

Series: Hope For Hard Cases

THE GIANTS THAT CHALLENGE US

1SAMUEL 17

Text:

Introduction:

In this life we will face things and situations that are much bigger than we are – giants in essence.

We often pray that God would remove or destroy the giants that we face however it's not always God's will to do such – often God wants us to face the giants learning that He is with us all along.

In this passage we see a giant who was faced by a young man.

If you were to ask Israel about Goliath, they would have said, "This is a hard or hopeless case."

If you were to ask King Saul he would have said, "This is a hard and hopeless case."

If you were to ask David, he would have said "God is bigger than this giant."

Note:

1. THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS GIANT (VS. 1-24)

Note:

A. His Source (vs. 1-4)

1 Samuel 17:1-4

¹ Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim. ² And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. ³ And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them. ⁴ And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

Our text says that Goliath was a “**Philistine**.” The Philistines were one of the Canaanite tribes left over from Israel’s conquest of the Promised Land. They were a powerful, warlike people known for their expert skill in battle.

They crafted superior armor and weapons of war. They were also pagan idolaters, who worshipped the fish god Dagon.

Note not only his source but also:

B. His Size (vs. 4-7)

1 Samuel 17:4-7

⁴ And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. ⁵ And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. ⁶ And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. ⁷ And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.

His name is Goliath, which means “splendor,” and he was in splendid physical condition.

Goliath was not an ordinary soldier.

- He stood “six cubits and a span.” This means that he was “9’ 9” tall,” (vs. 4)
- He wore brass armor that covered his body from head to toe (vs. 5-6).
- He wore brass body armor constructed from overlapping brass plates that resembled the

scales of a fish. This piece of armor weighed “5,000 shekels,” (vs. 5) or about “200 pounds.”

- He wore “greaves,” or wrappings of brass, which protected his legs, (vs. 6.)
- The “target” of brass that hung between his shoulders on the back and was a round piece of brass that protected his upper back.
- His spear is compared to a “weaver’s beam,” (vs. 7), which means it was several feet long and very thick. The head of his spear weighed “600 shekels of iron,” which is about “25 pounds.”
- Walking before Goliath was a soldier who carried another shield to help protect him from any arrows or spears launched by his enemies.

Goliath was a very formidable soldier. No doubt everyone who saw him feared him. No one wanted to face him in battle. He appeared indestructible and unconquerable.

Note not only his source and size but also:

C. His Statements (vs. 8-10, 16, 23)

1 Samuel 17:8-10

⁸ *And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. ⁹ If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. ¹⁰ And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.*

1 Samuel 17:16

¹⁶ *And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.*

1 Samuel 17:23

²³ *And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them.*

Goliath comes out from the Philistine lines and challenges the Israelites to a fight.

He demands that they send out a soldier to fight him.

Goliath does this twice every day for forty days.

Note not only his source, size and his statements but also:

D. His Success (vs. 11)

1 Samuel 17:11

¹¹ *When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.*

When Israel heard the taunts of Goliath, they were “dismayed, and greatly afraid.” The word “dismayed” means “to break down from fear.”

The army of Israel was horror-struck, petrified, panic-stricken, and alarmed! The presence, appearance, and threats of the giant Goliath literally left the soldiers and the king of Israel paralyzed with fear.

Goliath achieved his primary goal. He left the people of God intimidated and broken. He held absolute power over Israel and her king!

We too face things that paralyze us because of fear – circumstances and situations that overwhelm us.

Note not only the “Description of this Giant” but also:

2. DAVID'S DESIRE REGARDING THIS GIANT (vs. 25-30)

1 Samuel 17:25-30

²⁵ 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. ²⁶

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? ²⁷ And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him. ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause? ³⁰

And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

Goliath threatens Israel. He mocks them. He challenges them to send out a man to fight him to the death. He does this eighty times over forty days. Each time he

does, Israel responds by hiding in fear from an opponent they see as unbeatable.

Things are about to change. A young man named David has arrived on the battlefield. When he shows up, he sees the same giant the rest of the Israelites see. He hears the same taunts. He hears the same challenge. Instead of hiding in fear, David rises to the challenge and he does something about this giant.

What made David different from the rest of the men there? What made him think he could do what no one else thought could be done?

David saw the same events and heard the same things the rest of the people heard, but he perceived things very differently. The difference in David's viewpoint made all the difference in the outcome of this situation.

Note:

The people saw a giant – David saw God.

Note lastly not only the “Description of this Giant, and David's Desire Regarding this Giant” but also:

3. THE DEFEAT OF THIS GIANT (VS. 31-54)

David is determined to defend Israel and to deliver them from the insults and attacks of the giant – Goliath. The remainder of this chapter teaches us how David defeated this giant.

A. David Remembered the Past Deliverance (vs. 31-37)

1 Samuel 17:31-37

³¹ *And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.*

³² *And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.* ³³ *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.* ³⁴

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: ³⁵ And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of

this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

B. David Used What He Had Proven (vs. 37-40)

1 Samuel 17:37-40

³⁷ David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee. ³⁸ 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. ⁴⁰ And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling *was* in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

Saul tries to put his armor on David, v. 38-39. David attempted to wear those things, but he realizes that they were not made for him, they were made for Saul.

Of course, Saul is a foot taller than anyone else in Israel, 1 Sam. 9:2. There was no way his armor would fit David.

David also knew that Saul had possessed this armor the whole time, and he still didn't have the courage to face the giant.

David knew the secret to success wasn't in the armor of men.

We must remember: Where we are weak, He is strong. So, we need to forget about what we have done, or what we think we can do, and we need to place our faith in the God Who can!

Note not only did David remember Past Deliverance and Used What Was Proven but also:

C. David Depends on God (vs. 41-45)

1 Samuel 17:41-45

⁴¹ And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield *went* before him. ⁴² And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. ⁴³ And the Philistine said unto David, *Am* I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. ⁴⁵ 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.

D. David Deflects Glory to God (vs. 46-54)

1 Samuel 17:46-54

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.*** ⁴⁸ *And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.* ⁴⁹ *And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.* ⁵⁰ *So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.* ⁵¹ *Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.* ⁵² *And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the*

valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron. ⁵³ And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents. ⁵⁴ And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent.

What made this victory possible? It wasn't David's ability with a sling!

It wasn't David's power, or his skill as a warrior! The secret to David's success and Goliath's death all came down to one word: faith.

David believed God, and God handed David the victory.

But, they can be defeated through His power.

Put your giants in the hand of God and trust Him to give you the victory over them all. Faith in God is the key to victories in all the battles we face with life's giants.