David vs. Goliath

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday March 21st, 2021

Text: I Samuel 17

### Intro

1. I Corinthians 16:13: Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.
   1. This takes courage!
2. Courage is essential for every soldier in battle, and it is no different for the soldier of Christ in the fight of faith!
   1. II Timothy 1:7: For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.
3. No matter the age of the disciple of Jesus, they are a soldier of Christ (II Tim. 2:3) and need courage to fight!
4. We will face the “giants” of the world and when we do, we need the courage & faith of David to overcome!

#### The Challenge

* 1. I Samuel 17:1-11, 16:
     1. The Philistines had gathered a large army against Israel and camped on one mountain over the Valley of Elah, and Israel camped on the mountain on the other side of the valley.
     2. Their champion, Goliath, a giant warrior defied the entire army of Israel and issued a challenge for 40 days (17:16) offering a winner-take-all fight in single combat with him.
     3. If the Philistines won, Israel would serve them as servants, and if Israel won, the Philistines would serve them.
     4. So the freedom of each army weighed in the balance of the outcome of this fight – Israelite army afraid!
  2. I Samuel 17:32: David, a shepherd, and Jesse’s youngest son (17:12-15), told Saul not to be afraid and that he would go fight the Philistine giant!
  3. For forty days the Israelites heard the challenge and were terrified!

#### The Challengers

* 1. Goliath – I Samuel 17
     1. Philistine Warrior – 17:8, 33: “Am I not the Philistine?” (Pride!)
     2. 9 ft. Giant and Champion – 17:4, 23, 51 (Called a “Champion” 3 times)
     3. Defies the armies of God – 17:8-10
     4. Feared by the Israelites – 17:11
     5. Relies on own power to fight and defeat David – 17:44
     6. Curses David by his gods (17:43)
     7. Wears bronze helmet, full coat of bronze armor – 17:5-6
     8. Carries sword, spear and javelin – 17:6-7, 45
     9. Keeps his shield-bearer in front of him – 17:7, 41
     10. Suffers humiliating death: beheaded – 17:49-51
  2. David – I Samuel 17
     1. Israelite Shepherd – 17:15
     2. Handsome boy – 17:42 (“Youth”: not yet 20 to be counted as a man in Israelite culture – Numbers 26:2)
     3. Defends the armies of God – 17:26
     4. Confidence in God; does not fear Goliath – 17:32, 37
     5. Relies on God’s power to defeat Goliath – 17:46-47
     6. Proclaims the Lord’s name while facing Goliath – 17:45
     7. Wears no armor – 17:38-39
     8. Carries staff, 5 stones and a sling – 17:40 (No sword!)
     9. Stands alone to face Goliath – 17:48
     10. Kills Goliath with a single stone – 17:49
  3. David’s courage was not in his personal stature or military training, but from his faith in God, knowing God is bigger than any giants and the battle belongs to the Lord!

#### The Fight

* 1. David’s faith in God was so strong that he told Saul of his protecting his father’s sheep from a bear and a lion and now as God delivered them into his hand Goliath the giant would be delivered into his hand! (17:33-37)
  2. David wore no armor and no sword but took what he was used to into battle (17:38-40).
     1. Staff, sling and 5 stones
  3. Goliath mocked David and cursed him by his gods (17:42-44)
  4. David carried no sword but yet had so much confidence in God that he promised to cut off Goliath’s head because he knew God “does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD'S!” (17:45-47, 50)
  5. David ran to the battle line, slung a stone and felled the giant, then stood over him, removed Goliath’s sword and beheaded him with it! (17:48-51)
  6. The Philistines fled and the Israelite army chased them and plundered them! (17:51-54)
  7. David’s courage and faith in God let him stand fearless in fearful times among fearful people and won the day!

#### The God of David is Your God! (Ephesians 3:20-21)

* 1. He is the “living God” – I Samuel 17:26, 36
  2. He is the Leader of the armies of Israel – I Samuel 17:46
  3. He delivers His people – I Samuel 17:37, 47
  4. He can deliver by many or by few – I Samuel 17:46; 14:6: The faith of Jonathan recognized this truth!
  5. God is bigger than any giants in your life and you must face them with courage and faith!

## Conclusion

1. “The battle is the Lord’s” today:
   1. You will face giants in your life – II Corinthians 10:3-5: Against “every lofty thing.”
   2. Faith must lead to courage – *I Samuel 17:26, 33-37, 45-47;* I Cor. 16:13
   3. We must not let others discourage us – *I Samuel 17:11, 23, 24, 26, 28, 32, 45-47;* II Tim. 1:7 (David’s brothers, King Saul, and even Goliath tried to discourage him from fighting)
2. The “giants” of today include:
   1. Worldliness
   2. Compromise (Peer Pressure)
   3. Indifference
   4. False doctrine
   5. Lack of growth
   6. Lack of faith
3. As in the days of Israel, the “giants” of today are not bigger than God!
4. We need to have the courage and faith in God like David to recognize “there is a God,” and that “the Lord does not save with sword and spear,” but that “the battle belongs to the Lord!”
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
6. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

Ephesians 3:20-21 Farm Story told…

“Years back the 'Daily Bread' devotional booklet passed on a fascinating story. During World War II a farmer in Sussex, England, sent some money to the Scripture Gift Mission, semi-apologizing that it was not more, but he said the harvest on his farm had been disappointing due to a lack of water. He also mentioned that he was very fearful because the Germans were dropping so many bombs and asked for the mission staff's prayers that he and his family might be spared. One staff member replied that although they couldn't ask the Lord that no bombs would fall on his land (perhaps that was too specific?), they would pray that 'God's will in the matter would prevail'. Not long after the farmer had received their reply, a huge German missile crashed down on his place. No family members or livestock were injured. However, the bomb went so deep into the ground that it liberated a submerged stream. The spring kept flowing and provided irrigation not only for our farmer's farm but for those of his neighbors. The next year was a larger donation!”

Dale Ralph Davis

"In the Presence of My Enemies" Christian Focus Publications, Ross-shire, Scotland, 2020, pp 114-115