Goliath Defies the Living God
1 Samuel 17

(1-3) Location
Goliath Defies the Living God
1 Samuel 17

▶ (1-3) Location

▶ (4-7) Goliath
  • Champion
  • 9.5 feet – 6.5 feet in Septuagint and Dead Sea Scrolls
  • Armor

▶ (8-11) Goliath’s challenge
  • 14:47-48; 52 – Saul’s record of success – taunted
  • Challenge and defiance of Israel
  • Israel’s fear
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(12-16) David is introduced
  • Ephrathah – Mother of Hur who founded Bethlehem (1 Chron. 2:19; 4:4)
  • Insignificant clan and city in Judah (Micah 5:2)
  • David the youngest (16:11) – small or insignificant
  • David “went back and forth” – Saul’s musician; shepherd
  • Goliath’s challenge for 40 days, morning and evening

(17-23) David comes to the battlefield
  • Sent by his father
  • Goliath made his challenge and David heard
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▶ (24-30) David’s reaction
  • Men of Israel fled
  • Reproach of Israel by uncircumcised man
  • Defying the armies of the Living God
  • Eliab’s rebuke

▶ (31-39) David and Saul
  • Why did Saul send for David?
  • David volunteers
  • David’s experience as a shepherd
  • David’s hope – Living God will deliver from “this Philistine”
  • Saul’s empty blessing and foolish help
(40-51a) David v. Goliath

- Staff and 5 stones with his sling from the brook
- Goliath despises David – cursed David by his gods (Genesis 12:1-3)
- David’s challenge
  - Name of the LORD of hosts
  - God of armies of Israel – defied by Goliath
  - Assured of victory
  - Show there is God in Israel
  - Battle is the LORD’S
- Short battle – one stone
- David cuts off his head with Goliath’s sword
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- 51b-58 Victory and aftermath
  - Philistines fled to Gath and Ekron
  - David took Goliath’s head to Jerusalem
  - David put Goliath’s armor in his tent
  - Saul’s curious inquiry
False or Superficial Interpretations

- Jewish Mythology
- Good v. Evil
- Personal battle with a giant
- Power of a life of faith
Biblical Interpretation

- The purpose of God
  - Genesis 3:15
  - Genesis 12:1-3

- The Old Covenant era – Reveal sin

- The nature of the Blessing: salvation
  - Spiritual
  - Physical

- Grace
  - Unworthy Israel
  - His strength made perfect in weakness
  - The strong defeats the weak
Biblical Interpretation

- **The Messiah**
  - Hannah’s prayer/song (2:1, 9-10)
  - She rejoiced in the the LORD and His salvation
  - Hope in the LORD’s Messiah/King

- **Saul, the false king**
  - No permanent victory
  - No spiritual sense

- **David – God’s anointed**
  - Heart of God (13:14)
  - Anointed and filled with Holy Spirit
  - In the shadows – small (16:11)
The anointed of the LORD delivers Israel

The name of the LORD
- Israel in rebellion and worthy of destruction
- Goliath defies the purpose of God
- Goliath cursed the anointed one by his gods

LORD does not save with sword or spear (17:47)
- He saves with His anointed one
- Showing there is a God in Israel (17:46)
- The battle is the LORD’S

Victory occurred because David was the anointed one
David & Goliath – 2012

▷ Not a lesson that we can face down giants and win
  • Ultimate victory v. immediate victory – Hebrews 11:36-39
  • The glory of God prevails

▷ A man after God’s Own heart
  • Divine priorities
  • Led by the Spirit

▷ The battle is the LORD’S
  • The army of Israel paralyzed
  • The anointed one delivers