and obedience thus far, which is the very reason they are in this predicament in the first place.

— When Saul and all his men heard the words of the Philistines, they were greatly dismayed and greatly afraid

— What about Saul here...king of Israel...we know that in the description of him, he stood head and shoulders above the rest...he was the tallest person in the nation of Israel

What Do the Giants Represent?

What do giants represent in this passage? It's not an allegory—it's not one thing representing a number of different things

- 1 Cor 10 assures us that the things that happened to the children of Israel in the OT happened as an example to us
 - God is sovereignly ordering the circumstances here, and there are lessons we can take from this passage and apply to our lives...

The wrong approach is to think Goliath is every problem you face...anyone have problems? That's not Goliath—it's not your financial crunch, it's not your family conflict of the week, it's not your career issues—those are not your giants.

The giant is...

- Anything in our life that defies our faith and challenges what we believe or why we believe it

- If there is someone in your face about your faith, or if you're paying a price because of your allegiance to Jesus Christ, if someone is opposing you because of to Whom you belong...that is your Goliath
- Could be external or internal—external is obvious, but sometimes circumstances are such that the enemy plants discouragement in our minds, and we think about quitting or giving up
 - That circumstance (whatever it is) that plants the seed in your mind that you consider turning your back on God is a giant. It tries to tear down your confidence and faith in God.

This story paints a picture that we often don't like to think about...we don't like to be painted into a corner, where our faith is challenged and we can't sneak out the back door. But this is reality if you're living for Christ each day...if you're flying the flag at the top of the pole, every day...when you're committing every day to His will and His control...giants will appear.

9 If he is able to fight me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us."

9 If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us."

9 If he's able to fight me and strike me down, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and strike him down, then you will become our servants and serve us."

9 If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us.

- The Israelites had no one who could compete with Goliath physically

— The only dimension of the conflict that the Israelites saw was the physical one; they had no concept of the spiritual conflict involved

-- What conflict or trial in your life are you mis-categorizing as a physical conflict when in reality it is a spiritual conflict?

- Saul was the tallest Israelite and the king, so he was the natural choice for an opponent

— However, as before (14:1-2), Saul was staying in the background when he should have been leading the people

-- Israel had requested a king to lead them in battle (8:19-20), but Saul obviously was not up for the challenge (17:25)

10 Then the Philistine said, "I have defied the ranks of Israel this day! Give me a man, so that we may fight together."

10 Again the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together."

10 The Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel today. Send me one man and let's fight together."

10 And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.

- "Representative combat" - one person from each side to fight it out

11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and very fearful.

11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

11 When Saul and all the Israelites heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and very frightened.

11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

- The Israelites had wanted a king to lead them in battle (8:19-20), but Saul seemed not to have considered fighting Goliath himself (v25-27)

— Fear paralyzed Saul and the Israelites when they looked at their enemy's appearance and height (16:7)

12 Now David was the son of the Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, *the man* whose name was Jesse, and he had eight sons. And Jesse was old in the days of Saul, advanced *in years* among men.

12 Now David was the son of the Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, whose name was Jesse, and he had eight sons. And Jesse was old in the days of Saul, advanced *in years* among men.

12 David was the son of that Ephrathite man named Jesse from Bethlehem in Judah. He had eight sons; at the time when Saul was king he was old, having lived to an advanced age.

12 Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men for an old man in the days of Saul.

13 The three older sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who had gone into the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and second to him, Abinadab, and the third, Shammah.

13 The three older sons of Jesse had gone after Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and the second to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.

13 The three oldest sons of Jesse followed Saul into battle. The names of his three sons who went to the battle were his firstborn Eliab, Abinadab, his second son, and Shammah,

the third.

13 And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.

14 So David was the youngest. Now the three oldest followed Saul,

14 David was the youngest. Now the three oldest followed Saul,

14 David was the youngest, while the three oldest had followed Saul.

14 And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul.

15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's flock at Bethlehem.

15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's flock at Bethlehem.

15 And David would go back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep in Bethlehem.

15 But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

- David served in Saul's court, but not full-time. He would journey to serve Saul, then return to his father's sheep.

16 And the Philistine came forward morning and evening, and took his stand for forty days.

16 The Philistine came forward morning and evening for forty days and took his stand.

16 For 40 days the Philistine would come forward, morning and evening, to take his position.

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

17 Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this **roasted grain** and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to your brothers.

17 Then Jesse said to David his son, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this roasted grain and these ten loaves and run to the camp to your brothers.

17 Jesse told his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain to your brothers, along with these ten loaves of bread, and quickly take them to your brothers in the camp.

17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren;

- "...roasted grain" - grain plucked just as it was ripening and roasted in a pan or on an iron plate

18 Bring also these ten slices of cheese to the commander of *their* thousand, and look into the well-being of your brothers and bring back confirmation from them.

18 Bring also these ten cuts of cheese to the commander of *their* thousand, and look into the welfare of your brothers, and bring back news of them.

18 Take these ten pieces of cheese to the commander of the unit, check on the well-being of your brothers, and bring something back from them.

18 And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.

19 For Saul and they and all the men of Israel are in the Valley of Elah, fighting the Philistines."

19 For Saul and they and all the men of Israel are in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines."

19 Saul, your brothers, and all the men of Israel are in the valley of Elah fighting with the Philistines."

19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

20 So David got up early in the morning and **left the flock with a keeper**, and took *the supplies* and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the entrenchment encircling the camp while the army was going out in battle formation, shouting the war cry.

20 So David arose early in the morning and left the flock with a keeper and took *the supplies* and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the circle of the camp while the army was going out in battle array shouting the war cry.

20 David got up early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the supplies, and went as Jesse had directed him. He arrived at the encampment as the army was going out to the battle line, shouting the battle cry.

20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.

- "...left the flock with a keeper" - a minor detail reveals David's heart...though on an errand for his father, David made sure his sheep were safe by placing them in the care of another shepherd

21 Israel and the Philistines drew up in battle formation, army against army.

21 Israel and the Philistines drew up in battle array, army against army.

21 Israel and the Philistines moved into position for battle, battle line facing battle line.

21 For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army.

22 Then David left the baggage in the care of the baggage keeper and ran to the battle line. And he entered and greeted his brothers.

22 Then David left his baggage in the care of the baggage keeper, and ran to the battle line and entered in order to greet his brothers.

22 David left the supplies he had with him in the care of the supply keeper and ran to the battle line. When he arrived there, he asked his brothers about their well-being.

22 And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.

23 As he was speaking with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine from Gath named Goliath, was coming up from the army of the Philistines, and he spoke these same words; and David heard *him*.

23 As he was talking with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine from Gath named Goliath, was coming up from the army of the Philistines, and he spoke these same words; and David heard *them*.

23 As he was speaking with them, the Philistine champion named Goliath from Gath came up from the Philistine battle lines and spoke his usual words, as David listened.

23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them.

24 When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were very fearful.

24 When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were greatly afraid.

24 When all the Israelis saw the man, they fled from him and were very frightened.

24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

25 And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to defy Israel. And it will be that the king will make the man who kills him wealthy with great riches, and will give him his daughter and make his father's house **free** in Israel."

25 The men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to defy Israel. And it will be that 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."

25 "Did all of you see this man coming up?" one Israeli asked. "He comes up to defy Israel, and the king will richly reward the man who kills him. He will give his daughter to him and will make his father's house tax free in Israel."

25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

- "...free" - free from taxes and forced labor (Cf. 8:11)

26 Then David said to the men who were standing by him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and rids Israel of the disgrace? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he has *dared to* defy the armies of the living God?"

26 Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, "What will 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 taunt the armies of the living God?"

26 David asked the men who were standing by him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? Indeed, who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

- David seems to have considered himself capable of defeating Goliath from the first time he heard Goliath insulting God; he just arrived on the scene, but his wisdom clearly identified the problem

— The enemy's size meant little to David; he saw only that the Philistine's taunts disgraced Israel. David saw the taunts of Goliath as a disgrace to Israel, and therefore a disgrace to God. Goliath was detracting from God's glory.

— The fact that David referred to *Yahweh* as the "living God" shows his belief that *Yahweh* was still the same Person who could defeat present enemies as He had done in the past

— He had apparently heard about God's promises to Moses and Joshua, that if the Israelites would attack their enemies, God would defeat them (Deut 31:1-8; Joshua 1:1-9)

— ***Faith in God always rests on a word from God in Scripture*** (Cf. Rom 10:17; Heb 11:6)

— Most of the Israelites took Goliath's challenge as defying Israel, but David interpreted it as defying the living God, the only true God, and diminishing His glory

27 The people answered him in agreement with this statement, saying, "This is what will be done for the man who kills him."

27 The people answered him in accord with this word, saying, "Thus it will be done for the man who kills him."

27 The people also told him the same thing, saying, "This is what will be done for the man who kills him."

27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard *him* when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger burned against David and he said, "Why is it that you have come down? And with whom

have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I myself know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle."

28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger burned 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 insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle."

28 Eliab his oldest brother heard him talking to the men. Eliab was angry with David and said, "Why did you come down here? And who did you leave those few sheep with in the wilderness? I know your insolence and wicked intentions. You came down just to see the battle!"

28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

- Note that his own brethren accused him and tried to discourage him; Satan always has somebody to tell us "it can't be done"

— Whenever you step out in faith to fight the enemy, there's always somebody around to discourage you, and can even begin in your own home

— Apparently Eliab was unaware of Samuel's anointing of David to succeed Saul; he may have interpreted the anointing to mean that David was to become a servant of Samuel

29 But David said, "What have I done now? Was it not *just* a question?"

29 But David said, "What have I done now? Was it not just a question?"

29 "What have I done now?" David asked. "It was just a question, wasn't it?"

29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

- Eliab's vicious attack on David's character did not phase David

30 Then he turned away from him to another and said the same thing; and the people replied with the same words as before.

30 Then he turned away from him to another and said the same thing; and the people answered the same thing as before.

30 Then he turned from him toward another person and asked the same thing. The people replied to him the same way as the first one had.

30 And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

- David continued to inquire about the prize for slaying Goliath to make sure that he understood what he would risk his life to obtain

31 When the words that David spoke were heard, they informed Saul, and he sent for him.

31 When the words which David spoke were heard, they told *them* to Saul, and he sent for him.

31 When the words that David had spoken were heard, they were reported to Saul, and he sent for him.

31 And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.

32 And David said to Saul, "May no one's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight this Philistine!"

32 David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

32 David told Saul, "Let no one's courage fail because of him; your servant will go fight this Philistine."

32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

33 But Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight him; for you are *only* a **youth**, while he has been a warrior since his youth."

33 Then Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are *but* a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth."

33 Saul told David, "You can't go against this Philistine and fight him. You are only a young man, but he has been a warrior since his youth."

33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

- "...youth" - *naar*, usually describes an older teenager

- Even Saul tried to dissuade him; in himself David was not able, but in the power of the Lord he could overcome any enemy (Cf. Phil 4:13; Eph 3:20-21)

— Saul scoffed at David's boldness because he evaluated David's chances for success solely on physical terms

— Neither Saul nor Eliab stepped forward to fight, yet each dismissed David as incapable of fighting Goliath

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a sheep from the flock,

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock,

34 David told Saul, "Your servant has been a shepherd for his father. When a lion or bear came and took a lamb from the flock,

34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

- Saul wanted to evaluate him with physical criteria, so David responded that he had already defeated two formidable beasts (a lion and a bear)

-- David viewed Goliath as just another predator who was threatening God's flock

-- God tested David privately with a lion and a bear...now He was going to test him publicly with a giant

-- If we're faithful in the private battles, God will see us through the public testings. David's faith with Goliath grew out of his steps of faith in his daily walk.

35 I went out after it and attacked it, and rescued *the sheep* from its mouth; and when it rose up against me, I grabbed *it* by its mane and struck it and killed it.

35 I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued *it* from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized *him* by his beard and struck him and killed him.

35 I would go out after it, strike it down, and rescue the lamb from its mouth. Then when it rose up against me, I would grab it by its fur, strike it down, and kill it.

35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

- David viewed Goliath as just another predator who was threatening the safety of God's flock, Israel, and the reputation of Israel's God

36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God."

36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God."

36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he defied the armies of the living God."

36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

- David's real confidence was in the fact that Goliath set himself up against the living God

- God had tested David privately with a lion and a bear; now he was to test him openly with a giant

— If we are faithful in the private battles, God will see us through the public testings

— Too often God's people faint at the smallest test that comes their way, not realizing that the "little tests" are but preparation for the bigger battles that are sure to come (Jer 12:5)

37 And David said, "The LORD who saved me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear, **He will save me from the hand of this Philistine.**" So Saul said to David, "Go, and

may the LORD be with you."

37 And 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 may the LORD be with you."

37 David continued, "The LORD who delivered me from the power of the lion and the power of the bear will also deliver me from the power of this Philistine." Saul told David, "Go! And may the LORD be with you."

37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

- David's courageous faith grew out of his steps of faith in his daily work

- "...He will save me from the hand of this Philistine" - David gave God the glory for his victory before he picked up a single stone...

38 Then Saul clothed David with his military attire and put a bronze helmet on his head, and outfitted him with armor.

38 Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor.

38 Saul put his garments on David, set a bronze helmet on his head, and put armor on him.

38 And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.

- Saul, who should've met Goliath's challenge, allowed David to fight

- Saul again showed that he trusted in material things for success by arming David as he did

39 And David strapped on his sword over his military attire and struggled at walking, for he had not trained *with the armor*. So David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, because I have not trained *with them*." And David took them off.

39 David girded his sword over his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested *them*. So David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested *them*." And David took them off.

39 David strapped Saul's sword over his garments and tried to walk, but he was not used to the armor. David told Saul, "I can't walk in these because I'm not used to them," and then took them off.

39 And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

40 Then he took his staff in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, that is, in *his* shepherd's pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine.

40 He took his stick in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in *his* pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine.

40 He took his staff in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook and put them in the pouch in his shepherd's bag. He approached the Philistine with his sling in his hand.

40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

- In all ages, the sling has been the favorite weapon of the shepherds of Syria. The Benjamites were especially expert in its use; even the left-handed could sling stones "at a hair (breadth) and not miss" (Judges 20:16). Some suspect that David learned from the nearby Benjamites.

- Why five stones? Goliath had four sons! David was ready take them all on! (Cf. 2 Sam 21:16-22)

— Ishbibenob, Saph, Lahmi (Cf. 1 Chr 20:5) and another unnamed ("a man of great stature, 2 Sam 21:20), were all sons of Goliath

41 Then the Philistine came and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him.

41 Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him.

41 With a man carrying his shield in front of him, the Philistine kept coming closer to David.

41 And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him.

42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he was contemptuous of him; for he was *only* a youth, and reddish, with a handsome appearance.

42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance.

42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he had contempt for him, because he was only a young man. David had a dark, healthy complexion and was handsome.

42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

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.

43 The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

43 The Philistine asked David, "Am I a dog that you come at me with sticks?" Then the Philistine cursed David by his own gods and

43 And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

- Goliath mocked David's weapons of war, which more commonly were used to drive away dogs

44 The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the wild animals."

44 The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field."

44 told David, "Come to me! I'll give your flesh to the birds of the sky and to the beasts of the field."

44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

- Goliath assumed he would win because of his superior physical power and armaments
— He trusted his own abilities and weapons

45 But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a saber, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of armies, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and 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 taunted.

45 Then David told the Philistine, "You come at me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of the Heavenly Armies, the God of the armies of Israel whom you have defied.

45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

- David's motivation for fighting Goliath was for the glory of God's name, His fame, and his faith that God would win the battle

-- This is the clearest expression of David's faith in the Bible

-- He viewed God as the commander of Israel's armies

- He was jealous for God's reputation, not his own glory
- His faith rested on God's promises

46 This day the LORD will **hand you over to me**, and I will strike you and remove your head from you. Then I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,

46 This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,

46 This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I'll strike you down and remove your head from you. And this very day I'll give the dead bodies of the Philistine army to the birds of the sky and to the animals of the earth, so that all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel,

46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

- David, calling his shot...

- With no sword, David promised to cut off Goliath's head; this was not proud bragging, but sincere trust in God

— David came in God's name, for God's fame, with faith that God would honor His promise to win in battle

- "...hand you over to me" - Heb. "shut thee up"

47 and that this entire assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will hand you over to us!"

47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD's and He will give you into our hands."

47 and this whole congregation will know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or spear. Indeed, the battle is the LORD's and he will give you into our hands."

47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

- Even after David became a great military leader, he still maintained, "the Lord gives victory to His anointed." And "some trust in chariots [to win battles]...but we trust in the name of the Lord our God" (Ps 20:6-7; 60:12)

Verses 45-47 give the clearest expression to David's faith in *Yahweh*. He viewed *Yahweh* as the commander of Israel's armies, a view of God that Saul never accepted but which made the difference between Saul's failure and David's success as the Lord's anointed. He also saw God as the real deliverer of Israel. Furthermore, David was jealous for the reputation of God, not his own glory, which so preoccupied Saul. His faith must have rested on God's promises concerning victory against the enemies of God's people for their confidence in Him and their obedience to His word (Gen 12:3; Deut 31:1-8; Joshua 1:1-9).

48 Then it happened, when the Philistine came closer to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

48 Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

48 When the Philistine got up and came closer to meet David, David quickly ran to the battle line to meet the Philistine.

48 And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

49 And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung *it*, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone penetrated his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

49 And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung *it*, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground.

49 David reached his hand into the bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine in his forehead. The stone sunk into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

- David didn't fight *for* victory, he fought *from* victory...

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with the sling and the stone: he struck the Philistine and killed him, and there was no sword in David's hand.

50 Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand.

50 David defeated the Philistine with a sling and a stone; he struck down the Philistine and killed him, and there was no sword in David's hand.

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

- God used a humble weapon to give His people a great victory, in response to one person's faith
- This is another instance of God bringing blessing to and through a person who committed himself to simply believing and obeying God's Word (Cf. 14:1)
- Stoning was the penalty for blasphemy in Israel (Lev 24:16; Deut 17:7)
- Usually death by stoning required many large stones, but David executed this Philistine blasphemer with only one stone
- One small stone was all God needed to get done what He wanted done

51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine, and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and finished him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

51 David ran and stood over the Philistine. He took the Philistine's sword, pulled it from its sheath, killed him, and then he cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

51 Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

- The stone that hit Goliath in the forehead evidently only knocked him out
- David then ran over, stood on top of the Philistine, and cut off his head with Goliath's own sword
- The Philistine Dagon, who previously fell off the shelf before the Ark and broke its head (5:4), now Dagon's champion suffered the same fate
- David used simple, humble weapons: a sling and five stones (see 1 Cor 1:27-28; 2 Cor 10:3-5)
- David knew how Gideon was given victory with weak weapons, and he knew that Gideon's God was not dead
- Neither his brothers' criticism nor Saul's unbelief kept David from trusting God for victory. The stone hit its mark; the giant fell down, and David used the giant's own sword to cut off his head!
- This one victory opened the way for Israel to attack the Philistines and spoil their camp

David as a Type of Christ

David is a picture of Jesus Christ:

- David's name means "beloved" and Christ is God's beloved Son

- Both were born in Bethlehem
- Both were rejected by their brethren
 - Of course, when David became king, his brethren received him, just as Joseph's brothers ultimately discovered him—after an initial rejection; the Jews will receive Christ when He returns to reign
- Like David, Jesus began in obscurity in Bethlehem
- Samuel revealed God's choice of David by anointing him; John the Baptist anointed Jesus through baptism, revealing Him as God's chosen One
- Both David and Jesus began their public ministry with a test: David overcame Goliath, and Jesus overcame 40 days of temptation by Satan
- David was anointed king years before he was permitted to reign, just as Christ is King now but will not reign on earth until Satan is banished
 - King Saul can be considered a type of Satan in this present age; Saul was rejected and defeated, yet permitted to reign until David came to the throne. Satan is permitted to persecute God's people, yet one day he too will be defeated.
- Just as David was sent by his father to the battlefield, so Christ was sent by the Father to this world
- Goliath illustrates Satan in his pride and power
 - Read carefully Luke 11:14-23: Satan is the strong man guarding his goods (people under his control), and Christ is the Stronger Man who overcomes him
 - Christ invaded Satan's kingdom, overcame his power, took his armor, and now is dividing his spoils by saving lost souls and making them children of God
 - This is what David did that day: he overcame the strong man and allowed Israel to divide the spoils (v52-54)

As Christians, do not simply fight *for* victory, we fight *from* victory, the victory that Jesus won at the Cross (Col 2:15).

52 Then the men of Israel and Judah rose up and shouted, and they pursued the Philistines as far as the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the Philistine dead lay along the way to Shaaraim, even to Gath and Ekron.

52 The men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted and pursued the Philistines as far as the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the slain Philistines lay along the way to Shaaraim, even to Gath and Ekron.

52 The men of Israel and Judah got up with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance to the valley and to the gates of Ekron. Wounded Philistines fell along the way to Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron.

52 And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines

fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron.

53 Then the sons of Israel returned from their close pursuit of the Philistines, and plundered their camps.

53 The sons of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines and plundered their camps.

53 The Israelis returned from pursuing the Philistines and plundered their camp.

53 And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents.

54 And David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his weapons in his tent.

54 Then David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his weapons in his tent.

54 David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put Goliath's weapons in his tent.

54 And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent.

- In a daring move, David took Goliath's severed head to Jerusalem, at this time still controlled by the Jebusites (2 Sam 5:4ff)

— By doing this, David put Jerusalem on notice that God would fulfill His promise to give Jerusalem to Israel

— Years later, David conquered the city, made it his capital, and the subject of some of his greatest psalms (2 Sam 5:6-10)

- Later we find the sword of Goliath at Nob (21:9)

55 Now when Saul had seen David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this young man?" And Abner said, "By your life, O king, I do not know."

55 Now when Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this young man?" And Abner said, "By your life, O king, I do not know."

55 When Saul saw David going out to meet the Philistine, he asked Abner, the commander of the army, "Whose son is this young man, Abner?"

Abner said, "As surely as you live, your majesty, I don't know."

55 And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, Abner, whose son is this youth? And Abner said, As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell.

God did not base David's election for salvation on his conduct. God alone chooses whom He will save. However, God did choose David to serve as Israel's king because of David's conduct, which resulted from his devoted heart. God promotes the faithful to higher positions of service (Cf. Luke 19:12-27).

56 And the king said, "You *then*, ask whose son the youth is."

56 The king said, "You inquire whose son the youth is."

56 The king replied, "Go find out whose son the young man is."

56 And the king said, Enquire thou whose son the stripling is.

- Since Saul promised his daughter to the man who killed Goliath, he needed some background on David's family

57 So when David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine's head in his hand.

57 So when David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine's head in his hand.

57 When David returned from striking down the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him to Saul with the Philistine's head in his hand.

57 And 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 Then Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "*I am* the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

58 Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "*I am* the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

58 Saul told him, "Whose son are you, young man?"

David said, "The son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem."

58 And Saul said to him, Whose son art thou, thou young man? And David answered, I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.

- David's grandfather was Obed, the son of Boaz and Ruth; it was Ruth that connects David to Bethlehem. Obed's grandmother was Rahab.