

This is one of the most well-known stories in all of the Bible.

It is one that almost every single one of the children in the back could probably retell for us.

It was my boys' favorite story a few years ago, and they begged me to read it each night.

It is a story that even those who know nothing about the Bible know this story.

It has just become a part of our language.

This is wonderful, but it also presents a challenge.

The challenge comes because we think we know everything about it.

And so if we are not careful as I read the story to us, we will start to tune out and to start thinking about our day or things that are more interesting and new to us.

And another problem is that we can misinterpret the story because we are going off of our memory and not God's word.

I probably won't say anything radically new this morning.

But I do want us to pause and read the story so that we can see what does the Bible actually say about it.

Turn with me to 1 Samuel 17

I. Don't fear the enemy's might (v. 1-11)

I'll do something a little different this morning.

Because our passage is so long, and this is such a big chapter.

I'm not gonna read through the whole passage again, the second time.

I'm still gonna refer to a lot of these verses and a lot of these phrases.

But I'm not gonna reread the whole thing, so keep your Bible in front of you so you can follow me.

The main thing we need to see in this beginning section is how great the threat is.

It may have surprised you how long this story truly is.

It is a little different than we remember.

And we get a very long and very detailed description of Goliath.

It does not just tell us that he is a giant and he is big it paints the scene for us.

Let's set the scene before we get to Goliath.

We see in verse one that the Philistines get all their army to come and fight.

And they enter into the land of Judah and they are at a key place.

You don't need to know where this is on a map, but would you need to know that this is the beachhead of their invasion into Israel.

If Israel loses this battle here, the Philistines are going to run all over the whole country.

It is a key place that they need to defend.

It's all gathers his army and then we see

Verse three tells us two armies are set up on opposite sides of a valley.

The Philistines are up on one mountain and the Israelites are on the other.

In verse four, Goliath emerges as a champion.

And he is massive and a giant.

He is 9 feet and 9 inches tall.

Verse five describes how he is not just massive but armored.

The armor around his chest weighs 126 pounds.

That is unbelievably heavy.

Also imagine trying to stab somebody wearing something like that.

None of us would be strong enough to make a dent in it let alone kill the man wearing it.

He has armor on his legs in and he has a great weapon.

And we see in verse seven that the tip of his spear weighs 15 pounds.

That is just the very tip.

And the tip is made of iron.

Since this is the bronze age, this is the introduction of iron into the world.

He has the newest most advanced technology.

And he has a man who goes before him who carries his shield.

He is physically impressive and terrifying.

And then we hear his taunt in verse eight.
He mocks all of Israel.
And this is very normal for the time.
And throughout most of ancient warfare.
Two armies getting ready to fight in the yell at each other.
They talk trash to one another.
And so Goliath is doing that, and he is challenging that he will kill any single person they bring.

He even makes a wager in verse nine.
He's so confident says the whole battle can just be dependent on champions.

In verse 10, He defies them.
And he defies their God.
He says that no one could ever beat him.

Verse 11 gives their reaction.
Everyone is afraid.
Saul himself is afraid.
No one is willing to go and stand up and fight.
They all see the power of the enemy and they want nothing to do with it.

Now, what do we remember about Saul?
He was chosen his king because Israel wanted the king who was taller and stronger and better.
They wanted someone who would go and fight their battles.
They wanted someone who could stand before their army and fight for them because they were afraid.
And so they got the tallest man in the whole country and he is not taller than Goliath.

Well, we need to recognize in the story is that Goliath is not just a giant.
He is not just another warrior in another battle against another nation.

There is incredible spiritual significance to what's happening.
Goliath stands as an enemy of God and his people.
He is the representative of Satan and all who oppose and defy God and his people.
He is an antichrist and a forerunner of many antichrist to come.

So don't think of this battle between a giant and a boy.
It is between the people of God and the kingdom of darkness.
And it isn't the context of this kind of battle that God's people have nothing to fear.

It isn't this way that David is like Jesus.
He stands on our behalf as the representative of the people of God against sin and the kingdom of darkness.
And Jesus had nothing to fear from sin or death or Satan because he defeated all of them on the cross.

And so when it comes to us and our lives, we also have nothing to fear.
And again contextually, it doesn't seem to be about any kind of challenge that we face.
It is not that the annoying neighbor is a Goliath.
Or that our chronic pain is a Goliath.
And it's not to diminish those challenges, but this passage doesn't mean that we can just overcome any kind of challenge if we have enough faith.

Instead, it means that we as a chosen nation and a royal priesthood and as ambassadors of Jesus Christ and the body of Christ.
As his representatives in the world can stand and can oppose the forces of sin and darkness.
That when it comes to spiritual warfare.
When it comes to the ways that Satan is working in this world.
When it comes to the attack of demons and the realm of darkness.
We have nothing to fear.

We have nothing to fear if we face the antichrist or the antichrist in our world.

When we look at what Satan is doing, we do not have to be afraid.

II. Don't trust in your own might (v. 12-40)

That is precisely why we cannot trust our might.

Especially when facing the enemies of God.

You can't defeat demons or the power of hell with our muscles or our really good ideas.

This is what Saul has been doing and that's why he fails.

And this is what David does not do and why he succeeds.

We would be mistaken to read this story as the greatness of David.

Or even to make it all about the greatness of David's faith.

We really need to see I think that David is not trusting his own might.

Verse 12 introduces us to David.

We have seen our enemy and now we meet our hero.

And he is young.

He is the youngest of eight sons.

Seven sons is the ideal and the blessed number.

Eight is not necessarily more blessed.

He is more like the runt.

And he is very young and small well Saul is old and getting up there.

And we see that three of David's brothers are old enough to join the army and to go to battle.

David is too young to do so.

He is too young to volunteer.

And we see in 15 while David plays before Saul is in his court.

He still has to go back back-and-forth to care for the sheep.

The scriptures keep reminding us of the sheep because a good king takes good care of the sheep and a good Shepherd.

And we also see that Goliath has been taunting Israel for 40 days.

Every single day.

Twice a day.

Once in the morning and once in the evening, he has mocked and challenged the people of God.

And no one has done a thing.

And we see that David has sent to the battle in verse 17.

He has not sent to go fight. He is sent to bring food.

To take his brothers a care basket.

Also take some cheese to the person who is over them so that hopefully he will treat them better.

David comes just to get a report in an update.

And so David goes.

We see in verse 20 even as he's going he still make sure the sheep are taken care of.

It's a very small detail that's extra that's added in here.

Because the Bible really wants you to know that David is a good Shepherd.

But as he comes in 20 and 21, the armies are gathering and lining up.

The battle might begin today.

It's so David runs cause he wants to see what will happen.

Like any young boy going to the army if there's about to be a battle, he wants to see it and not miss it.

Also look close.

It mentions that David leaves his things with the keeper of the baggage.

David is by the baggage and when the call and the battle begins, he leaves it to go towards it.

So when it was time to be king, Saul hid by the baggage.

There are parallels between David and Saul here.

In verse 24, Everybody else is afraid and runs.
It's clear there won't be a battle today because they're already running away.
And the people begin to discuss the reward.
That if somebody dared to fight Goliath, did the impossible and won.
They would be richly rewarded.
They will get to marry the King's daughter and be part of the royal family.
And his father's house and all after them will be totally free from all taxes in perpetuity.
Any of them by themselves is a great blessing, but all of them together is beyond belief.
And yet no one wants to try.

In 26, David speaks for the first time.
These are his first recorded words in Scripture.
It is like if you were watching a movie and we know David is the main character but up until now as we've seen him, he has not said a word.
So the anticipation is building and what will he say? How will he introduce himself to us?
When you look at his words, you see, he is not asking about the reward.
He does not seem that concerned about what he can gain.

He is focused on our Israel is being shamed.
And he asked who is this man that is defying God?
It is not that Goliath is embarrassing them as a people it is that he is embarrassing their God.
And something must be done.

Already David is not looking at Goliath and how strong he is.
David is not looking at himself and how strong he is.
But he is looking at how strong God is.

In 28, His brothers are upset.
They remind me of Joseph's brothers.

And they're probably jealous since they know that he might be king.
And his oldest brother is angry at David.
He accuses him of being a bad Shepherd, which we know very clearly is not true.
And his brother assumes the worst about David's heart.

And David's response in 29 makes it seem that this is something that's happened repeatedly.
That his brothers are often demeaning and attacking him.
They're assuming the worst.

And word gets to Saul about David in verse 31.
It seems David is the only one who dares to ask. Is anyone gonna do something?
And so David is brought before Saul.
And we get these wonderful words in verse 32.
He says that nobody needs to fear he will do it.
He is willing to volunteer.
He offers himself not as a champion, but as a servant.

And immediately the objections come again.
Saul says no.
He says you do not have the ability to do this.
Because David is young and a child.
Since Goliath has been a child, he's been killing men in single combat.

See you again Saul is looking at David's ability and not God's ability.
They're also should be some irony here.
And if only there was someone old enough, who could be the champion of God's people.
Somebody who has lots of experience in war and battle, and is tall, it has natural ability.
If only that person could trust in the Lord, maybe God could use them.

So should be the one to go and fight Goliath, but he doesn't and David is willing.

Look at how David responds.

Because if you're not careful, we might think David is thinking about his own abilities.

He tells in 34 that there have been many times that lions or bears have come.

And they have stolen the lambs from the flock.

And though David was young, he went to seek the lamb that was lost.

And he would deliver it to safety.

And if the bear or lion try to resist, David would kill it.

Since I've killed many lions and bears in this Philistine will be just like them. Not because David knows how to kill things that are bigger than him, not just because David defends the sheep, but has defied the sheep of God.

And in 37

He says that God is the one who deliver David from the lion and the bear and he can deliver him from the Philistine.

David is not appealing to his own ability. He is appealing to God's ability.

He brings up his past experience not to show that he is qualified.

Instead, it is to show the power of God.

David says that he knows God can deliver because God has already delivered in his life over and over again.

David is trusting in the power of God.

David is trusting that God will be with him like he always has been.

David is not boasting in his own abilities, but in God's.

Also look again.

Look back at verse 34.

It is not that David kills those that try to attack the sheep.

It is that David goes when the sheep have been stolen.
When the enemy has come to kill steel and destroy, he goes and gets the sheep back.
If you haven't seen it already, I hope you see that there are levels and layers to the story.

On one level of description of David and his faith and how God uses him as a deliverer.
On another level, there is the application and how we need to trust in the Lord and have faith like David did.
And on another level even deeper, it is how this story all points to Jesus.
Oh Jesus is the good Shepherd.
The Shepherd who cares for the sheep and the Shepherd who win someone tries to steal the sheep he gets them back.
Jesus was willing to lay down his life for the sheep.

And Jesus was continually mocked and overlooked.
Because he didn't look like what they thought the Messiah should look like.
Because they did not believe that he was the one who could save.
They did not think that he could beat the greatness of evil.

And Saul still doesn't believe.
We see in 38 that he puts his armor on David.
And he gives him his sword.
And he gives him this because he's gonna let David try but what he has is not enough.
If you're gonna fight Goliath, you have to have a sword you better have armor.
So he gives him the best sword and the best armor that he has.
The same armor and sword that's been used to kill the Philistines in the past.

But it doesn't work.
David cannot even walk in this armor.
How in the world is he gonna fight a giant if he can't even move?

Verse 40.
David takes just a staff.
Five smooth stones randomly chosen from a river.
A shepherd's pouch in a sling.
David again has all of the trappings not of a king but a Shepherd.
He has the only thing a Shepherd would have.
And he goes towards the Philistines, not with the tools of man of God.

There's a lot that's made sometimes of these stones.
I don't think we wanna go overboard.
There is something symbolic happening.
The main thing I think is we got this long description of what Goliath has
now we get the description of what David has.
We get the very details.
David has the tools of a Shepherd.
And faith.
Because David is not putting his trust in what he is taking into the battle,
but who is taking him to the battle.

This is not the story of David winning because of his military genius.
It is not the story of how David wins because he has superior weaponry.
Or because he has discovered the magic stone that can never miss.
David is fighting the enemies of God's people with the weapons of God.
That is what we need to understand.
We cannot fight the kingdom of sin with the weapons of the world.
We do not need to ally with the lost or use the weapons of those who do
not know God in order to defeat Satan.
When we do that, we cannot walk and we cannot win.
We cannot trust in our own strength.
We must trust in the weapons of God.

Look at Jesus.

When He faced down Satan and sin.

He did not come and win with horses and swords.

He defeated sin and death through suffering and humiliation on the cross.

And He rose in victory, having set the captives free and broken death.

III. Trust in the might of God's name (v. 41-58).

This is what we see.

We must trust in the name of Jesus.

This is what David puts his faith in.

David does not fear the enemy.

David does not trust in his own strength or ability or what he brings.

He trusts in the name of God alone.

The battle finally comes.

Goliath moves forward and his shield is with him.

Because he sees that someone is finally, after 40 days gonna come and fight.

And he is disgusted by what he says.

He cannot believe that this red-haired, cute child would try to fight him.

It is a joke.

In verse 43, he thinks it's a joke.

Sometimes you see this with football teams when they're practicing they'll you know hand the ball off to a five-year-old and then take the ball and they'll pretend and let them score a touchdown.

It's cute when it's for fans and for fun.

But in the Red River Rivalry, neither team is going to send a child out at quarterback.

It's way too important.

This is what Goliath thinks.

How could you think that a child is going to beat me?

And so again, the God of David is cursed.

In 44, Goliath taunts him to come and die.

Verse 45, **"Then David said to the Philistine, "you have come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."**

David names his weapons.

David does not have a sword.

David does not have a shield.

David does not have armor.

David has a name.

That is all he has.

And there is an ancient magic and power in names.

But there is only one name that holds power.

There is one name that defeats Giants.

Is the name of our God.

David, trust in the power of the name of God.

He trust it so much he walks towards the armor giant with only the name.

And notice again, he trusts in the name because Goliath has defied him.

David makes it clear that he does not oppose Goliath because he is insulted his king or his people.

It is that God's name has been insulted and cursed and sullied.

But it will be no longer.

Verse 46, **"This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head."**

David does not say he hopes or maybe God will. He says God will do this.

David is going to kill Goliath.

Because the name of God must be defended.

Because God will deliver.

And this will happen

"And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,"

This will happen that the whole earth knows God lives.

This will happen that they're all eternity. People will know not the name of David, but the name of Yahweh.

That people will know the god of the Bible is true.

Verse 47, **"And that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."**

God will also remind his people how they win.

They don't win because they have a king.

They don't win because they have swords or chariots or armor.

They will win because they have God.

They will win because winners are determined by the hand of God.

And they will win because God will hand over his enemies to them.

This is what Israel needs to know and what we still need to remember that God does not save with power and with might.

God does not need big churches to bring revival.

God does not need charismatic preachers to proclaim the gospel.

God can do what he will with youth and children and stones.

And the battle finally comes.

We've had 47 verses leading up to it, and the battle itself is only two verses.

It's really only one.

Goliath comes and David runs at him.

There is no fear there is only faith.

Every step that David took forward was an act of trust in the power of the name of God.

And David takes out one stone and it goes and God guides it to his forehead around all of the armor and Goliath dies.

In verse 50 David prevailed with a stone.

And David chopped off the head of Goliath with his own sword because David didn't have one.

And the army of the Philistines flees and runs away because they realize the power of God.

In the middle of Israel, they rise with a shout and chase the Philistines all the way back to Goliath's home.

And when they're done with battle, they go back and plunder the Philistine camp.

And that big, impressive armor that Goliath wore goes home with David. As a trophy and a testament to the power of the name of God.

Reading this story, shouldn't make us think how awesome we are and how we can kill giants in our own life.

It should make us realize the greatness of Jesus and what he has done on our behalf.

And more than anything, that should make us realize the greatness of the name of Jesus.

It is because of the name of Jesus that I can stand here and proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God.

It is because of the name of Jesus that we can pray and go before the throne of grace and ask God for aid.

And when we pray, we don't just say in the name of Jesus as an empty phrase or because it sounds nice and religious.

We say it because the name of Jesus has power.

It is in the name of Jesus that darkness flees.

It is in the name of Jesus that the demons are cast out.

It is in the name of Jesus that the sick are healed.

It is in the name of Jesus that sins are forgiven.

It is in the name of Jesus that we are baptized.

It is in the name of Jesus that we trust for salvation.

It is in the name of Jesus that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess.

This morning, we spent time again looking at the story of how David defeated Goliath.

We've seen it is not the story of one man against another, but the story of how David as a representative of God's people, defeated the kingdom of darkness.

And how the story points to Jesus as our representative brings victory in the kingdom of God and how he defeated sin and darkness and death and Satan himself on the cross of Calvary.

The story points us towards the final day when Jesus will defeat the beast and the prophet and the antichrist, and all who would stand against him in that final day of victory for the kingdom of God.

And because all of this is true, we have nothing to fear when we see the enemy's might.

We have no reason or need to trust in our own strength.

And we have every reason to trust in the power of the name above all name of Jesus Christ.