

III. Exit: *The Little Man – Goliath*

A. Warming Up

David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

(v. 45)

B. Looking Up

Today the LORD will conquer you, ... and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear.

This is the LORD’S battle, and he will give you to us! (vv. 46-47)

C. Wrapping Up

As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground. So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. (vv. 48-50)

IV. Fighting Our Giants

A. Facing your giants can be intimidating

B. Doing battle with your giants can be lonely

C. Trusting in God gives you strength

D. Defeating your giants is memorable



sermon notes

“The Giant...and Goliath”

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1 Samuel 17

I. Israel’s “Giant” Problem

A. The Battleground

The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them. (vv. 1-3)

B. The Reigning Champion

Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall! (v. 4)

He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver’s beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield. (vv. 5-7)

Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. “Why are you all coming out to fight?” he called. “I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your subjects. But if I kill him, you will be our subjects and serve us. I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!” When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken. (vv. 8-11)

For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army. (v. 16)

The Attack of Our “Personal Giants”

Our personal “giants” strut in front of us, taunting us, tempting us and attacking us relentlessly. Whether people, pressures, worries, or fears, they yell across our own valleys and can shake the foundations of our faith. Remember to trust the Lord and you can echo David’s song:

*Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
But we will trust in the name of the LORD our God.*
Psalm 20:7 (NIV)

II. Enter: David, The Real Giant

A. Home with the Sheep

Now David was the son of a man named Jesse... from Bethlehem... Jesse was an old man at that time, and he had eight sons. Jesse’s three oldest sons—Eliab, Abinadab, and Shimea —had already joined Saul’s army to fight the Philistines. David was the youngest son. David’s three oldest brothers stayed with Saul’s army, but David went back and forth so he could help his father with the sheep in Bethlehem. (vv. 12-15)

B. In the Field with the Soldiers

One day Jesse said to David, “Take this basket of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread and carry them quickly to your brothers. And give these ten cuts of cheese to their captain. See how your brothers are getting along and bring back a report on how they are doing.” David’s brothers were with Saul and the Israelite army at the valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines. (vv. 17-19)

David left his things with the keeper of supplies and hurried out to greet his brothers. As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion came out from the Philistine ranks. Then David heard him shout his usual taunt to the army of Israel. (vv. 22-23)

David asked the soldiers standing nearby, “What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?” (v. 26)

But when David’s oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. “What are you doing around here anyway?” he demanded. “What about those few sheep you’re supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to see the battle!” (v. 28)

Walking by Faith, Not by Sight

“Most people on the battlefield that day saw only one man –Goliath. But David saw the Lord. God was as real to David as Goliath was to the soldiers. But, where the soldiers walked by sight, petrified by Goliath’s size, David walked by faith and was moved to obedience by the awesomeness of God’s character.” -- Chuck Swindoll

C. With King Saul

“Don’t worry about this Philistine,” David told Saul. “I’ll go fight him!” (v.32)

“Don’t be ridiculous!” Saul replied. “There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.” (v. 33)

But David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said. “When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!”

Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the LORD be with you!” (vv. 34-37)

Don’t Forget YOUR Lion and Bear Story

Remember how God has delivered you in the past.

Most people have short memories.

Your stories are there to remind you of God’s deliverance.