

Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

David vs Goliath

- The Philistines gathered for battle against Israel at the valley of Elah [1 Sam 17:1-3].
 - When the Israelites were led out of Egypt, God directed their way around the land of the Philistines [Ex 13:17].
 - The land of the Philistines was never conquered during the time Israel took much of the promised land under Joshua's lead [Josh 13:2-3].
 - God had often used the Philistines to afflict Israel during the time of the judges [Jdgs 13:1; 14:1-4; 16:27-30; 1 Sam 4:1-7:14].
 - The Philistines had been a thorn in Israel's side during the reign of Saul as well [1 Sam 9:16; 10:5; 14:52].
 - Jonathon, Saul's son, had secured victories over the Philistines [1 Sam 13:3; 14:1-15].
- Goliath came out from among the armies of the Philistines [1 Sam 17:4-7].
 - His height was 6 cubits and a span – that would make him 9' 9" tall.
 - He was from Gath, a city known to have some Anakim (Nephalim) [Josh 11:22].
 - His armor weighed 5,000 shekels of bronze – that was over 126 pounds of armor.
- Goliath challenged Israel to produce a man that could fight against him [1 Sam 17:8-11].
 - Goliath was defiant in his challenge because he was confident that he would win.
 - This challenge would continue every morning and evening for 40 days [v. 16].
 - Saul and the armies of Israel were scared out of their minds.
- David's oldest three brothers were fighting with Saul, but David was tending his father's flock [1 Sam 17:12-15].
- Jesse sent David to take supplies to his brothers (and to their commander) and bring back a status report [1 Sam 17:17-20].
- While the armies were drawn up in battle array, David went to greet his brothers and heard Goliath's challenge [1 Sam 17:21-23].
- As they had many times before, the Israelites responded with fear [1 Sam 17:24].
- We learn the reward King Saul would give to the man who killed Goliath [1 Sam 17:25].
- David was amazed that no one has challenged Goliath [1 Sam 17:26-27].
 - He understood that Goliath was challenging the armies of the living God.
 - David knew that the living God is the Lord of hosts (armies) and is the God of Israel [Jer 23:36; v. 45].
 - Israel was unique as a people because they heard the voice of the living God [Deut 5:26].

- David's brother Eliab became upset with David and accused him of coming to the battlefield for selfish reasons [1 Sam 17:28].
- David correctly stated that he was simply asking a question [1 Sam 17:29-30].
- Saul heard and sent for David who offered to go and fight against Goliath [1 Sam 17:31-32].
- Saul saw David from human viewpoint and told him he would fail [1 Sam 17:33].
- David made his case before Saul by laying out his qualifications [1 Sam 17:34-37a].
 - God had helped him kill lions and bears.
 - Goliath was merely an uncircumcised Philistine.
 - God would help David defeat Goliath.
- Saul was convinced and clothed David for the battle [1 Sam 17:37b-38].
- David rejected the sword and armor because he had not used them before [1 Sam 17:39].
- David took his stick and gathered five stones to challenge Goliath [1 Sam 17:40].
 - 1 for Goliath, 4 for his four sons [2 Sam 21:15-22].
- Goliath was defiant and mocked David and his weapons [1 Sam 17:43-44].
- David taught everyone present an amazing lesson on divine viewpoint [1 Sam 17:45-47].
- Goliath engaged David who quickly responded and killed Goliath with a single stone to his forehead [1 Sam 17:48-50].
- David gathered a sword and beheaded Goliath striking fear in the Philistines [1 Sam 17:51].
- The Israelites now became brave and chased after the fleeing Philistines [1 Sam 17:52-53].
- David then gathered the victor's spoils from the battle [1 Sam 17:54 cf. 1 Sam 21:9].
- While David had been fighting Goliath Saul ordered his commander Abner to investigate who he was [1 Sam 17:55-56].
- When David returned from the battle, Saul asked about his father [1 Sam 17:57-58] meaning that David would marry Saul's daughter and Jesse's family was tax-exempt.

- David attended Saul well and was rewarded for his service [1 Sam 16:21].
 - Saul loved him greatly.
 - David was appointed to be Saul's armor bearer.
- David had gained favor in Saul's sight which prompted Saul to ask for his service to be permanent [1 Sam 16:22].
- For the time being Saul was pleased with David's music ministry because it had a refreshing effect on Saul whenever he was afflicted by the evil spirit [1 Sam 16:23].