

1 Samuel Lesson 30 David and Goliath Part One

Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

Philistines: During the reign of Saul, there was continual conflict with this nation. They had a highly trained military. Due to their control of the metallurgy trade, they had superior weapons and armor. This put the Israelites at a definite disadvantage when facing them in battle. They worshiped dagon, a god whom they believed controlled crop production and the weather. Dagon was said to be the father of Baal.

Socoh and the Valley of Elah: This area was of strategic importance to both Israel and the Philistines. It was situated along the main east- to- west route between Philistia and the central hill country of Judah.

Goliath's Size, Armor and Weapons.: Goliath's size is estimated to be about 9 and a half feet tall. His body armor was bronze and weighed around 125 pounds. His spear had an iron point that weighed 15 pounds.

Champion Warfare: At times in the Ancient Middle East, individual warriors functioned as representatives of their respective armies.

Key Words:

servants: Strong's H5650 "ebed": to work or serve. A king's subjects in Bible times were his servants and included his officers, officials, ambassadors and his vassal kings.

dismayed: Strong's H2865 "chathath": from a primitive root meaning to "break down" either from violence or from confusion or fear. It can also mean to be shattered or terrified.

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-11

1. According to 1 Samuel 17:1-3 what were the Philistines and Saul and his men doing? Where were they located? Who initiated the attack?

2. In 17:4 -7 we are introduced to Goliath. What are we told about his appearance, armor and weapons? How did this contribute to his ability to strike fear in the hearts of his enemies?

3. In 17:8-10 what arrogant challenge does Goliath shout to Saul and the men of Israel?

Application: As Christians we are often attacked by our enemy Satan. How is he described in I Peter 5:8

4. According to 17:11 how did Saul and his men react to Goliath's taunts? What were they focused on? Who or what should they have been focused on? What does this reveal about Saul's heart for God?

Application: Satan's attacks can also leave us debilitated with fear. How should we respond according to James 4:7-8, Psalm 34:4

5. Read Deuteronomy 20:1-4. How could remembering these truths have been an encouragement to Saul and the Israelites?

