

1Samuel 17

The Famous God Who Saves a People for the Glory of His Name

Thursday, November 3, 2022 ▫ Read 1Samuel 17

Questions from the Scripture text: What was the arrangement of the camps of the Philistines and Israelites in v1-3? Who went out from the Philistines (v4)? What was he like (v4-7)? What challenge did he make (v8-10)? How do Saul and Israel respond (v11)? What is Jesse's condition (v12b)? What are his sons doing at this time (v12-14)? What did David sometimes do (v15)? What does Jesse have him do on one of these occasions (v12-19)? What is happening when David arrives (v20-23)? How do the men of Israel respond (v23-24)? What additional info do they give us in v25, 27, 30? Why is David incredulous at this reward offer (v26)? Who is irritated at this, and what does he say (v28-29)? Who hears and sends for David (v31)? What does David say to him (v32)? But what does Saul say (v33)? What has David done (v34-36), and why is he certain that this will be the same (v36-37a)? How does Saul respond (v37b)? What does Saul try to give him, and why doesn't it help (v38-39)? What does David take instead (v40)? What does the Philistine think of David (v41-42)? What does he say to/about him (v43-44)? How does David respond in v45? What does he say Yahweh will do, and what does David say that he himself will do (v46)? What will this assembly then know (v47)? How does David respond when the Philistine approaches (v48)? What does he do in v49? But what did David not have (v50)? So, whose does he use to do what in v51? And how do the Philistines respond? How do the Israelites respond (v52-3)? What does David do with the Philistine's head (v53, 57)? Armor (v54)? What (kind of odd, considering ch16) question does Saul ask Abner in v55 and David in v58?

What are we to learn from great battle victories? 1Samuel 17 looks forward to the second reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these fifty-eight verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the purpose of great battle victories is not to impress us with the men who fight them but to impress us with God, Who gives all victories.**

Famous me and famous victories. This is one of the most famous stories in the Bible. That's a challenge for us: is what we see here the famousness of the details, the actors, the actions, and the outcomes? Or is what we see here the honor and glory of God Himself? All of Scripture, 1Samuel as a whole, and this passage all urge us to see that God Himself is the real story.

We've had Saul (9:2) and Eliab (16:6-7) described to us as physically impressive, so the Holy Spirit has prepared us not to be as impressed with Goliath as everyone else is. Israel (v24), Philistia (v51b), Saul (v25), Eliab (v28), and Goliath himself (v43) all seem quite impressed with him.

David's famous God. But David's big problem is that none of them seem to be impressed enough with God (v26, 36). Goliath, Saul, and Eliab may be on different sides, but they all seem to agree about David, because they're all failing to see the greatness of David's God.

Let us not make the same mistake—whether with Goliath, or with David. It's God with Whom David was impressed when it came to the lion and the bear (v39), and it's God with Whom David expects us all to be impressed by the time this is over (end of v46).

If we come away content to be impressed with David, 2Samuel is going to end up to be a rather deflating experience in the deficiencies of our hero. But, if we come away impressed with God, we will come away impressed by far more than the courage He worked in David through faith in Himself.

If it is God Himself Who is impressing us in this passage, we will come away sobered that He does not take despising Him lightly. We will come away encouraged that He destroys all of His and our enemies. We will come away remembering that this was one event, among many, by which God Himself was coming in Christ to be our Savior. We will come away reverencing and trusting and worshipping.

1Samuel 17 is not telling us to identify our Goliaths, or even so much to be swift and courageous like David. 1Samuel 17 is inviting us to behold our God, and trust in Him, and honor and serve Him, regardless of what faces us or comes to us in the process.

How is God being underestimated by the culture? By the church? By your own heart?

Sample prayer: Lord, forgive us for not having our hearts tuned to see Your glory and greatness in every circumstance, let alone in great battles and victories. We grieve that our hearts are so easily impressed with others, and even with ourselves, but not easily enough impressed with You. Give us adoration and admiration for You, through Christ Who has adored You perfectly, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

ARP45A "My Heart Is Greatly Stirred" or TPH45A "My Heart Is Greatly Stirred"

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit bit.ly/harpCHAH

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

First Samuel 17, the whole chapter.

Now, the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle and we're gathered at Soko which belongs to Judah. They encamped between Socoh and Isaac and Bethlemene, and Saul, and the men of Israel were gathered together and they encamped in the Valley of Elah and drew up in battle array against the Philistines.

The Philistine stood on a mountain on one side Israel. Stood on the other side, with a valley between them. And the champion went out from the camp of the Philistines named Goliath from Gath. There's height was six cubits into span. He had a bronze helmet on his head and he was armed with a coat of mail and the way to the coat was 5,000 shekels of bronze and he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders.

Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam and his iron spearhead weighed 600 shekels and a shield bore went before him. 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. If he was 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.

And the Philistine said I defy the armies of Israel. This day, give me a man that we may fight together. When Saul and all Israel heard, these words, the Philistine. They were dismayed and greatly afraid. Now, David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse and who had seven sons and the man was old and advanced years in the days of Saul. The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone, to follow Saul to the battle. The names of his three sons, who went to the battle, where Eliab the firstborn next to him?

I've been a dab in the third Shema. David was the youngest and the three oldest followed. But David occasionally went and returned from the field to feed his

father's sheep at Bethlehem and the Philistine jr. And presented himself, 40 days, morning and evening. Then Jesse said to his son, David take now, for your brothers and Eva of the drug, this dried grain and these 10 loaves and run to your brothers at the camp and carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brother is fair and bring back news of them.

So, Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel were in the valley of Elah fighting with the Philistines. So, David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him, and he came to the camp as the army is going out to fight and shouting for the battle for Israel, and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array against the army, and David left his supplies in the hand of the supply, keeper ran to the army and came and greeted.

His brothers. Then as he talked with them, there was the champion the Philistine of Gath Goliath. My name coming up from the army's the Philistines and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them and all the men of Israel when they saw the man fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.

So the men of Israel said, have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel, and it will be that the man who kills him. The king will enrich. The great riches will give him his daughter and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel and David spoke to the men who stood by him saying, What shall be done for the man who kills this, Listen and takes away.

The reproach from Israel For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should define the armies of the Living? God. And the people answered him in this manner saying social it be done for the man who kills him. Now all you have his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the man 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 you're proud in the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle. And David said, what have I done now? Is there not a cause? Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing.

And these people answered him as the first ones did. Now when the words, which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul and he sent for them. Then David said to Saul, let no man's heart fail because of him, your servant will go and fight with this Philistine and Saul said today, but you are not able to go against this voice and fight with him for you are a youth, and he is a man of war from his youth.

But David said to Saul your servant used to keep his father's sheep, I'm gonna lie in or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock. I went out after it and struck it and deliver the lamb from its mouth. When it rose up against me, I caught it by its beard and struck and killed it.

Your servant is killed both lion and bear and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them seeing he is defied, the armies of the Living. God. Moreover David said, you always who delivered me from the paw of the lion than from the paw of the bear. He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine and Saul said to David go and you always be with you.

So Saul closed David with his armor and he put a bronze helmet on his head. He also clothed him with the coat of mail David fastened, his sword to his armor and tried to walk with David. Not tested them. David said to Saul, I cannot walk with these for, I've not tested them So David took them off.

Then he took his staff in his hand and he chose for himself five, smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag in a pouch, which he had. And his sling was in his hand and heater, and ear to the Philistine. So the Philistine came and being drawn began drawing near to David and the man who bore the shield went before him and when the Philistine looked about and saw David He despised him for, he was only a youth ruddy and good looking.

So the first and said to David, am I a dog that you come to me with sticks and the Philistine cursed David, by his gods from the list and said to David come to me and I will give your flesh to the birds of the year and the beast of the field.

Then David said to the Philistine, you come to me with a sword with a spear with a javelin but I come to you in the name of Yahweh of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel whom you have despised. This day, you always 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 year in the wild beasts of the earth that all the earth. May know that there is a God in Israel, then all this assembly shall know that you always does not say with sword.

And spear for the battle. As you always, He will give you a dark hands. And so it was when the Philistine came and drew near to meet David that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and he slung it and struck the Philistine in this forehead.

So the stone sunk into his forehead, sank, into his forehead. And he fell on his face to the earth. So, David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling in a stone and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran instead over the list and took his sword, drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it.

And when the Philistine saw that their champion was dead, they fled. Now, the men of Israel, Judah rose and shouted and pursued, the Philistines. As far as the entrance of the valley, into the gates of Ecrum, and the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Bezer. Shammah Even as far as Gath and Bezer, then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines.

And they plundered their tents and David took the head of the Philistine brought it to Jerusalem and he put his armor in his tent. When Saul saw David going, a bit going out against us and he said, to Abner the commander of the army Abner, whose son is this youth?

And Abner said, as you're so lives, O king, I do not know. So the king said, inquire whose son, this young man is then as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine in Abner, took him and brought him before. Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

It's all set and whose son. Are you young man? So, David answered, I am the son of your servant, Jesse. The Bethel Knight. And that sends this reading of God's inspired and inerrant words. It's a very famous passage. Sadly, the passage is famous for some things that aren't even true.

We don't know that Goliath was dead. In fact, probably, he doesn't die until he gets his head. Chopped off with his own sword. I grew up being taught that David had killed the lion and the bear with a slinging a stone not that he had jumped the lion and killed him with his bare hands by yanking on his beard and beating him to death.

David is not probably the scrawny little boy and all the cute little Bible illustrations. He's young The way you could tell he hadn't been to war yet is he's not all hacked up with scars. Like Goliath is, but he's still good looking, But he's very strong. He doesn't reject Saul's armor because it's too big for him.

He rejects Saul's armor because it isn't tried out yet and you don't go into battle with untested equipment. So David is strong and wise and a whole lot better than The story is making out to be. So we've got famous men. Goliath is pretty famous. He thought pretty highly of himself.

Saul thought pretty highly of him. Didn't think very highly of David.

I thought David was too young and an experienced, but the point of the passage is not a famous man or a famous victory, It's a famous God. The point of the victory was so that all the earth would know that there was a God in Israel and that all of the Israelites who are wetting themselves.

Every time they saw this listin and running, okay, they weren't actually wetting themselves. I should not said that three CB, but they were running in fear. Every time they saw saw the Fliston, Every one of them should have known that the Lord saves by his strong arm. And it's not a matter of how strong or skilled they are.

That God has a people that he has set apart to himself by what we know is the blood and righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. As signified in circumcision. I'm David says, How can you guys let this uncircumcised flicston? Say these things and scare you as if the Living God doesn't exist.

And so it's not just you need to know that there's a garden Israel. That's the men of Israel. All this assembly. Uses a word that we might even translate church or congregation shall know that Yahweh does not save with sword and spear for the battle as Yahweh and he will give you into our hands.

Obviously. There's a lot more in this chapter. It's a long chapter but that's the main thing. It's not, you need to be as stronger as brave as David. It's not recognize the Goliath in your life so that you can defeat it. Let's recognize the Lord who is in your life.

So that everything big or small is to be faced trusting in him serving him and confident that God who has set you apart for himself by the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ is not gonna let you ultimately be destroyed. Even if you love not your life unto death and you die, If you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ a little overcome by the blood of the Lamb and by the Word of his testimony Indeed you didn't receive circumcision as a covenant sign.

You received baptism as a covenant sign because Jesus has come, he has died and he has risen. Again, he's ascended to the throne and he sits on the throne of glory ruling. All things until his enemies are made of footstool for his feet. So baptism signifies to you, that Jesus's blood is already shed and washes, you clean from your sin and baptism signifies that he does this washing applying of his blood to you.

By pouring out his spirit from where he sits, Christian baptism is a reminder that our resurrected redeemer is sitting on the throne of heaven. And so, if David could draw all of this theology and see the seal of it and circumcision and have that confidence in what God was going to do, may not be by the Holy Spirit, applying to us His Word.

And His sacrament have every confidence that the Lord will bring us at last into that, which he is determined to give us in his love. And by his will Sofia, can God do all things plastic to do always fully wear? Yes. God can do all his holy will and that holy will is to redeem all those.

He has brought to himself by faith in Christ and then let's pray.

Father in heaven, we pray that you would blessed to us as portion of your word that you would be glorified by what you do in our lives. That you would give us a holy indignation when either others are not giving you the credit that you deserve or even when we ourselves are anxious and fearful make us indignant as at our sin and bring us to repentance restoring confidence and hope.

And you and make a making us willing to employ all that you have given us an enabled us to do in your service. We thank you that even if we die. Yeah, we shall live. And we who live by faith in you, We'll never die. We ask that you would help us not to be impressed by men or a moments nearly as much as we are impressed by you.

Grant that you would dwarf all other things and people and powers put together that you would have the great place in our mind. And in our hearts, we ask it in Jesus name, amen.