

DAVID DEFEATS GOLIATH

Introduction:

1. Chapters 1 – 8 took place during the time of the Judges and focused on the life of Samuel.
2. Chapters 9 – 12 deal with the transition of the nation into a kingdom.
3. Chapters 13 – 15 present the decline and rejection of Saul as King of Israel.
4. Chapters 16 – 20 shift the focus to David, God’s chosen King of Israel

- I. The Nature of the Conflict (17:1-11)
 - A. The story of David and Goliath is one that is often learned in youth.
 - B. However, this should be a story that grows more important to us as we mature in faith and face the conflicts that come with serving God.
 - C. The Philistines had been defeated by Saul, but the victory was not complete (14:46, 52).
 - D. Now, they have gathered at Shochoh, about 17 miles southwest of Jerusalem.
 - E. This battle would be different from previous conflicts.
 1. Instead of the two armies engaging one another, each would select one warrior to fight on behalf of the nation.
 2. The nation whose warrior won would be considered victorious in the battle (vs. 8-10).
 - F. The Philistines chose Goliath as their representative in battle.
 1. Thus, this would be a battle between David and Goliath.
 2. Representatively, it was a battle between Israel and the Philistines.
 3. Ultimately, it was a battle between God and Satan.
 - a. Goliath did not represent the nation alone, but also their false gods and pagan practices.
 - b. His challenge was against Israel’s God (vs. 10, 25-26, 36, 37, 43, 45-47).
 4. One man’s battle may have eternal consequences.
 - G. Goliath was a giant man and a mighty warrior.
 1. Twice in this passage, He is called a champion.
 - a. This comes from two Hebrew words – “man” and “double interval” or “space between.”
 - b. Literally, Goliath was the man in the space between two armies.
 2. He was very tall – six cubits and a span was his height.
 - a. The standards of these measurements were determined by the reigning king.
 - b. Thus, he may have been 9 feet, six inches tall.
 - c. Or, he may have been 11 feet, ten inches tall.
 3. He was from Gath, apparently descended from the sons of Anak (Joshua 11:22; Numbers 13:33; Deuteronomy 1:28).
 4. His helmet was made of bronze and his coat of mail weighed about 157 pounds.
 5. He carried a sword and a spear – the head of which weighed about 18 pounds.
 6. Another man went before him carrying his shield.

1 Samuel 17

- H. Sadly, Saul and the army of Israel were overcome with fear of this imposing figure and refused to fight.

- II. David's Arrival at the Battle (17:12-31)
 - A. The three oldest brothers of David had gone with Saul to battle the Philistines.
 - B. David, the youngest son, had returned to his flocks and was tending his father's sheep.
 - 1. David learned many important things by working as a shepherd.
 - 2. The importance of relationship
 - 3. Faithfulness and dedication
 - 4. Courage and valor
 - 5. Trust in God
 - 6. Resourcefulness
 - 7. Thus, he learned to tend the nation by tending the flock of sheep (1 Chron. 11:2).
 - C. It is disheartening to learn that Goliath went unchallenged by the Israelites for 40 days.
 - D. However, things would change when Jesse sent David to take a 'care package' of food to his brothers and their captain.
 - E. Leaving early in the morning (after making sure the sheep had a keeper), David arrived in the valley of Elah as the armies arrayed themselves against one another.
 - 1. No doubt overcome with excitement, thinking he was to witness a battle, David ran into the Israelite camp.
 - 2. The word "carriage" in verse 22 refers to anything a person was carrying – a bag, vessel, article, utensil; something prepared.
 - F. When David found his brothers among the soldiers, Goliath came forth and spoke strongly against Israel.
 - G. To David's dismay, Israel's army fled from the face of the giant.
 - 1. This they did even though Saul had promised great rewards to the man who defeated Goliath.
 - 2. David's motivation was not riches or reward, but he recognized how God could use these things to benefit himself and his family.
 - H. Sadly, as David stood upon faith in God, his greatest opposition came from his own brother.
 - 1. Eliab (whom Samuel originally thought would be chosen as king) ridiculed his younger brother.
 - 2. He mocked David's work as a shepherd and impugned his motives without a cause.
 - I. Finally, the words of David were repeated to King Saul and he called for David to be brought before him.

- III. Preparation for the Fight (17:32-40)
 - A. David approached Saul with great faith and courage, stating that no one should be afraid of Goliath – David would fight him.
 - B. Saul tried to discourage David from this path, claiming he was too young and unable to defeat such a man as Goliath.
 - C. But, David replied that his trust was in God Who had prepared him for this occasion.
 - 1. David had been tried before, and God had delivered him.

1 Samuel 17

2. Thus, David's courage did not come from his age, size, or weapon, but from his trust in Almighty God.
 - D. Saul was persuaded and commanded David to go.
 - E. Saul tried to help by allowing David to wear the king's armor.
 1. David tried to please the king by wearing his armor.
 2. However, it did not fit and David had no experience with such things.
 3. So, he would approach Goliath with no armor.
 - F. David carried his staff, his sling, and five smooth stones to face the giant (cf. 2 Samuel 21:16-22).
- IV. David's Victory over the Giant (17:41-51)
- A. As Goliath and his shield-bearer approached David, the giant mocked God's servant.
 - B. Even worse, he cursed David by his false gods.
 - C. Again, David emphasized that his courage to fight came from his faith in God.
 1. He understood that the battle was the Lord's.
 2. His motivation was to prove that there is a God in Israel.
 - D. David acted with no fear or hesitation – he ran to meet Goliath on the battlefield.
 - E. David used his sling and with the first stone, Goliath was struck in the forehead and fell to the ground.
 1. Verse 50 seems to indicate that the blow from the stone killed Goliath.
 2. But, to make sure and to prove God's victory, David took the giant's own sword and cut off his head.
 - F. Upon seeing their champion fall, the Philistines fled.
- V. Aftermath of the Battle (17:52-58)
- A. Following David's victory, the Israelites chased the Philistines back to their own land.
 - B. In preparation for rewarding David, Saul enquired more about his family lineage.
 - C. It was a victory for God, David, and Israel – but not for Saul.