

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE

1 SAMUEL 17:25-29

Text:

Introduction:

Our text finds both the Israeli and the Philistine armies in well fortified positions, separated by a ravine called the Valley of Elah. On the north side of that valley or ravine is Israel; on the south side are the Philistines. Whichever army makes the first move is going to have to leave the protection of where they have bunkered themselves down and go out into the open. The first army to move is likely to be the army that loses.

So they are in a stalemate.

After some time a giant named Goliath came down, stood in the middle of the valley and said, "Hey! Why should we all fight? Why should our army and your army fight and many die? I'll tell you what. "I'll take anybody from your army and fight him myself. Both armies can watch. If I win, then your folks follow us and be our servants; if you win, then we'll follow you and we'll be your servants."

For forty consecutive days he had gone down and made that challenge. Apparently he got more strident,

harsh and insulting as time went on, until we come to the time where he says, “I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together.” The giant is saying, “Hey you’ve got all those soldiers! Are any of them men? Is there one who dares take up his sword and come against one Philistine soldier?”

David was probably considered too young to fight in the army. His father hadn’t sent him when his brothers went to fight, but had sent him with some food, some bread, and some parched corn. Just as David got there, here comes Goliath. Forty days now he has come out; now he comes again speaking the same words, “I defy the armies of Israel; give me a man, that I may fight with him. Verse 24 tells us what the response of the Israelite army was: “And all the men of Israel when they saw the man fled from him and were sore afraid.”

In the famous verse 29 David says, “Is there not a cause?”

Notice:

1. DAVID AWAKENED TO THE CAUSE

- A. By the adversary of God’s people.
- B. By the apathy of God’s army.

1. If no one else will I will

C. By the award of God's leader. (vs 25)

(1 Sam 17:25 KJV) "And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel."

2. DAVID ACCEPTING THE CAUSE

A. His motives were misjudged. (vs 28)

(1 Sam 17:28 KJV) "And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle."

B. His maturity was questioned. (vs 33)

(1 Sam 17:33 KJV) "And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

C. His methods were questioned. (vs 38)

(1 Sam 17:38-39 KJV) "And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. {39} And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him."

3. DAVID ADVANCING THE CAUSE

Notice that:

A. His performance was for God. (vs 26,29,36)

(1 Sam 17:26 KJV) "And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

(1 Sam 17:29 KJV) "And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?"

(1 Sam 17:36 KJV) "Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God."

B. His power was from God (vs 45-47)

(1 Sam 17:45-47 KJV) "Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. {46} This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. {47} And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands."

C. His praise was to God (2 Sam. 22:48-50)

(2 Sam 22:48-50 KJV) "It is God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me, {49} And that bringeth me forth from mine enemies: thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man. {50} Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name."

Close:

Is there not a cause?