

# Knocking Down a Giant

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

- A. Every child in Bible class knows the account of David and Goliath.
  - 1. How well do they know the whole story? More to the point, how well do you know it?
  - 2. Not as well as you think you do. A re-examination of this simple account surprised me with all of the things I have overlooked for years
- B. We know the cast of characters
  - 1. Big, boasting Goliath represents an angry, raging world seeking to destroy all that is good and godly - 1Sam. 17:8-10
  - 2. Fearful, trembling Israel represents a faithless people who believe in God but, through weakness of faith, fail to conquer in His name.
    - a. 1Sam. 17:11
  - 3. Strong, quiet David represents the Christian whose faith is in God and who relies on the power of God - 1Sam. 17:37

## I. A BAG WITH FIVE SMOOTH STONES CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

- A. 1Sam. 17:40 - There is nothing incidental or accidental in the word of God
  - 1. Ever wonder: "Why more than one stone? Wasn't David a man of faith? Did he doubt that God would give him perfect timing and aim as he used his sling to take on the gigantic enemy of God's people?"
    - a. God's people are a prepared people. It does not impugn their faith for them to be diligent in preparation.
    - b. We are commanded to pray earnestly for our needs (Luke 11:3), and then we are commanded to work diligently to provide it (2Thes. 3:10)
  - 2. Ever wonder: "Why was he so careful in his selection of the stones? Why not just scoop up a handful of rocks and get on with it; after all, Goliath was waiting for him and the future of Israel was at stake. Why pick smooth stones?"
    - a. A jagged rock wouldn't go in the right direction.
    - b. A rough rock wouldn't go the correct distance.
    - c. A misshapen rock wouldn't penetrate the mark.
  - 3. He didn't foolishly say, "The Lord is going to do it anyway, so I'll just pick up any old rock." He recognized human responsibility as well as Divine Providence
    - a. His preparations would make little sense to a seasoned warrior like Saul, but, it was what David knew; it was what he could do - 1Sam. 17:38-39
    - b. Our weapons might not make sense to the worldly, but we are armed with what God's wisdom has determined is suited to our abilities and designed to defeat our enemies - 2Cor. 10:3-5
- B. We will face our own Goliaths throughout our lives: fear, insecurity, loneliness, failure, sexual temptation, love of money and the things it will buy, laziness,

out of control anger, arrogance, despair and a host of other monsters. What kinds of stones can we choose to put in our bag as we gear up to face them?

1. The first stone is COURAGE - 1Sam. 17:32
  - a. It takes danger to bring courage out in us. We often do not know of its presence in our life until we are in danger.
2. The second stone is CONFIDENCE - 1Sam. 17:37
  - a. Confidence has no purpose in a life without challenges.
  - b. Confidence in a man without trials becomes arrogance; confidence in a man under trial becomes both mass and force that drives him forward
3. The third stone is PREPARATION - 1Sam. 17:40
  - a. Preparation manifests character, wisdom, humility, determination, and a host of rare, highly desired qualities
4. The fourth stone is TRUST - David did not trust in his own ability to slay the giant - 1Sam. 17:45
5. The fifth stone is VICTORY - David said, "It is God's battle"; and therefore, the victory is His, too - 1Sam. 17:50

## II. GIANTS GET BACK UP

- A. We seldom hear the whole account because the battle between David and Goliath was just part of a long saga of conflict between Israel and Philistia
  1. That is illustrative of life. Life is not a single great event, but a long series of episodes, each of which must be experienced one moment at a time, every day from birth to death
- B. Are you aware that Goliath had four sons who were gigantic and great warriors in their own right? These four were roughly David's age or older when he fought and killed their father Goliath on the battle plain at Soco. They would have remembered him and would want revenge - 2Sam. 21:15-22
  1. Ishbi-Benob wielded a bronze spear weighing in at 12 pounds (1.5 times as heavy as a sledgehammer) and was outfitted with a brand new shield and sword, went to find David and kill him (perhaps in revenge for his father). If Abishai had not come up and helped David, he would have been killed. "The men of David swore to him, saying, 'You shall go out no more with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel.'"
  2. Saph was another son of Goliath killed at the first battle of Gob by Sibbechai, a great mercenary warrior from Cush in Africa
  3. The son of Goliath called the Gittite who also used a weaver's beam shafted spear was killed at the second battle of Gob by Elhanan of Bethlehem, a captain in David's army
  4. A fourth son of Goliath who was unnamed but had 24 digits was killed at the battle of Gath by David's nephew, Jonathan the son of Shimea
- C. Just because you knock down your giant today doesn't mean four more won't crop up again tomorrow to challenge you again
  1. Life is not about one great quest or defined by a single glorious battle
    - a. High school stars doing nothing today but reliving glory days

2. Life is a quest that begins at birth and ends in the Judgment; it is a battle that begins when you face your first temptation in your youth and continues until the moment you breathe your last in this realm
3. It is easier to die for Jesus than it is to live for Him. The proof of that is found in the old directories of countless congregations. They catalogue a roster of the multitudes of Christians who fell to sin, soldiers of Christ who would never come home
4. The Vietnam War Memorial is a somber sight; imagine how long and dark would be the wall listing the names of those who fell to Goliath's sons of sin and error today

### **III. FAITH IS THE VICTORY**

- A. Faith is the factor that made all of the difference in David's battle with Goliath
  1. David had faith in God; he lived and won the battle
  2. King Saul had faith in God but looked toward himself and his knees trembled; he lost his honor and his kingdom
  3. Israel had faith in God but looked to a man for leadership and salvation; they were humiliated and rebuked
  4. Goliath had faith in himself and died in shame and pain.
- B. Faith is the factor that makes all of the difference in our battles with our giants
  1. Faith in God resolutely faces challenges; it does not complain about the magnitude of the problem.
    - a. Faith in self or in others leads to failure and a search for someone to blame
  2. Faith in God overcomes obstacles regardless of how limited our weapons, resources, and strength may be. This is true because God adds His power to ours - Rev. 3:8, 10
    - a. Faith in self or in things is only as strong as the self or the thing. It inevitably runs out and falls down
  3. Faith in God wins the victory every time - 1John 5:4-5