



“Open Church – Open Bible”

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Sunday Church School

August 9, 2020

“David Against Goliath”— I Sam. 17:40-51

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“1 Sam. 17:40-51”

⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

⁴¹ So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield *went* before him.

⁴² And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was *only* a youth, ruddy and good-looking.

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

⁴⁴ And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

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

“Open Church – Open Bible”

“1 Sam. 17:40-51”

⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

⁴⁷ Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle *is* the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands."

⁴⁸ So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

⁴⁹ Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung *it* and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

⁵⁰ So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But *there was* no sword in the hand of David.

“Open Church – Open Bible”

“1 Sam. 17:40-51”

⁵¹ Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

There are some Biblical stories which we have reviewed so many times we know many of the details by heart:

I. The Creation – Gen. 1

II. Noah’s Ark – Gen. 6-8

III. Joseph’s Coat – Gen. 37

IV. The Exodus – Exd. 1-14

V. Jericho & Rahab – Joshua 6

VI. Samson & Delilah – Judges 16

VII. Jonah & Whale – Jonah 1-4

VIII. Daniel & Hebrew Boys – Dan. 2-6

IX. Jesus Birth -- Mt. 1 & 2-Luke 1 & 2)

X. Feeding 5000 -- John 6

➤ **David & Goliath – the story of incredible odds opposing the Plan of God**

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“1 Sam. 17:40-51”

We are all attracted to stories of people or groups who are triumphant over seemingly superior foes.

- Perhaps this is because we often see ourselves as underdogs.

Moreover, if we have any sense of compassion and justice, we realize that many of the **“little people”** of the world are often subjected to tyrants who abuse them, both physically, psychologically and emotionally.

- Therefore, we usually rejoice when the “bad guy” gets his just deserts.
- God frequently works through people who otherwise might be overlooked.

Take Saul of Tarsus, who despite his academic prowess, his physical appearance of being height challenged with some other deformity was unappealing.

And who would think God could take this persecutor of the faith and turn him into a great preacher of the gospel in the early church?

- Initially, some actually doubted his conversion (cf. Acts 9:26).
- If God could use a shepherd boy like David or a persecutor like Paul, He can use us!

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David Against Goliath

LESSON OUTLINE:

- I. DAVID’S COURAGE AND PREPARATION—I Sam. 17:40-41**
- II. DAVID’S CONFIDENCE AND DECLARATION—I Sam. 17:42-47**
- III. DAVID’S VICTORIOUS CONQUEST—I Sam. 17:48-51**

We were taught last week that because of King Saul’s **presumptuous disobedience**, God declared that his kingdom would not last and that “**a man after his own heart**” (13:14) would be chosen as his successor.

Spurgeon said: “**ALL SINS** are great sins, but yet some sins are greater than others. Every sin has in it the very **venom of rebellion**, and is **full of the essential marrow of traitorous rejection of God.**”

- But **Ps 19:13** declares "Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins."



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It is amazing that atonement was provided for every type of sin except one – **presumptuous [zēd arrogant; proud] sin.**

• **Num. 15:30-31** 'But the person who does *anything* **presumptuously**, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one **brings reproach on the LORD**, and he shall be cut off from among his people. ³¹Because he has **despised the word of the LORD**, and has **broken His commandment**, that person shall be completely cut off; **his guilt shall be upon him.**"

And even in the Christian dispensation, we must consider **Heb. 10:26-27** "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no **longer remains a sacrifice for sins**, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries."

So in Judaism as well as Christianity, there is a distinction between intentional and unintentional sin (Lev. 4:2, 22); one who knew better would be punished more strictly than one who was ignorant of the wrongdoing.

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David Against Goliath

So how do we identify a presumptuous sin?

1. A sin that is **committed willfully against manifest light and knowledge** is a presumptuous. A sin of ignorance is not presumptuous, unless that ignorance also be willful, in which case the ignorance itself is a presumptuous sin.
2. Another characteristic of a presumptuous sin was **deliberation**. This would be those who embark upon their sin with impunity nor regard for the consequence. They water the seedling of lust until it grows to the maturity of desire.
3. Further a presumptuous sin must be a **matter of design**, and have been committed with the intention of sin. The passage in Numbers 15:29-31 where the man is killed immediately after the announcement of the regulation is not because he gathered sticks, rather he did it deliberately.
4. Finally, a presumptuous sin is one that is committed **with the audacity of a contrary conscious**. This involves telling others what they should or should not do and you turn around and do the exact opposite

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David Against Goliath

I. DAVID’S COURAGE AND PREPARATION—I Sam. 17:40-41

- Therefore, with Saul loosing the throne because of his failed heart, David, who at this time was a youth probably still in his teens., would be the successor to the throne.
- Although he was anointed to be the new king (16:10-13), David would not actually be crowned until a number of years later, first over his own tribe of Judah (II Sam. 2:1-4) and then over all Israel (5:1-5).
- In the backdrop of I Samuel 17, as the chapter opens, Israel was again facing their old archenemies, the Philistines.
 - ❑ There was a standoff between the two armies, each facing off at the valley of Elah, about seventeen miles southwest of Jerusalem.
 - ❑ Challenging the Israelites each day was the Philistine giant from Gath named Goliath.
 - ❑ He is described as being more than nine feet tall, wearing heavy armor, and carrying a huge spear (I Sam. 17:4-7).
 - ❑ As far as David was concerned, Goliath was not only challenging Israel’s army but Israel’s God as well (I Sam. 17:26).

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David Against Goliath

I. DAVID’S COURAGE AND PREPARATION—I Sam. 17:40-41

❑ When David began to show interest in taking on Goliath, his older brother saw this as idle boasting and questioned his motives for even being there (vs. 28).

❑ Hearing that someone was willing to fight Goliath, Saul summoned David.

❑ But after seeing him, Saul concluded that David was no match for the giant.

[**This is the danger in judging the outward appearance and not the heart**]

❑ David informed the king of his past success in his occupation (17:37), so Saul conceded, dressing David in the typical armor of the day

❑ But David quickly pointed out that he would use the weaponry to which he was accustomed – a staff and a sling.

❑ He made his way to the brook where he selected five smooth stones and put them into his shepherd’s bag. (17:40) – **Five stones in the bag and God knew which one to draw**]

[II Sam 21:19 seems to indicate that Elhanan killed Goliath and not David]

[However, I Chron. 20:5 clarifies this – In another battle he killed Lahmi, Goliath’s brother



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David Against Goliath



II. DAVID’S CONFIDENCE AND DECLARATION—I Sam. 17:42-45

- When the two champions met, generally each would make a speech, and sometimes recited quotations in defiance of their opponent
- From Goliath’s perspective, David appeared to him as a mere boy. David was “ruddy” and “good looking” (vs. 42)
- Goliath felt he was being made fun of and insulted by David’s confrontation [He referred to David’s staff as a stick which was used to chase dogs] [Again the error of judging the exterior and not the might of heart
- Goliath was certainly an example of **Proverbs 16:18**: “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”
- David’s speech, however, presents a striking contrast to the usual strain of these insults and railing accusations.
- David’s speech was more about his trust in God and the glory of triumph he anticipated based on prior experiences with God.



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David Against Goliath



II. DAVID’S CONFIDENCE AND DECLARATION—I Sam. 17:42-47

- David’s confidence was not just in his ability with the sling, but was in the Lord
- To come in “the name of the Lord” was to come in His strength and power.
- Just as your “name” stands for you, so the Lord’s “name” stands for Him.
- “In proclaiming the Lord’s name, David was invoking God’s promise to protect those who trust in him, a blessing he considered a mighty armament in the face of Goliath’s mere bronze and iron”
- While Saul may have been the earthly head of Israel’s army, the men drawn up in battle against the Philistines were in fact under “the Lord of hosts” (vs. 45).
- Though Goliath “**disdained**” (v. 42) David, moreover he “**defied**” Israel’s God
 - ❑ To defy God is to provoke Him or His emissaries to combat or strife, by appealing to the courage of another
 - ❑ To defy God is to dare to offer a conflict by manifesting a contempt of opposition, attack or hostile force



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David Against Goliath



II. DAVID’S CONFIDENCE AND DECLARATION—I Sam. 17:42-45

- This was no ordinary battle, but one in which God’s honor was at stake, and in David’s exposure to danger permitted God’s honor to be acknowledged
- David’s strong faith was the basis of his confidence and made manifest what Jonathan had previously said “It may be that the Lord will work for us: for there is no restraint to save by many or by few” (I Sam 14:6)
- The ultimate purpose of these events was not to bring glory to David; rather, it was “that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel” (I Sam. 17:46).
- Indeed, all would know that “the battle is the Lord’s” (V 47) and the Lord does not require “sword and spear” to gain the victory.
- As Christians, we must guard against the tendency to trust in our own efforts and ingenuity – particularly as recognize the battle to be a spiritual one
 - ❑ II Cor. 10:4 “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal”
 - ❑ Our armor is that which God Himself supplies (Eph. 6:10-17).

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☐ The only way we can defeat the devil is by using the same weapon Christ used in his temptations (Matt. 4:1-11), namely, “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:17).

III. DAVID’S VICTORIOUS CONQUEST—1 Sam. 17:48-51

- David ran quickly toward the giant in contrast to Saul and his fleeing army (v 24)
- David’s use of a sling and a stone allow him to fight from a distance, something Goliath’s arsenal did not permit (v. 39).
- He smote the Philistine in his forehead (at the opening for the eyes)—that was the only exposed part of his body.
- David cut off his head (v 51) as a trophy to be borne to Saul-- not as evidence of the giant’s death, for his slaughter had been effected in front of the whole army.
- Earlier, God decapitated the Philistine’s god on whom they relied in battle (see 5:4). Now, David decapitates their champion.
- The heads of slain enemies are always regarded in the East as the most welcome tokens of victory.



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“LESSONS FROM THE LESSON”



The practical lesson here is that God gives victory in response to our faith. Throughout this entire episode, David gives glory to the Lord.

David was tested privately with a lion and a bear; now He openly tests with a giant. If we are faithful in private battles, God will see us through public tests.

Too often God’s people faint at the smallest test that comes their way, not realizing that “little tests” are preparation for bigger battles (Jer. 12:5)

David knew Gideon was given victory with weak weapons, and Gideon’s God was not dead; thus he used simple, humble weapons (1 Cor. 1:27–28: Cor. 10:3–5).

Neither David’s brothers’ criticism nor Saul’s unbelief kept him from trusting God for victory -- a victory that opened the way for Israel to attack the Philistines and spoil their camp

- 1 John 5:4 “And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith”



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“LESSONS FORM THE LESSON”



There is also a typical lesson here, for David is a picture of Jesus Christ-- David's name means “beloved,” and Christ is God's beloved Son.

- ▶ Both of their births were was questioned
- ▶ Both were born in Bethlehem.
- ▶ Both were rejected by their brethren.
(Of course, when David became king, his brethren received him, just as the Jews will receive Christ when He returns to reign.)
- ▶ David was anointed king years before he was permitted to reign, just as Christ is King now but will not reign on earth until Satan is banished.
- ▶ Saul typifies Satan as opposition to God and Goliath typifies Satan in his pride and power, but David would become victor over both just like Jesus
- ▶ Just as David was sent by his father to the battlefield, so Christ was sent by the Father to this world.



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“ADVANCE YOUR KNOWLEDGE”



1. Who was Goliath, and what challenge did he present to the Israelites?
2. How did David initially end up on the battlefield? What weapons did David take with him into the battle?
3. What does the Bible say about David’s physical appearance? How did Goliath respond when he saw David?
4. In what manner did David approach the giant? Why do you think David was so confident of victory?
5. How did the Philistine army react to David’s triumph over Goliath?

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