

Rise & Fall (David & Goliath & Jesus)

Andy Deane · 6/18/2023 · 1 Samuel 17

Today we'll be reminded that while life's problems are overwhelming, Jesus will step in on our behalf & fight for us.

1 Samuel 17, 1...the Philistines gathered their armies...2...in the Valley of Elah...4 and there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath...whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail...8 He stood and shouted...“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”...11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid...16 For forty days the Philistine came forward...20 David rose early in the morning and ...went...to the encampment...23 Goliath...came up out...And David heard him. 24 All the men of Israel...fled from him and were much afraid...32 And David said to Saul, “Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight...” 33 And Saul said...“You are not able to...for you are but a youth...” 34 But David said...36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears...” 37 ...The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said...“Go, and the Lord be with you!” 40 Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook...His sling was in his hand, and he approached...43 And the Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air...” 45 Then David said...“You come to me with a sword and 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...that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all...may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's”...48 David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. 49 And...put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine...and he fell on his face to the ground...51 When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. 52 And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath...

#1 Our real problem is even bigger than we know (1 Samuel 17:4-10)

- God foretold there would be conflict between Satan and God's people: *Genesis 3:15, I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*
- Goliath was Satan's current attack on God's people. So Goliath is a beast of a warrior, and Satan backs him.
- Practical problems are difficult enough, but we have two other problems: our sin nature & our spiritual enemy.

#2 To overcome our problems we need to be powerful and perfect (1 Samuel 17:8-10)

- Israel had to choose someone brave enough, strong enough, & skilled enough to beat Goliath.
- With our practical problems, we often try and make a plan: How do we turn things around? How do we go from losing to winning? What, if we perform it perfectly, can help us overcome our problem?

#3 The truth that scares us is that we aren't sufficient to fix all our problems (1 Samuel 17:11, 16)

- This story is teaching us that the Israelites can not beat Goliath.
- God uses overwhelming problems for a loving purpose: to show us that we'll never be enough to control life.
- Some of life's problems are just too big to fix, and that's scary.

#4 Our only hope is that someone else will step in (1 Samuel 17:32-51)

- When David goes in to battle on Israel's behalf, he steps in between Goliath and them. He is not a full-grown man, but a vulnerable and weak boy. It seems he goes like a sacrificial lamb, yet God uses his apparent weakness as the means to impossible victory. David becomes Israel's champion and foreshadows Jesus.
- The Son of David, Jesus, stepped in between God's wrath toward sin and us, when He went to the cross. He looked weak and defeated, & was our sacrificial lamb. As our substitute, He defeated Satan, sin and death!
- Our hope during struggles is that we actually aren't the savior of our story, Jesus is.

#5 Because Jesus overcame sin and death, I can overcome with His grace (1 Samuel 17:51-53)

- We see ourselves in the Israelites, who needed saving, but were inspired by David's victory to join in the fight.
- *Romans 16:20, The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord...be with you.*
- The Bible is not about us, it's for us, but it's about God and his unfolding work of redemption in Jesus Christ.