

David and Goliath

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What We Will Learn

- David was spiritually close to God
- His understanding of God guided his interactions with other human beings
- Invoked power of God to convert shepherd's sling and stone to lethal weapon against Goliath
- 1 Samuel 17

Battle Lines are Drawn

- Philistines and Israelites setup to battle
- 1 Samuel 17:1–3

1 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Socoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah.

2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines.

3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

Goliath Challenges Israelites

1 Samuel 17:4–11

4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall.

5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels;

6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back.

7 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's Challenge cont'd

1 Samuel 17:4–11

- Israelites army under Saul terrified

8 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.

9 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."

10 Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other."

11 On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

David Remained Shepherd

- Went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep
- 1 Samuel 17:12–15

12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was old and well advanced in years.

13 Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah.

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

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

David Witnesses Goliath's Challenge

- Jesse sent David to visit his brothers
- Left flock with another shepherd
- Met with his brothers at the battle line
- Saw Goliath repeat his usual defiance
- Noticed Israelites were frightened
- 1 Samuel 17:17–24



1 Samuel 17 (NIV)

17 Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp.

18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them.

19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."

20 Early in the morning David left the flock with a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry.



1 Samuel 17 (NIV)

21 Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other.

22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and greeted his brothers.

23 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.

24 When the Israelites saw the man, they all ran from him in great fear.

David Motivated to Fight Goliath

- Motivated by incentives offered by the king
- By patriotism and love of God
- Sought to motivate other Israelites
- 1 Samuel 17:25–26

25 Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his father's family from taxes in Israel."

26 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?"

David Refused Distraction

- His brother tried to annoy him
- To redirect him from speaking about Goliath
- David remained on focus
- 1 Samuel 17:28–30

28 When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

29 "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?"

30 He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before.

David Requests Permission to Fight Goliath

- He requested Saul to let him fight Goliath
- Let no one be discouraged by the Philistine
- I will fight him
- God delivered me from a lion and bear
- And will deliver me from Goliath
- 1 Samuel 17:32–37



1 Samuel 17 (NIV)

32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

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

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock,

35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.



1 Samuel 17 (NIV)

36 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.

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

David Prepares for Battle

- He rejected Saul's military regalia
- Chose to go as "shepherd boy"
- 1 Samuel 17:38–40

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head.

39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off.

40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

Goliath's Battle Cry

- Approached David with disdain
- Promised to feed him to birds and beasts
- 1 Samuel 17:41–44

41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David.

42 He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him.

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

44 "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

David's Battle Cry

- A prayer offered in a way to convey strength
- A rebuke of the Philistine
- A statement of purpose to God
- A sermon to all witnesses and observers
- 1 Samuel 17:45–47



1 Samuel 17 (NIV)

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

46 This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

47 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."

Spiritual Basis for David's Statement of Purpose

- In God's image with unlimited authority
- Action that conveys image of God → Authorized by God
- Does not convey image of God → Not authorized by God
- David used the “statement of purpose” to explain how killing Goliath will convey the image of God to “all those gathered here”

David's Battle Cry Translated

- I stand on solid ground
- Almighty God is with me
- Because you defied God, I will strike you down and cut off your head
- The whole world will know that Israel worships God that fights for His people
- Those gathered here will know God better

David Kills Goliath

- David struck Goliath down with sling stone
- Stone sank into Goliath's forehead

1 Samuel 17:48–50 (NIV)

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

50 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.

Israelites Triumph Over Philistines

- David stood over Goliath and cut off his head
- Used the Philistine's sword
- Philistine army scattered
- Israelites pursued them and killed many
- David took Goliath's head and weapons
- Saul did not recognize David
- 1 Samuel 17:51–58



1 Samuel 17 (NIV)

51 David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

52 Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

53 When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp.

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



1 Samuel 17 (NIV)

55 As Saul watched David going out to meet the Philistine, he said to Abner, commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is that young man?" Abner replied, "As surely as you live, O king, I don't know."

56 The king said, "Find out whose son this young man is."

57 As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with David still holding the Philistine's head.

58 "Whose son are you, young man?" Saul asked him. David said, "I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem."

Concluding Remarks

- David killing Goliath was an act of God
- The weapon he used would ordinarily have been inadequate
- God used the event to send a message
- “You may ask me for anything in my name and I will do it” [Christ at John 14:14]
- Anything in my name → Anything that conveys my image (fulfills my purpose)

What We Learned About David

- Spiritually close to God
- Understands God's purpose for humans
- Applies the understanding in his interactions with other human beings
- Patriotic
- Believes in a special relationship between God and Israel