



1/28/26

You know, it's kinda scary to think of God's authority and judgment, how He can bring down Sodom and Gomorrah or put a stop to the Philistines or bring a flood on the whole earth. But it makes me think of the prophecy of Jesus from Isaiah 61:2. He "proclaims the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God." The vengeance is not carried out ON God's people. His vengeance is carried out FOR God's people. God is our protector. He loves us. His power is there to help us be in awe, and to help us know that we are secure in Him. He surrounds us with His favor as with a shield. Amen!!!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 Samuel 17:1-18

Today is the first half of this infamous story about David taking down a giant with a stone. What I never realized before is that the Philistine enemies were descended from Ham and his son, Canaan. This prophecy of Noah's was still being carried out around 1200 years after Noah said it. Wow. God is truly an eternal God.

The Philistines had been harassing the descendants of Shem from the moment they were established as a people. But God is greater. His plan stands.

The Philistines had gathered at Socoh, a land of Judah (a descendant of Shem and a forefather of Jesus). They came to fight the Israelites. The Israelites, under the leadership of Israel's first king, Saul, showed up at the battle line... but were too afraid to fight. As the leader goes, so goes the people.

Honestly, without confidence in the Lord, I would have been pretty freaked out, too. And even with confidence in the Lord, I would probably have been trembling a little. 😳 A champion Philistine warrior showed up at the battle line to taunt the Israelites. He was MASSIVE. His name was Goliath of Gath. He was around 9 feet tall... and he was ALL muscle. His helmet was bronze. His coat of armor was about 125 pounds. His legs were covered in bronze armor. His javelin slung between his shoulders was bronze. The shaft of his spear was like a weaved beam,

and his spear's head alone weighed about 17 pounds. His shield bearer walked in front of him. I imagine that shield bearer felt no fear as long as he knew Goliath was standing behind him. Pretty intimidating if a person isn't recognizing that God is greater than any giant and He is on my side.

Goliath went to the battle line every day for 40 days and said, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul?" Whoa... that's a lot of arrogance. He was basically saying Saul was a nothing and he was an awesome Philistine, and they were dumb for even showing up. What he was missing, and what the Israelites were sadly missing for the moment, was that the Israelites were NOT servants of Saul. They were servants of the Most High Creator All Powerful Awesome God!

Goliath continued, "Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us... I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." Whoa... Choose... fight... I DEFY the ranks of Israel. That's a lot of arrogance! Goliath did not consider for one second that he could be defeated... but no enemy of God has the final word. Goliath fully expected that when the battle finally took place, no matter how many days it would be before the Israelites would muster up some courage, they would be serving the Philistines. But God has the final word.

Sadly, Saul and the Israelites did not realize that God has the final word, and they were terrified and exceedingly afraid. But the only fear and trembling a follower of God needs to have is reverent fear and awe for our God. O Lord, that's easy for me to say in the comfort of my home... hard to live out when the giants attack. But it doesn't change the truth!!! Let me hold to Your absolute truth!!!

So... now I see one of the reasons why Saul had already been told he would be removed from the throne. He didn't fear God above man. Proverbs 29:25 says, "The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe."

Enter David. He was the youngest son of Jesse (an old man by now), and in 1 Samuel 16, the prophet Samuel had anointed David and said he was going to be the next king. David didn't realize what he was going to go through before that took place, but that's another story. It's also a good reminder for me that I don't have to be anxious about tomorrow because the Lord already has a plan, He will sustain me in the process, and He will accomplish His purpose... no matter what. Worrying about tomorrow is trying to figure it out without the Lord's sustaining grace. Let me not do that, O Lord.

Back to David. His three oldest brothers had followed Saul to the battle. David did not go. But he did go back and forth the 15 miles between home and Saul because he was a shepherd, and he was taking care of his dad's sheep. He must have been bringing supplies to his brothers.

Well... around the 40th day of Goliath's taunting, Jesse told David to bring some grain and

bread to his brothers and 10 different cheeses to their commander. Jesse wanted David to check on his brothers and make sure they were okay. No phones or internet or quick ways of communicating existed at that time. If anything had happened, Jesse wouldn't have heard about it right away. He was concerned for his sons.

Jesse's full intention was for David to bring the supplies and then come back with some kind of assurance that they were well. I'll find out tomorrow that David didn't come back right away. He did something so courageous, surrendered to the Lord's power, that his story still gives me courage and hope today, thousands of years later. But I will see that tomorrow for part 2. To be continued...

But for today, I see that if my faith is genuinely in the Lord, I do not have to fear any giant. The Lord is bigger, greater, and more powerful than anyone else... regardless of how confident the giant is. My confidence cannot be in me, but it CAN and MUST be in my Lord.

What do I need to do in order to put all my confidence in the Lord? Trust Him, wait for Him. Bow to Him. Keep my eyes on Him and not on the giant. Let me remember what David himself wrote in Psalm 5... I can cry and groan and pour out my heart to God. He will hear me. He is not good with the wicked giant who speaks lies. But "let all who take refuge in the Lord rejoice and sing for joy" because "He spreads His protection over us and covers us with His favor as with a shield." I will see tomorrow that God did exactly that for David. And He does it for me. My call is to follow Him... As Jesus said in Luke 9:23-24, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it." O Lord, You're always my answer. I follow You. You are greater than any giant. Amen!