

DAVID DEFEATS GOLIATH

- 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. 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.
 - 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

1 Samuel 17

- 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.
 - 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).

1 Samuel 17

- 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.