

“Rally in the Valley” ~ A Study of King David
Questions for the *David and Goliath* with Pastor MacLean Video
October 2020

1 Samuel 17 – Selected Verses

Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armored with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.

Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, ‘Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to fight me. When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

David came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. He said to Saul, ‘Let no one’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.’ Saul said to David, ‘You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth.’ David said, ‘The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine.’ So Saul said to David, ‘Go, and may the LORD be with you!’

Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul’s sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. So David removed them. Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the stream, and put them in his shepherd’s bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, ‘Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?’ And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. But David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with sword and spear and 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.

When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Giant on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and the giant fell face down on the ground.

Questions

- 1) Everyone takes a different “main thing” from the David and Goliath story. What do you take from it?
- 2) How do you retain confidence in your own abilities and, perhaps, your sense of calling from God despite the voices of naysayers?
- 3) Think of the “giants” in your own life: perhaps it’s an illness, grief, an addiction, a fear or a loss. And now imagine facing your giant as David faced Goliath – confident you are endowed with capacities for success, but above all, reliant upon the presence of the One whose loving care for you is more formidable than anything that threatens you.