
DAVID & GOLIATH

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Questions:

- 1) What two psalms is David believed to have written just after he killed Goliath?
- 2) Who was Dagon and what happened to his head?
- 3) How tall was King Saul and why does the Bible even tell us?
- 4) How was Nebuchadnezzar's image destroyed (Dan 2)?
- 5) On an ordinary day, what happened at the tabernacle in the morning and in the evening?
- 6) What did Saul do with his father's donkeys and what did David do with his father's sheep?
- 7) How did David's brothers react when he arrived at the camp?
- 8) According to scripture, was Jesus ever jovial or light-hearted?

INTRODUCTION

Before telling the story of David and Goliath I call your attention to the fact that David was a type of the Lord Jesus.

Scripture envisions (a) David and (b) a new David.

Ezekiel 34:23-24

²³ I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them — **My servant David**. He shall feed them and be their shepherd.

²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God, and **My servant David** a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

The "David" in this passage refers to Jesus – the New David.

There are many things about King David which were foreshadows of this New David (Jesus). One of those foreshadows, I believe, is the story that we are about to study (David & Goliath).

PSALM 144

There are two psalms which are believed to have been written by David right after he fought with Goliath – **Ps 8** and **Ps 144**.

- A portion of both psalms is quoted in the NT and applied to the Lord.
- We will look briefly only at Ps 144 at this time.

Psalms 144:1-2

A Psalm of David.

¹ Blessed be the LORD my Rock,
Who trains my hands for war,
And my fingers for battle —
² My lovingkindness and my fortress,
My high tower and my deliverer,
My shield and the One in whom I take refuge,
Who subdues my people under me.

Translation: God used David's hands for war and killed the enemy Goliath.

Psalms 144:3-4

³ LORD, what is man, that You take knowledge of him?
Or the son of man, that You are mindful of him?
⁴ Man is like a breath;
His days are like a passing shadow.

There are two questions asked:

- *"What is man that You take knowledge of him?"*
- *"What is the son of man, that You are mindful of him?"*

NOTE: This is also found in Ps 8 and Ps 8 is quoted in Heb 2 and applied to Christ.

How humble was David.

- He could not believe God would even notice him – let alone use him to defeat Goliath (the great enemy of God's people).
- This was true humility.
- This humility of David was a foreshadow of the humility of the Lord – who humbled Himself to the point of death – even death on the cross (Phil 2:8).

Psalms 144:5-8

⁵ Bow down Your heavens, O LORD, and come down;
Touch the mountains [**Goliath**], and they shall smoke.

⁶ Flash forth lightning and scatter them [**Philistines**];
Shoot out Your arrows and destroy them [**Philistines**].

⁷ Stretch out Your hand from above;
Rescue me and deliver me out of great waters,
From the hand of **foreigners**,

⁸ Whose mouth speaks lying words,
And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

"Whose mouth speaks lying words ..." – Goliath defied the God of David. He spoke blasphemies about how weak Israel's God was.

1 Samuel 17:10

¹⁰ ... the Philistine said, "**I defy the armies of Israel this day**; give me a man, that we may fight together."

David calls on God to destroy Goliath and his army.

Psalms 144:11-12

¹¹ **Rescue me [David] and deliver me** from the hand of foreigners [**Philistines**],
Whose mouth [**Goliath – the spokesman**] speaks lying words,

And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood —
¹² **That our sons** may be as plants grown up in their youth;
That our daughters may be as pillars,
Sculptured in palace style;

David calls upon God to rescue him.

Q: Why?

A: *So that the sons and daughters of Israel may live and have hope* (v12).

These things David wrote after killing Goliath.

All of this prefigures the Lord Himself when He came and offered Himself and taking His life back up again so that the sons and daughters of God could have hope.

APPLICATION: As we turn to the story of David and Goliath, we are reading an event which prefigures the battle Jesus had with the Devil for the sake of His people.

MEET THE ENEMY

Turn to 1 Sam 17.

We are introduced to the enemy at the beginning.

1 Samuel 17:3

³ The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

- **The Israelites had a God** – the Almighty; the Creator of all that is in heaven and earth. The Israelites, for all their faults, were God's chosen people.
- **The Philistines had gods** – a plurality of false gods; the chief god was Dagon – a fertility god in the shape of a fish to symbolize multiplying.

Let's back up a few years:

1 Samuel 5:1-4

¹ Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod.

² When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon.

³ And when the people of Ashdod arose early in the morning, there was **Dagon, fallen on its face** to the earth before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again.

⁴ And when they arose early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the

ground before the ark of the LORD. **The head of Dagon** and both the palms of its hands were **broken off** on the threshold; only Dagon's torso was left of it.

In a moment we will be seeing the same thing happening to Dagon's spokesman – Goliath.

- Just as Dagon fell on his face before the ark, we will see Goliath (the spokesman) fall on his face before David (God's spokesman).
- And just as Dagon's head was broken off, so will the head of Goliath be cut off.
- Beware the god you choose to follow – for his fate will be your own.

Repeat:

³ The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

There was no "unity in diversity." No one was going over to the other's revivals to show goodwill. Everyone here stood on principles.

- If Dagon is the true god, then Israel is wrong and will die for opposing him.
- If Jehovah is the true God ...

1 Samuel 17:4-7

⁴ And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

⁵ He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.

⁶ And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders.

⁷ Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.

Here is a formidable opponent. There was no one in Israel who was a match for him.

1 Samuel 9:2

² [Kish] had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward **he was taller than any of the people.**

- **Saul was handsome** – but it will take more than good looks to save Israel from this dilemma.
- **Saul was taller** than any of the people – but not even he was a match for Goliath.

Goliath is coated in bronze and iron. He is a mighty warrior and awesome to behold.

I can hardly keep from thinking about **the awesome image King Nebuchadnezzar** dreamed about (Dan 2):

- It had a belly and thighs of bronze.
- It had legs of iron.

Nebuchadnezzar saw **a stone** cut out of the mountain and hurled at this "*great image*" and struck it and destroyed it.

Perhaps what happens here to Goliath was used as a backdrop to describe to Nebuchadnezzar what would soon happen to the world empires of which his was one.

THE "HOPELESS" FEELING

So great and awesome was Goliath that no one thought he could be beaten. It seemed hopeless for Israel.

1 Samuel 17

¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were **dismayed and greatly afraid**.

²⁴ And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were **dreadfully afraid**.

NOTE: This is the same story you read about in Rev 12.

Revelation 12:1-4

¹ Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, **a great, fiery red dragon** having seven

heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

Q: What chance does this woman and her baby have against this dragon?

A: They will have as much chance as David and Israel will have with Goliath.

NOTE: The story of David and Goliath is more than a bedtime story. It is the story of a battle coming between the Devil and the Lord.

- **Goliath is a type of the Devil.**
- **David is a type of Jesus Christ.**

THE CHALLENGE

Now comes the challenge issued by Goliath:

1 Samuel 17:8-10

⁸ Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me.

⁹ If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."

¹⁰ And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

This is a rare challenge of its kind in the Bible – a challenge where the lives of all God's people will be determined by two men representing each side.

- It is happening here between Goliath and Israel.
- According to Gen 3:15, it will happen again when the "**seed of the serpent**" and the "**seed of the woman**" clash at the cross for the souls of men.

The fate of God's people is being put on the line.

- Only one will represent God's people.
- There will be only one fight.
- Everyone's fate lies in the outcome of the one battle.

1 Samuel 17:16

¹⁶ And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.

There is more defiance here.

The priests of Israel were offering sacrifices to God every morning and every evening. **During the worship of Jehovah God** the enemy defies God and His people.

There was no one in all of Israel who dared to step forward and meet this challenge.

Is this not what we see again in Jesus?

Revelation 5:1-4

¹ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "**Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?**"

³ And **no one** in heaven or on the earth or under the earth **was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.**

⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

In this great scroll are the plans of God – plans to defeat the Devil.

Q: Who is worthy to remove the seals and carry out the plans of God?

- No one was found in Israel to fight Goliath.
- No one was found in heaven or earth to fight the great Dragon.

DAVID IS SENT

The hope of God's people is now introduced to us:

1 Samuel 17:12-15

¹² Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced in years, in the days of Saul.

¹⁴ David was the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul.

¹⁵ But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

Here is a shepherd boy – the least likely of anyone to kill Goliath.

A great contrast is emerging between Saul (the present king) and David (the upcoming king).

- **When Saul lived at home** he lost his father's donkeys and was sent to search for them (1 Sam 9).
- **When David lived at home** he risked his life against a bear and lion and protected his father's sheep (1 Sam 17:34-36).

(This is not incidental info.)

- David is a shepherd who, at risk of his own life, protects some sheep.
- God will now use him to protect His sheep.

1 Samuel 17:17-18

¹⁷ Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp.

¹⁸ And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them."

Here the father of David sends him to check on the welfare of his brothers.

Q: What are we seeing?

A: We are seeing a prefigure of the Father sending His own Son to check on the welfare of His brothers.

1 John 4:14

¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that **the Father has sent the Son** as Savior of the world.

Like David, the Lord Jesus is the Good Shepherd who would risk His life for the sheep:

John 10:14-15

¹⁴ **I am the good shepherd**; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

¹⁵ As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and **I lay down My life for the sheep.**

HATED BY BROTHERS

There's more.

When David was sent to check on his brothers' welfare, they actually ended up hating him for it.

1 Samuel 17:26-28

²⁶ Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

²⁷ And the people answered him in this manner, saying, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him."

²⁸ Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and **Eliab's anger was aroused against David**, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

What did David do to receive this kind of treatment? This was unprovoked anger.

But what do we see in the New David? Do we not see the same thing?

John 1:11

¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

Mark 3:21

²¹ But when **His own people** heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "**He is out of His mind.**"

John 7:5

⁵ For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

"LET NO MAN'S HEART FAIL"

When King Saul heard David's talk, he sent for David:

1 Samuel 17:31-32

³¹ Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him.

³² Then David said to Saul, "**Let no man's heart fail** because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

"Let no man's heart fail" – when I read that, I think of the words of Jesus, the New David, as He was headed for the cross He told His disciples:

John 14:1

¹ "**Let not your heart be troubled**; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

UNCONVENTIONAL WAREFARE

Saul listened to David and finally consented:

1 Samuel 17:37

³⁷ ... And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

But:

- Did Saul really have a choice?
- Was anyone else volunteering?
- There was no one else to choose from!

The fate of all Israel now rested on the shoulders of this young man David.

So it was in the case of Jesus. The fate of all God's people rested on His shoulders.

One man:

This sheds more light on the immense pressure on our Lord, knowing that just one slip would result in the permanent servitude of man to the sin which he hated. No wonder he appeared **a man of sorrows**. With that weight on him was he ever jovial, light hearted, off hand? **Surely the growing flippancy and laid back, humorous atmosphere in our meetings is alien to this spirit of Christ?**

http://www.aletheiacollege.net/bl/6-1David_And_Goliath.htm (accessed 8/2/15)

1 Samuel 17:38-39

³⁸ So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail.

³⁹ David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off.

David appears to be 18 to 20 years old.

- He's young enough to be called a "youth" (Heb.: "lad").
- He's old enough to fit into Saul's armour.

All this armour is founded in conventional wisdom. If you're going to fight, you put on the gear of a soldier.

But David would not use conventional wisdom.

In the same way:

- Conventional wisdom held the Messiah (New David) would come as a mighty warrior.
- Israel forgot the story of the first David fighting Goliath.
- He did not wear the armor of the soldiers.
- He got his shepherd's staff and chose five smooth stones from the brook.

Q: Why five stones?

A: Because Goliath had a brother and three sons (2 Sam 21:16-22). David was ready to kill the entire family.

1 Samuel 17:41-47

⁴¹ So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him.

⁴² And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, **he despised him**; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking.

⁴³ So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

⁴⁴ And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, 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.

⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

⁴⁷ Then all this assembly shall know that **the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's**, and He will give you into our hands."

"the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's" – How our people need to learn this lesson.

- Our people are slowly concluding, "The Lord saves by hand-guns."
- "The Lord saves by concealed weapons."

No.

All the handguns in the world won't save someone if God doesn't want them saved. And all the guns in the world won't kill you if God doesn't want you dead. We live and die at the hand of God.

A SLING & A STONE

At last the battle begins:

1 Samuel 17:48-49

⁴⁸ So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

⁴⁹ Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and **struck the Philistine in his forehead**, so that **the stone sank into his forehead**, and he fell on his face to the earth.

Here is the fatal blow to the head.

I cannot help but remember the prophecy given to the Serpent:

Genesis 3:15

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel."

Goliath fell on his face to the earth just as his god (Dagon) had done a few years earlier.

Goliath represented the Serpent, the great Dragon.

- The serpent was to be bruised in the head.
- Goliath is now struck in the head.

But David isn't finished:

1 Samuel 17:50-51

⁵⁰ So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.
⁵¹ Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, **took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. ...**

David used Goliath's own weapon and killed him.

But what did the New David do?

Hebrews 2:14-15

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that **through death He might destroy him who had the power of death**, that is, the devil,
¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Jesus used the Devil's own weapon against him.

"those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" – men have been afraid to die from the beginning. Some, for fear of death, denied the Lord, turned their backs on Him. Others fearing the death of their families, denied the Lord.

But Jesus conquered death. Now His people would not be afraid to serve Him – even if it means death – because they know death has been conquered.

- "Go ahead ... kill me ... kill my family – it doesn't matter! We're all going to be resurrected one day."
- The Devil has no more leverage ... no more power over true believers.
- By dying and resurrecting, Jesus destroyed the ultimate weapon the Devil had to "force" men and women into submitting to his evil.

Colossians 2:14-15

¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, **He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**

CONCLUSION

As we bring our study to a close, I wish to read this passage again:

Revelation 12:1-11

¹ Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

⁵ **She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron.** And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "**Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come**, for the accuser of our brethren, **who accused them before our God day and night**, has been cast down.

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Here was the "**accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God every morning and evening**" cast out.

- He lost the battle.
- The Child, who appeared to have no chance, defeated the Dragon.

This is the picture we see when we read the story of David and Goliath.