

"David and Goliath"

1 Samuel 17

Introduction: In a few weeks we will get back to our study in the book of Revelation but for today we are going to look at a message from 1 Samuel 17. Here in this text we find the story of David and Goliath which is familiar to all of us.

This week on Tuesday July 4th we will celebrate INDEPENDENCE DAY. This is a holiday which marks the Declaration of Independence in which the 13 colonies declared their independence from Britain in 1776.

John Adams had written to his wife Abigail:

"The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. It marked a day of freedom and it was the start of the United States of America. It is a day which every one of us should celebrate.

There is however a greater freedom which man can enjoy and that is the freedom which we shall see today as we look closely at the story of David and Goliath.

I. The Battle

Notice 1 Samuel 17:1-3

Here is the setting for that which we are about to look at. Israel was in a battle with the Philistines. The Philistines were a people who had proved to be "thorn in the flesh" for the people of Israel since the days of Abraham.

Allow me to give you some background on the Philistines. They are first mentioned in Genesis 10 in the Table of Nations. They descended from a man named Mizraim.

Genesis 10:13, 14

¹³ And **Mizraim** begat Ludim, and Anamim, and Lehabim, and Naphtuhim,

¹⁴ And Pathrusim, and Casluhim, (out of whom came **Philistim**;) and Caphtorim.

Mizraim's name means "EGYPT". Egypt is a type of the world in the Scriptures and so because the Philistines came descended from this man we can see that they too are a type of the world.

They would represent the temptations, the trials, and the battles which the believer faces as he passes through this world.

Now let me show you something which happened in the days of Abraham and Isaac which will help us to see the mission of the Philistines.

Genesis 26:15-18

¹⁵ For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth.

¹⁶ And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we.

¹⁷ And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

¹⁸ And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them.

Abraham's servants had dug wells in the land of Canaan and after Abraham died the Philistines went around and filled in all the wells. **Water was a source of refreshment and a source of life. Water was a necessity in a dry and barren land.** By filling in the wells we can see that it was the mission of the Philistines to steal away from God's people the source of life and refreshment in the dry and barren land.

Application:

The water in the wells represents what we have in Jesus Christ.

John 4:10, 14

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

¹⁴ *But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

So the battle which Israel had with the Philistines is a picture of the battles we have in this world as Satan and his demons do their best to steal away the peace, joy, and the refreshment which we have in Christ as we pass through this dry and barren land.

II. The Giant

Notice 1 Samuel 17:4-11

Here we are introduced to Goliath. He stood 9 feet 9 inches tall. His clothing weighed about 125 pounds. His spear with the head weighed about 32 pounds. As he came out against the people of Israel he challenged them to send their very best soldier to fight against him. This was often the way in which battles were fought. There would be 2 soldiers from each army who would fight and whoever won would bring victory to his army. The loser's army would then be subject to the winner's army.

Goliath intimidated the people of Israel and caused them to all live in fear. Israel was paralyzed with fear.

Application:

Goliath is a picture of the challenges which we face as we pass through this life. There are some which are small but then there are those which are GIANTS and they fill our lives full of fear and they rob us of the peace and refreshment which we are to enjoy in Christ.

Notice 1 Samuel 17:16

Goliath presented himself morning and evening and so for 40 days he continued to intimidate Israel.

Application:

This is what happens in the believer's life also. You come face to face with something that has presented itself as a GIANT and it is there morning and evening. It stands at your bed when you lie down and it is standing there when you wake up.

Now let me help you with something here for a moment just in case you are facing a GIANT today.

In this verse we are told that Goliath presented himself 40 days. When I read this God started to stir my mind about the number 40. Let me share some things with you.

1. The Flood

Genesis 7:12

¹² *And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.*

2. Moses in the Mount.

Exodus 24:18

¹⁸ *And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.*

3. The Spies in Canaan.

Numbers 13:25

²⁵ *And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.*

4. Jonah's warning to Nineveh.

Jonah 3:4

⁴ *And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.*

5. Jesus in the Wilderness.

Mark 1:13

¹³ *And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.*

6. Jesus time on earth after the resurrection.

Acts 1:3

³ *To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*

There are others also but I shall use these to help us to see the point. The number 40 in each of these speaks of a time of testing. Now listen to this, after each of these 40 day periods came great blessing.

Now let me get you back to the text. This was a time of testing for Israel. This tells me that God permitted this to happen to teach them to be dependent upon Him.

If you are facing a GIANT in your life you need to know that this is a period of testing and God is in control. He desires that you will learn to rest in Him as you face the GIANT. He desires for you and me to be less self-dependent and more God-dependent.

III. The Deliverer

Notice 1 Samuel 17:17-51

David killed Goliath with the sling and a stone. It was the FAITH of David which God honored.

Saul or any of the people of Israel could have killed Goliath if they had just walked by faith.

Application:

If you are facing a GIANT today then you need to walk by faith and face that GIANT head on. Don't be intimidated. It is a test and if you walk by faith God will honor your faith. Do what He desires for you to do.

Hebrews 11:1, 6

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

IV. The Picture

Now there is something here that you do not see on the surface and it is in this picture that we can see the GREATEST FREEDOM of all. You see in the story of David and Goliath there is a picture of our salvation.

Goliath can be seen as a man who represents the greatest enemy of man and that is death. Man fears death and he has absolutely no power over death.

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AM Service

But there is good news. Just as Jesse sent his son to the battle so God the Father sent His Son into the world. Jesus came from heaven into this world to defeat death. He went to the cross and He died for our sins and He then rose from the grave in victory.

Hebrews 2:14, 15

¹⁴ *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

¹⁵ **And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

Conclusion:

John 8:36

³⁶ *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*