

1 Samuel 17:1-48

David and Goliath

1. 17:1-3 - Introduction

- One of most popular/greatest stories in all the Bible. Heard by all, studied by few.
- Studying popular stories in context is important "what does it really say/mean"
- Goliath not called "giant" here, David not too small, more preaching than fighting.
- This is David's anointed victory, like 1 Sam 11 was Saul's anointed victory.
- "valley of Elah" (between two mountains on which stood Israel and Philistines).

2. 17:4-10 - Goliath

- 4 - "six cubits and a span" - cubit ~18in, span ~9in. Goliath = 9ft 9in - Josh 11:22
- 5-6 - Brass = copper+(tin or zinc); 5000 shekels (coins)~100lbs; greaves = leg shields
- 7 - Spear = 2-3in pole w/12lb head (Math is hard! You can learn from charts.)
- Shekels, cubits, spans not a problem, because it is accurate. Measurements changed.
- Goliath details present him as stronger/more protected than Israel's army/David.
- Goliath also seen to represent Israel's demise, death, and the forces of evil (Satan)
- 8-10 - "I defy the armies of Israel..." - Saul accumulated armies - 8:19-20, 14:52
- "give me a man" - a challenge to one man Israel wanted as king (Saul)

3. 17:11-19 - David Feeds His Sheep

- 11 - "they were dismayed and greatly afraid" afraid of what? A bigger man than Saul.
- Saul was not small due to size, but his fear - 11:6-7,11; 12:24; 13:11,14:26; 15:24, 18:12
- 12 - "Now David..." - In contrast. "whose name was Jesse" - His house matters here.
- 13-15 - Three eldest/biggest followed Saul (in fear); David fed his father's sheep.
- 16 - "presented himself forty days" without answer from Saul or his men; 'no king'
- 16-19 - David is sent to feed his brothers who are following a fearful shepherd.

4. 17:20-30 - David Preaches to Israel

- 20-22 - David goes into the valley of the shadow of death for his brethren.
- 23-24 - "and David heard them" - for the first time. The ~~sheep~~ men fled afraid.
- 25 - The king won't do it, but the man who does gets riches, a wife, and freedom!
- 26-27 - David's exhorts the men: 1) Goliath = a shame on Israel; 2) Uncircumcised = not protected by God's covenant; 3) God is the strength of Israel - you are His army!
- 28 - His words bring anger and false accusation from his brethren. Mk 1:22
- 29-30 - "he turned from him toward another"-His brother having rejected him. Mt 21:42

5. 17:31-40 - David Proves Himself

- "Let no man's heart fail...thy servant will go" -He fights for Israel's heart. Lk 21:26,Jn 14
- 33 - Saul: "thou art not able to" - Let no man despise thy youth - 1 Tim 4:12
- 34-37 - David has experience with lions/bears, but better is the LORD's promises.
- 38 - "Saul armed David..." - Saul's provision of armor, sword, brass does not help.
- 39 - "I have not proved them" - He doubts the armor, but not the LORD. 14:6
- 40 - David is not fighting with fear, but with faith; not his strength, but the LORD's.

6. 17:40-47 - Goliath's Curse

- a. 41-42 - Goliath despises David for his "fair" appearance as an inexperienced soldier.
- b. 43-44 - "*cursed David by his gods*" not good for Goliath Ge 12:3, Exo 23:22, Ps 118:6-14
- c. 45-46 - "*that there is a God in Israel*" - The prophesied purpose for Israel. Exo 9:16
- d. The LORD does not need sword/spear/shield to deliver - Exo 15:2, 13-16
- e. 47 - There was a lack of swords and spears in Israel - 1 Sam 13:19-22, Jdg 3:16, 31, 5:8
- f. 48 - "*ran toward the army...*" - David ran alone with the Spirit of the LORD.