**“The Battle Belongs To The Lord!”**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday July 1st, 2018

Text: I Sam. 17

Intro

1. Eph. 6:12: Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but is spiritual!
   1. Sometimes our lives find us in a fight (spiritual) where we are outnumbered, outgunned, overpowered, overwhelmed, and outsmarted – What do we do?
2. In a physical sense, the Israelites found themselves in similar circumstances and relied on God, knowing what we must often remember: “The battle belongs to the Lord!”
   1. *Josh. 5:13-16; 6:1-27:* The fall of Jericho – fortified city fell by the power of God! (6:2)
   2. *Jud. 7:* Innumerable Midianites & Amalekites fell to Gideon by the power of God! (7:9)
   3. *II Chr. 20:* Innumerable Moab & Ammon defeated by God for King Jehoshaphat! (20:15)
3. David is a great example of showing us that despite the odds against us, “The Battle Belongs to the Lord!”
4. The Contest of David and Goliath
   1. *I Sam. 17:1-51:*
      1. The Philistines had gathered a large army against Israel.
      2. Their champion, Goliath, a ferocious warrior and giant from Gath defied the entire army of Israel and blasphemed the name of God!
      3. The Israelites were delivered by David (in his youth) who, in a great act of courage, willingly engaged Goliath (a trained warrior) and won the battle.
   2. This account has been under suspicion by many who do not believe God’s word.
      1. *“David, Goliath, and Smiley's People”* by Dr. David Rabin, Dr. Pauline Rabin, Wednesday, October 26, 1983, Letter to *New England Journal of Medicine*
         1. Goliath was a sickly giant weakened by glandular problems and probably didn’t notice David hurling the fatal pebble at his head, researchers theorize. Dr. Pauline Rabin, a psychiatrist, and her husband, Dr. David Rabin, and endocrinologist, both of Vanderbilt University, claim there is evidence in the Bible that Goliath might have suffered from a combination of ailments which made him physically vulnerable to the small rocks David loaded into his slingshot. “There is considerable evidence in the Bible especially in Samuel, that Goliath didn’t take much notice of David. He was disdainful of the small, slight David and took no notice when he picked up the stones,” Mrs. Rabin said Wednesday. **“HE DIDN’T DUCK** or raise his shield and consequently, David apparently had little trouble striking him with the stone,” she said. The two say Goliath suffered from giantism and possibly a rare disorder called endocrine neoplasia, which causes tumors to grow in the endocrine gland. “It would explain why Goliath was so large, why he couldn’t really see David and why he was felled by a small rock from a slingshot,” Mrs. Rabin said. She said one reason Goliath probably took little notice of David was because the disease had put pressure on his optic nerve, resulting in diminished vision. “He could see but it was sort of like a horse with blinders. He had to turn his whole head. He also probably had a bone defect in the skull and probably had a lot of cysts,” the psychologist said.
      2. ***In trying to diminish David’s victory, they affirm the facts of the account!***
      3. They were saying with everything laid on the table the Philistines sent in a sickly, weak giant!
   3. Goliath’s challenge (I Sam. 17:1–11):
      1. Once again Israel and Philistia were at war *(I Sam. 17:1–3).*
      2. On this occasion the battle was pitched farther south—in the land belonging to the tribe of Judah, in the Valley of Elah.
      3. Goliath proposed a “winner-take-all” contest for 40 days *(I Sam. 17:4–11, 16).*
         1. He is referred to as a “champion” three times (I Sam. 17:4, 23, 51).
         2. He was a giant at 9 ft. 9 in. tall *(17:4: cubit = 18 in.; span = 9 in.)*
         3. His scale armor weighed at least 125 lbs. (17:5-6). *(A shekel weighed less than half an ounce, some calculations give 125 or 156 pounds)*
         4. His spear head weighed at least 18 lbs. (17:7).
         5. He was a trained warrior (17:33) - Philistines wouldn’t have put a sickly, weakling to fight for them with so much riding on his victory.
         6. His eyesight wasn’t poor; He could see David was a “youth” (17:42)
         7. His challenge made Israel “greatly afraid” (17:11, 24).
         8. He had a high price on his head (17:25)
         9. Saul, a great warrior in his own right, would not fight him and urged David not to fight him (17:33).
         10. He was a giant, and a ferocious warrior who defied an entire army! (17:26)
      4. At first, no champion was found in the camp of Saul!
   4. David hears of Goliath’s challenge *(I Sam. 17:12–27).*
      1. When Saul went to battle, David returned to his father’s house.
      2. Since Jesse’s three oldest sons were in Saul’s army, Jesse sent David to the battle front to inquire about their well-being—while on this errand David hears of Goliath’s challenge (I Sam. 17:23–24).
   5. David accepts Goliath’s challenge and Saul sends David out to meet Goliath on the field of battle.
      1. David was not afraid to answer the challenge—he based his judgment on his past experiences with the power of God.
      2. By faith in God he had been able to defend his father’s sheep when they were attacked by lions or bears *(I Sam. 17:32–37).*
      3. To David, Goliath was as the lion and bear he had fought (17:36-37).
      4. This courage impressed Saul and he sent David out to battle.
   6. David gains the victory and slays Goliath (I Sam. 17:40-51)
      1. David did not use Saul’s personal armor *(I Sam. 17:38–39: Too big, not tested)*
      2. He took only his staff and sling and chose five smooth stones—this is the weapon he felt comfortable with (I Sam. 17:40) – He did not face him as an armed soldier (infantryman), but prepared to face him as a shepherd!
      3. His faith was such that he promised to take the giant’s head off when he was not even armed with a sword! (17:46)
      4. After felling Goliath with a rock to his forehead, David beheaded him with the sword taken out of Goliath’s own sheath (I Sam. 17:48–51).
   7. There were three things David wanted the Philistines, the Israelites and all the earth to know:
      1. “That there is a God in Israel” (I Sam. 17:46).
      2. “That the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s” (I Sam. 17:47).
      3. He was fighting by faith and for the glory of God (I Sam. 17:37, 45–47).
   8. This contest showed what Paul would later write, “If God is for us, who is against us?” *(Rom. 8:31)*
5. Lessons From David’s Victory
6. David fought as a shepherd defending his flock – contrast that with King Saul!
7. David rendered invaluable service to Israel by this conflict with Goliath:
   * 1. He repelled an invasion and prevented the suffering such an invasion would have brought.
     2. He also taught Israel the spirit they should cherish and the kind of king they really needed.
8. David became a pattern for God’s people today by exhibiting the spirit we should have in our spiritual warfare “against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12).
9. David did not neglect the use of weapons altogether and then sit back and wait for God to fight the battle for him, and neither can we:
10. We are to fight the good fight (I Tim. 6:11–12).
11. The weapons of our warfare are not physical/carnal (II Cor. 10:3–5).
12. We are to humbly correct the opposition (II Tim. 2:24–26).
13. Saints are to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3)
14. The characteristics that David displayed are the same characteristics modern man desperately needs:
15. Faith in God, not doubt.
    * + 1. Faith led him to do all for the glory of God (I Sam. 17:45).
        2. He looked beyond his problems and relied on God for help.
        3. He did not compare himself with Goliath, but he compared Goliath with God!
        4. Armed with faith in God (heavenly armor) he approached the enemy and won.
        5. Is. 54:17: No weapon forged against us can stand…
16. Humility, not vain pride.
17. “The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor comes humility” (Prov. 15:33).
18. “Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling” (Prov. 16:18).
19. “Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, But humility goes before honor” (Prov. 18:12).
20. Do we have such humility? (I Pet. 5:5–6).
21. Zeal, rather than apathy.
22. He was not concerned about his own safety and renown (I Sam. 17:32)
23. He had heard the gods of the heathen extolled and the name of Jehovah defied—he was desirous that, above all things, God should be glorified.
24. When a man fights for the Lord he may confidently expect God to fight for him, for “the battle is the Lord’s” (II Chron. 20:1–4, 14–17).
25. David’s courage stands in contrast to the fear which gripped Israel (I Sam. 17:11, 24)
26. In every victory we have over sin we grow stronger in faith and give glory to God!
27. How Do We Know If Our Battle Is “Of The Lord”?
28. If we are doing what God has authorized *(Col. 3:17; II Tim. 4:16–17).*
29. If the truth of God’s word is at stake and being taught, practiced or defended against error *(Phil. 1:17; Jude 3; Acts 15:1–11).*
30. If it is a spiritual conflict *(Eph. 6:10–12; II Cor. 10:3–5; Mt. 4:1–11).*
31. If it is being done in the name of the Lord and God is being glorified *(Mk. 9:36-41; Mt. 25:34-40; Col. 3:17).*
32. If we are fighting in faith, not just fighting *(I Tim. 6:12; Rom. 10:17).*
33. If spiritual armor can be properly employed *(Eph. 6:13–18).*
34. If one suffers for “righteousness’ sake” *(Mt. 5:10–12; I Pet. 4:12–16).*
35. If it can rightly be said we are on the Lord’s side *(Josh. 24:15).*
36. When we fight on the side of right, it can be said of us, we are “more than conquerors through Him who loved us!” *(NKJ: Rom. 8:37-39)*

Conclusion

1. In our spiritual battles, “The battle is the Lord’s!”
   1. Christ has overcome evil by the power of His blood (Heb. 2:14-15)
   2. There is a need for people of courage and faith to go out against the “giants” of today.
2. The “giants” of today include:
   1. Worldliness
   2. Compromise
   3. Indifference
   4. False doctrine
   5. Lack of growth
3. As in the days of Israel, the “giants” of today are not bigger than God!
4. We need to have the courage of David to overcome and enjoy the blessings of God! (Rev. 21:7)
5. When we, like David, recognize “there is a God,” and that “the Lord does not save with sword and spear,” and we fight by faith in God and for His glory, the battle will always “be the Lord’s!”
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
7. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

**Sources:**

* *“David, Goliath, and Smiley's People”* by Dr. David Rabin, Dr. Pauline Rabin, Wednesday, October 26, 1983, Letter to *New England Journal of Medicine,* 309:992 DOI: 10.1056/NEJM198310203091626
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