

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 18TH-19TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

## THE CONVICTION (1 SAMUEL 17:33-40) RECAP

Last week, we read about the Philistines and Israelites forming up for battle, and this giant comes out from the ranks of the Philistines to "defy the ranks of Israel" (v. 10), Goliath of Gath.

- Goliath was one of the Nephilim associated with rebellion against God (Gen. 6:1-4). We read a description that identifies him as a really bad guy.
- Goliath is at least 6' 9", if not 9' 9". He is described as having a bronze helmet, bronze scaled mail, and a bronze sword.
- The word for bronze in Hebrew (nehoshet) sounds similar to, and is spelled using the same letters as, the word for snake (nahash).
- Here we have a representative of the serpent from Genesis three defying the armies of Israel.
- David sees this happening and recognizes it is a spiritual battle, even though everyone around him is afraid of the physical threat to their individual lives.
- David is taken to Saul, where he states plainly, "Your servant will go and fight this Philistine!" (v. 32)

### "YOU'RE JUST A YOUTH!"

In v.33, Saul is looking at outward appearances and with worldly wisdom. It makes zero sense to Saul that David would go fight Goliath!

- But the Lord has been preparing David for this battle his whole life up to this point. He has been fighting lions and bears for the sake of his flock, and Goliath will be like them (v. 34-36).

### "THE LORD WHO RESCUED ME..."

In v. 37, David gives the credit for his past successes to the Lord. In David's mind, it was truly the Lord who delivered him, who used David to defeat the evil that threatened his own life and the life of his father's flock.

- David sees the true nature of Goliath and compares his hand to the paws of the lion and the bear-beasts of the field (Gen. 3:1).

### "GO, AND MAY THE LORD BE WITH YOU."

David's speech convinces Saul. Maybe it was his conviction that the Lord was with him and that it was the Lord's battle. Maybe Saul saw the evidence of the Holy Spirit in David.

- Whichever it is, Saul still uses worldly wisdom to equip David the only way he knows how, with armor and a sword.

### "I'M NOT USED TO THEM."

Despite Saul's efforts, David knows that this reliance on military strategy is just going to encumber him (v. 39). He hasn't practiced with this armor and weapon. But he has practiced faith in the Lord his whole life as a shepherd, and with that, he removes Saul's armor and sword and goes with his shepherd's weapons to approach Goliath (v. 40).

### WISDOM VS. WISDOM

Although Saul had his own encounter with a spiritual snake (Nahash in 1 Sam. 11), and David convinces him that he's ready to kill Goliath, he still uses his own wisdom instead of acknowledging God (Prov. 3:5).

- God uses the seemingly simple, weak, and lowly to do grand, cosmic-proportion things to show His power for His glory (1 Cor. 1:26-29).

### THE CONFRONTATION (1 SAMUEL 17:41-51)

#### "CLOSER & CLOSER..."

As this literal giant of a man and young man approach one another, Goliath is insulted that someone as small and young as David is confronting him (v. 42).

- He sees David's staff and asks, "Am I a dog...?" (v. 43). This is an echo of David's earlier comparison of Goliath to beasts.

#### "...BY HIS GODS."

If there was any question that this was primarily a spiritual battle, Goliath dispels any doubt by cursing David by his gods. This is full-on a spiritual showdown (v. 43).

- Killing a person and leaving their body for the birds and wild beasts without a proper burial would be a disgrace. Goliath is using his most favored weapon against David: fear.

#### "...IN THE NAME OF THE LORD OF ARMIES"

Goliath's fearsome words and appearance, while daunting to everyone else, have no effect on David. Now it's David's turn to taunt Goliath.

- While Goliath's weapons are sword, spear, and javelin, David's weapon is the name of the Lord Himself, Whom Goliath has defied (v. 45, see also Ps. 20:6-8).

#### "TODAY"

David gives credit to God for his upcoming victory and magnifies Goliath's taunt against him to include the whole Philistine army (v. 46).

- "I'll strike you down, remove your head..." Not only is David being bold here, but he is also using the language of Gen. 3 to prophesy his impending victory to his serpent-like opponent (Gen. 3:15).

#### "ALL THE WORLD"

David clearly sees who his real opponent is and from where Goliath's power comes (Eph 6:12).

- David also knows the "battle is the Lord's." It is not daunting to David to face Goliath in battle when it is the Lord who is fighting through him. This battle will prove the Lord's dominion over all other gods and nations (v. 46).

#### "THIS WHOLE ASSEMBLY"

David also wants this battle to prove to the Lord's people they can and should trust in the Lord, and he stands in unity and shares the victory with the people of Israel (v. 47).

- We should not think of ourselves as the people of God without realizing just how powerful He is and that He is for us if we obey Him. (Rom. 8:28-39)

#### "...TO MEET THE PHILISTINE."

Suddenly, Goliath has enough of David's talk of his doom and moves to attack David, but David beats him to the battle line (v. 48).

- It is all well and good to express faithful assurance in the Lord with your mouth to the enemy, but it takes courageous faith to act on that assurance. This is the work of the Holy Spirit within David. (1 Cor. 12:9)

### "DAVID DEFEATED THE PHILISTINE..."

Almost as quickly as the action started, it was over. With one fluid motion, David grabbed a stone, put it in the sling, and cast it. His expertise with the sling caused the stone to hit its mark: Goliath's forehead. The force causing it to actually sink into Goliath's forehead was the Holy Spirit (v. 49). Though slings can be deadly, this is not a typical result.

- V. 50 punctuates the work of the Holy Spirit in this battle by focusing on the incredible way David defeated Goliath ("with a sling and a stone," "without having a sword").
- Will God use the talents and abilities we've been practicing all our lives, along with His supernatural gifting and empowering, to achieve His will? YES!
- To ensure Goliath's death, David uses Goliath's own sword to "kill him" (maybe a lethal thrust to a vital organ) and then cuts off his head. With Goliath utterly defeated, the Philistines fled instead of becoming Israel's slaves (v. 51).
- Notice the emphasis on Goliath's head with the stone and the sword. This is more Eden imagery: "he will strike your head" (Gen. 3:15).

### THE REVERSAL (1 SAMUEL 17:52-58)

#### "THE MEN OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH RALLIED..."

The effect of Goliath's defeat was immediate and astonishing. The rout was so complete that the slain bodies of the Philistines lined the road from the battlefield to Gath and Ekron, marking their retreat (v.52).

- The Israelites plundered the camps of the Philistines, but David had the sole right to plunder Goliath (v. 53-54).

#### "DAVID TOOK GOLIATH'S HEAD..."

V. 54 says that David brought Goliath's head to Jerusalem. This is probably the writer's foreshadowing of David's eventual conquering of Jerusalem.

- During the time of this battle, Jerusalem was called Jebus and inhabited by the Jebusites. Jerusalem was where Melchizedek reigned in Abraham's time (Gen. 14:18).

#### "...HE PUT GOLIATH'S WEAPONS"

David's taking of Goliath's head and his weapons (and armor) were his personal reminders of God's victory here. Goliath's sword shows back up with the priests of Nob during a dark time in David's life (1 Sam. 21:9).

- We need to have reminders of God's victories in our lives so we'll be less apt to fear in the face of new struggles (Phil. 4:6).

#### "WHOSE SON IS THIS YOUTH, ...?"

The end of the chapter reflects a change in the perception of David in the eyes of Saul. Saul, at first, refers to David as a "youth." We must give Saul and Abner a pass here on not knowing David's father (v. 55). When David first entered Saul's service, Saul was being tormented and likely had no recollection of David being identified as the son of Jesse. Abner could've been away.

- Saul had multiple reasons for finding out this information: he had promised his daughter in marriage, he liked surrounding himself with mighty warriors, and he needed to inform Jesse that David would live with him from now on instead of living and working part-time at home.
- Notice how David walks in holding the head of Goliath (v. 57).

#### "WHOSE SON ARE YOU, YOUNG MAN?"

When David left the presence of Saul earlier, he was but a youth in his eyes. When he returns holding the head of Goliath, Saul acknowledges him as a "young man" (v. 58).

- What God does with and through our faith reflects our maturity, not our age. David did not let Saul or Goliath despise him because of his youth (1 Tim. 4:12).

#### DAVID & JESUS

- In this story, David is a picture of the coming Messiah, Lord Jesus.
- Both David and Jesus recognized their battle was spiritual in nature.
- Both David and Jesus represented their people.
- Both David and Jesus were scorned and rejected by their brothers.
- Both David and Jesus were sent to the battle by their father.
- Both David and Jesus fought the battle without regard for conventional wisdom or human strategies.
- Both David and Jesus fought a battle where victory was assured before the battle even started.

#### DAVID & SAUL

- David recognized his battle as spiritual and that the Lord would have victory. Saul likely did not see his own snake confrontation that way.
- We need to have faith in our Lord in the face of the big spiritual battle, look past the physical and immediate to the true enemy, and practice with the armor and weapon that the Lord supplies (Eph. 6:10-17).
- David continued to make good choices and won many smaller victories, but like Saul, he eventually lost the battle with sin to the point of judgment by God (2 Sam. 12). The difference between David and Saul is a repentant heart.
- David defeated the big snake but let the little snakes slip past him, and it resulted in disaster for his family.
- We also need to be on the lookout for how sin creeps in (Gen 4:7). It is easier to identify the big spiritual battle in front of us than the smaller attacks that flank us.
- We must remain faithful in our obedience to the commands in Scripture and the voice of the Holy Spirit within us.

#### FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE

- Are we praying? Talking to the Father, praying for one another and ourselves?
- Are we reading the Word?
- Are we in community with fellow believers?
- Are we serving the Lord from a heart of gratitude for the love He showed us on the cross?