

The life of *David*



1 Samuel 8 (NIV-UK)

19 But the people refused to listen to Samuel. 'No!' they said. 'We want a king over us. 20 Then we shall be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.'



1 Samuel 10 (NIV-UK)

²⁰ When Samuel had made all Israel come forward by tribes, the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. ²¹ Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri's clan was taken. Finally Saul son of Kish was taken. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found. ²² So they enquired further of the Lord, 'Has the man come here yet?' And the Lord said, 'Yes, he has hidden himself among the supplies.' ²³ They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. ²⁴ Samuel said to all the people, 'Do you see the man the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.' Then the people shouted, 'Long live the king!'

1 Samuel 16 (NIV-UK)

17 So Saul said to his attendants, 'Find someone who plays well and bring him to me.'

18 One of the servants answered, 'I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him.'

21 David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armour-bearers. 22 Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, 'Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him.'

In the Old Testament, an armour bearer was a servant or officer who carried the weapons and shield of a warrior, most often that of a high-ranking military leader, such as a king or commander. These men were not just errand-runners. They were carefully chosen individuals who displayed loyalty, bravery, and trustworthiness. They had to be physically strong, emotionally steady, and fully dependable under pressure.

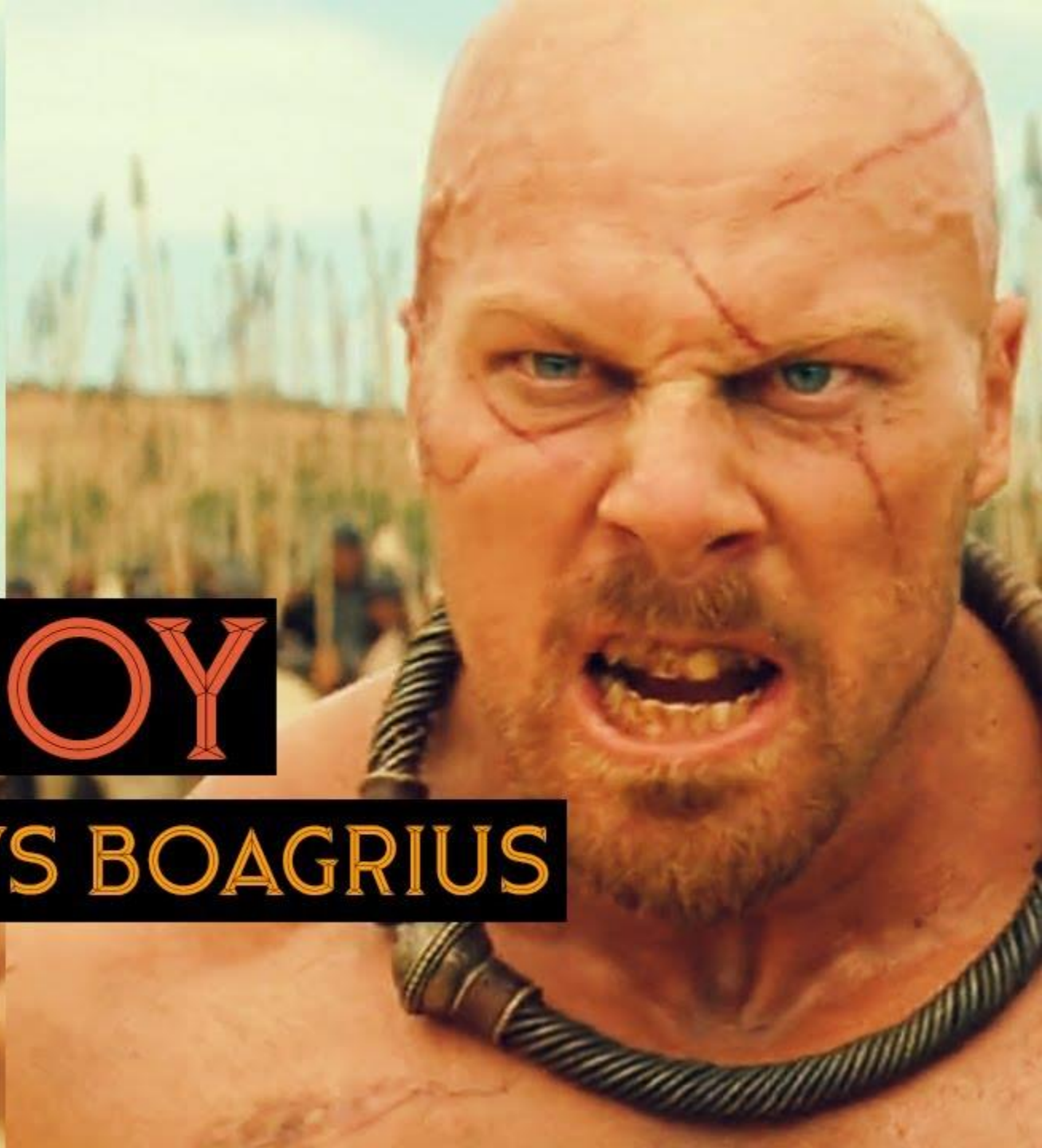
[What role did an armor bearer serve in battle?](#)

Historically, the Philistines are associated with the “Sea Peoples”, a group of migrants from the Aegean region, including Crete and southern Europe, who settled along the southern coast of Canaan around 1200–1175 B.C. They established five major city-states: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, and Gath, collectively known as Philistia [Biblical Archaeology Society+3](#).

Each city-state had its own ruler but could unite against external threats, forming a confederation that made them formidable opponents . They were seafaring and warlike, with advanced military technology, which gave them an advantage over Israel's weapons. [Biblical Archaeology Society+2](#).

⁴ A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span.⁵ He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armour of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; ⁶ on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. ⁷ His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield-bearer went ahead of him.

⁸ Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, 'Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and let him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.' ¹⁰ Then the Philistine said, 'This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.' ¹¹ On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

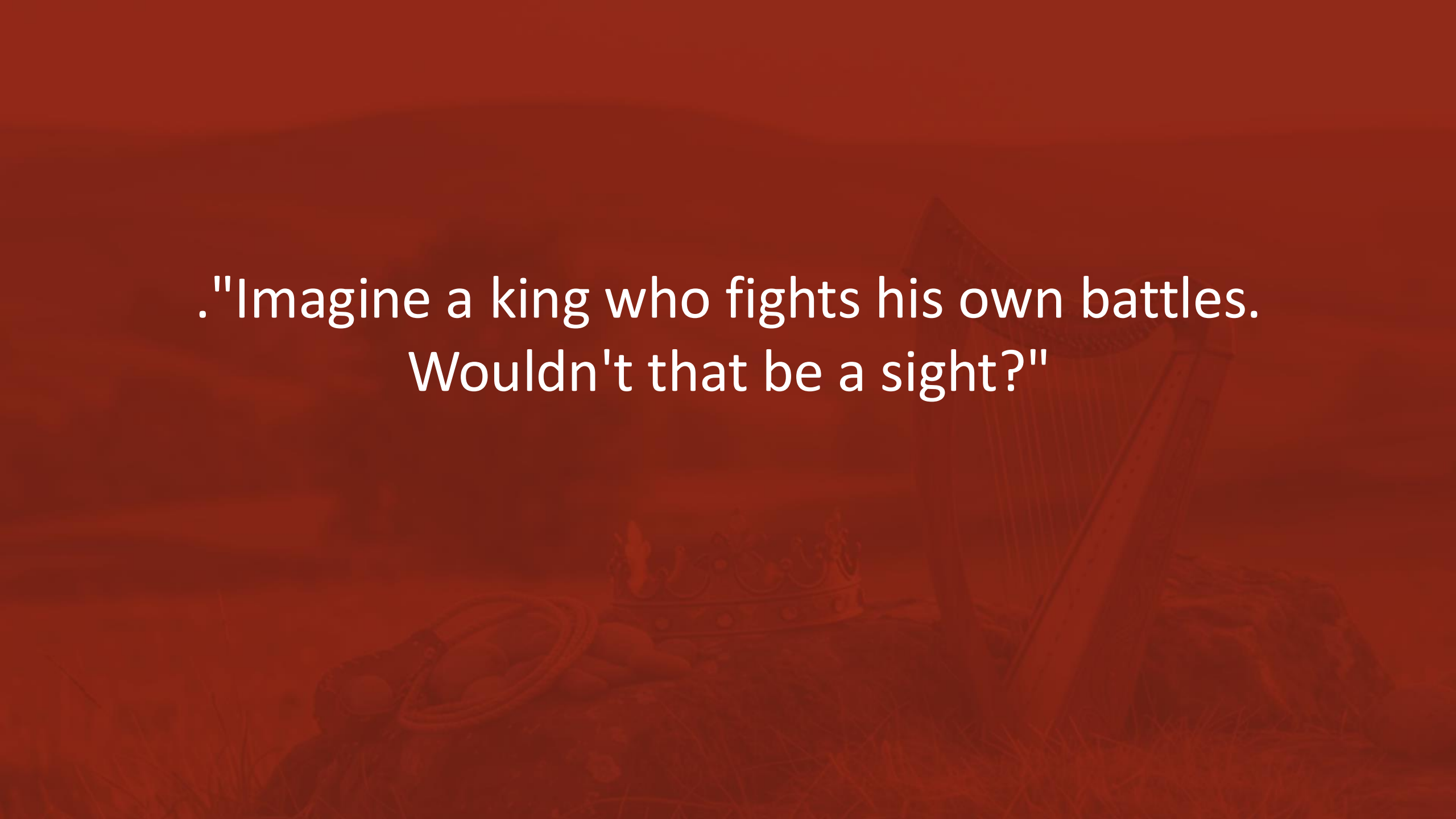


TROY

ACHILLES VS BOAGRIUS



. "Imagine a king who fights his own battles.
Wouldn't that be a sight?"



²⁰ Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. ²¹ Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. ²² David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. ²³ As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. ²⁴ Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

²⁵ Now the Israelites had been saying, 'Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.'



29 'Now what have I done?' said David. 'Can't I even speak?' 30 He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. 31 What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him. 32 David said to Saul, 'Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.' 33 Saul replied, 'You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.'

³⁴ But David said to Saul, 'Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.'

Saul said to David, 'Go, and the Lord be with you.'

³⁸ Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armour on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

'I cannot go in these,' he said to Saul, 'because I am not used to them.' So he took them off.

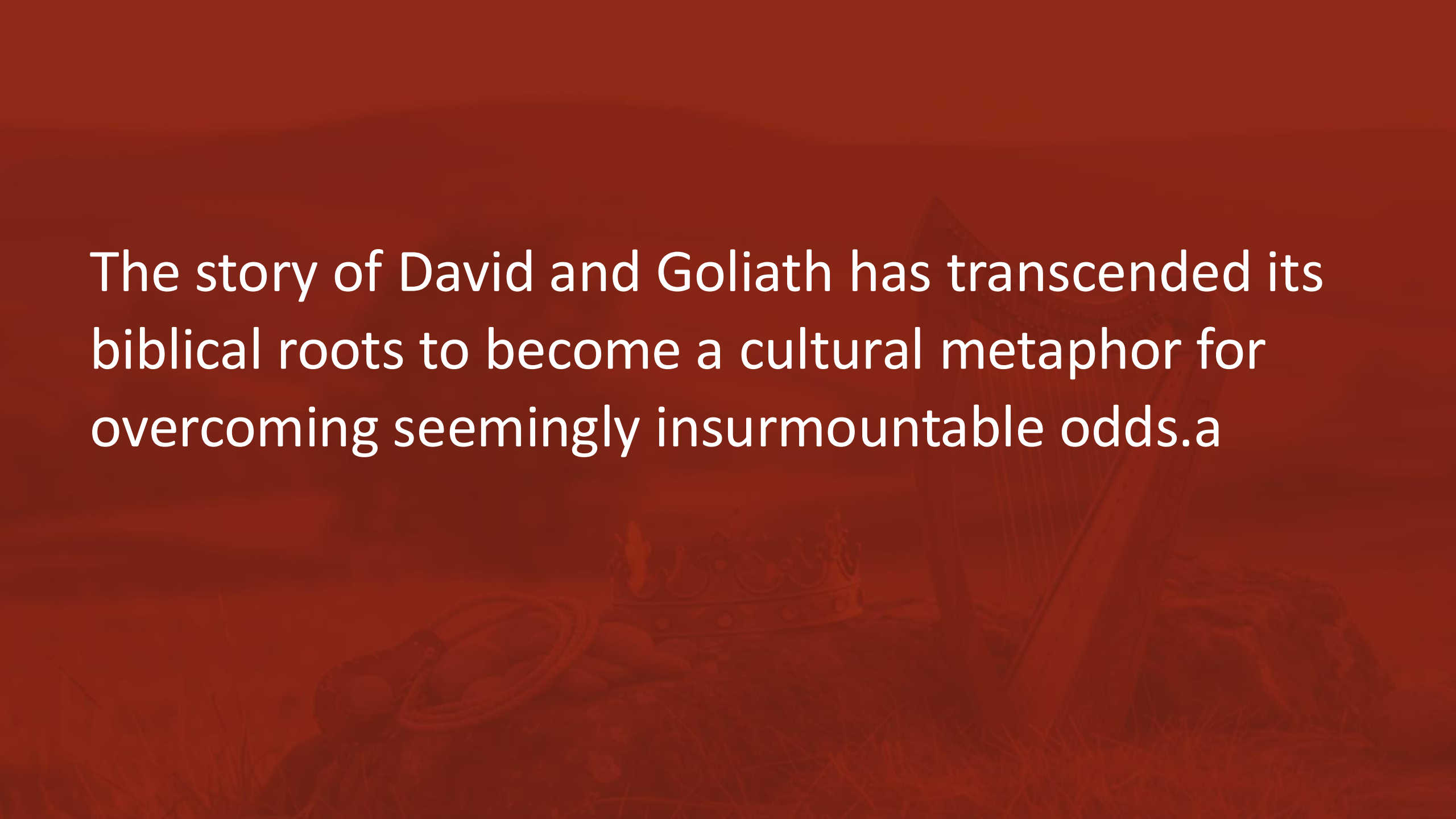
⁴⁰ Then [David] took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine. ⁴¹ Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield-bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. ⁴² He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. ⁴³ He said to David, 'Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?' And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ 'Come here,' he said, 'and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!'

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands.'

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

The story of David and Goliath has transcended its biblical roots to become a cultural metaphor for overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds.



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