

DAVID AND GOLIATH

S.R. (1 Samuel 17:45 - 47)

8 – 27 – 2023

Background:

- A. During the United Kingdom under the reign of Saul, the armies of Israel and the Philistines are gathered on opposite hills with a valley between them (v. 1 – 3).
 - 1. Rather typical battle formation. (cf. 1 Samuel 14:52)
 - 2. In the valley of Elah, which separated the two armies, was a brook.

- B. *Champion* – Goliath of Gath in Philistia.
 - 1. Champion - Lit. “ a man between the two camps,” “one who did not fight in the ranks like an ordinary soldier, but came out into the space between hostile camps to challenge the mightiest man of his enemies to come and fight him.”
 - a. This man is agile, mobile and hostile. V. Lomardi – NFL players
 - 2. From Gath (Numbers 13:28 – 33; Deut. 9:2; Joshua 11:21 – 22) Anak, Nephilim
 - 3. Size – cubit = 18 inches (9 ft. and 9 inches)
 - 4. Armor – all made of bronze
 - a. “coat of mail” “coat of scale armor” “metal scales sown on cloth so as to overlap one another” - weighed approx. 150 lbs. (1 shekel = 2/5 ounce)
 - b. Greaves – shin guards
 - c. Javelin – slung between his shoulders on his back
 - d. Spear - like a weaver’s beam (rod) – head of spear weighed approx. 18.5 lbs., shot put weighs 16 pds.

- C. Goliath proposes a winner take all contest (vs. 8 – 10)

- D. Israel, including King Saul, who was a head taller than all the rest (9:2), and had been selected to go out and fight the Israelites battles for them, was dismayed and afraid.
 - 1. We would have been afraid also.
 - 2. Dismayed – “send a man – don’t send anyone – then no men in this army.
 - 3. Psychological warfare – break down confidence

- E. David, youngest of eight sons of Jesse, delivers food to his three oldest brothers. Soldiers in Saul’s army. (vs. 12 – 19)
 - 1. David delivers care packages to brothers when not tending his father’s flock (v. 15)
 - 2. David sent again to brothers and Goliath is still, every morning and evening, defying the army of Israel.
 - 3. Forty days is a long time to be called cowards.

I. DAVID SEES AND HEARS THE CHALLENGE OF GOLIATH (VS. 20 – 30)

- A. David is a responsible and obedient son (v. 20)
- B. David hears the challenge while greeting his brethren (v. 22 – 23).

- C. What was David's reaction? (v. 24)
- D. Do you know what is going to happen to the one who kills the giant?
 - 1. Receive great wealth
 - 2. Marry a princess
 - 3. Family will owe no taxes.
- E. David asked again for confirmation (vs. 26 – 27)
 - 1. They told David of the rewards.
 - 2. We should remind each other of the rewards (Mark 10:29 – 30; 2 Th. 1:3-12)
 - 3. Remind our children of the blessings and benefits of serving now.
- F. Sibling rivalry – Eliab's chiding of David (v. 28 - 30)

II. DAVID ACCEPTS THE CHALLENGE (VS. 31 – 49).

- A. David says, "I will fight Goliath" (v. 32, 46 - 47).
 - 1. When Goliath came against the Israelites the soldiers must have thought, "He's so big we can never defeat him." David looked at the giant and thought, "He's so big I can't miss."
 - 2. How do you view challenges to faith and service to God?
- B. David knew the power to overcome was not of himself (45 – 47).
 - 1. But he also knew with God's power he could be victorious.
 - 2. Power of Satan and darkness are formidable. God is greater (Rom.8:36 – 39)
- C. David met the lion and the bear in private (v. 34 – 37).
 - 1. How are the lions and bears in your life? Lying, stealing, drinking, pornography
 - 2. We think if ever something big needs to be defeated we will stand.
 - 3. If David had not met the lion and the bear he would not meet Goliath.
 - 4. If you don't stand upon moral principle in the little things you won't stand at all.
 - 5. Holiness begins at home and in private.
- D. David had to be himself (vs. 38 – 39)
 - 1. Do what you can do the best way you know how.
 - 2. King Saul's eyes probably rolled back in his head when David removed the armor.
- E. David Approaches Goliath (40 – 49)
 - 1. David's confidence is in the power of God (vs. 45 – 47).
 - a. David tell's Goliath, "I am going to remove your head." David – Swordless

III. GOD GRANTS THE VICTORY BY THE HAND OF DAVID (50 – 51)

- A. David loved and trusted God.
- B. He realized it would be by God's gracious power and his willingness to sacrifice that the victory would be won.
- C. Who does David, Saul, Jonathan and Goliath possibly represent in the story line of Jesus?

