

Fearless: The Giant or God? David and Goliath

What lies are you believing or ignoring?
What is your focus on? The giant or
God? How does that play out in your life?



1 Samuel 17:1-11 (NIV) Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Socoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah. Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them. A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him. Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

Reflections

This story begins with a battle. On one mountain stands the Philistines, while the Israelites position themselves on another mountain. Between them is this large valley where the battle will take place. The scene is set, but there was something different about this day. Goliath, a giant, came out from the Philistine camp and began to taunt the Israelites. He said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel." The word defy means to pour out obscenities. Then he said, "Give me a man, that we may fight together." It was common for a champion to challenge another champion to fight for his nation. But on this day, a well-armed giant made the challenge.

"When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine; they were dismayed and greatly afraid." King Saul was

known to be a valiant warrior and the men that he had around him were the best of the best. They had beaten the Philistines many times before. But this day was different because of the giant - the warrior among warriors. All of these great warriors saw Goliath and they were afraid because they had convinced themselves that they couldn't beat him. This was Goliath! *What happens when we go out there and get demolished by Goliath? The nation of Israel will be a joke. We will be humiliated. We don't have a chance.*

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What is your Goliath? The thing that you don't want to bring up. The thing that you may have fought before. The thing that every time you try, you can't beat. The thing that you have decided that you have to live with. You've just given up. You see no hope. You are broken and you are afraid. You really don't see any way out.

The account of David and Goliath vividly pictures the source of the Christian's hope and faith – not our own size, strength, or resources; but the power of God. If we focus on our opposition and problems, they will seem gigantic. As we focus on God, however, we will see our situation in the proper perspective and be assured that all things are possible with God.

—Mickey Kibler

Readings

Sunday, February 1

1 Samuel 17:1-11

What is in your life that seems too big to defeat? What methods have you tried to defeat your giant?

Monday, February 2

1 Samuel 17:40-50

What was driving David's determination to fight Goliath? Why is having the proper motivation important?

Tuesday, February 3

1 Samuel 16:6-13

David had already been chosen as the next King by the prophet Samuel. Did this affect David's decision to confront Goliath? Why or why not?

Wednesday, February 4

Philippians 4:10-13

What do you need to remember about God when facing your giant?

Thursday, February 5

Ephesians 6:10-18

What spiritual weapons has God given you to defeat your personal giant?

Friday, February 6

Romans 10:15-18

Romans 8:37-40

How do you combat the doubt that God will make you victorious?

Saturday, February 7

2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Are you confident that with God's help, you can defeat any giant? Why or why not?

Don't have a Bible? Access these scriptures at biblegateway.com.