

Session 4 David and Goliath: Overcoming Giants (1 Sam. 17)

I. INTRODUCTION

1 Samuel 17 is the famous chapter about David and Goliath. The problem with this chapter is that it has often been reduced to an exciting children's church story, but it is much more than just a fun kid's story. It presents very, very significant set of truths. It is about how we approach giants.

We can apply this in our individual lives as the enemy is wanting to bring us into bondage to many things. There are giants in our own inner life trying to conquer us and defeat us. Then there are giants that are resisting the will of God in our ministry: other people or other forces from economics to people to demonic spirits. Then there are giants resisting our city and our nations. There are giants resisting the God's purpose in a generation. So there are many different ways to apply this chapter and the principles that are in it.

- A. In this passage we see David as bold and courageous, pursuing and driving out God's enemies. In David's generation, the Philistines were one of the most advanced armies in the world, because they were one of the first nations to use iron and, thus, to develop iron weapons. This gave them a great advantage in battle over Israel. Goliath, their champion, was unstoppable by human means.

In this passage we see the face of David as bold and courageous. We see him many times as tender, as merciful, as generous. Here we see the zealous warrior, the bold, courageous one who is pursuing God's enemies, driving them out of the sphere that God has given to His people. Now significant to this chapter is the fact that the Philistines had the most advanced equipment and the most advanced technology of the day. This was about 3,000 years ago—1000 years BC—about 3,000 years ago. The cutting edge technology of the day was the development of iron and the using of iron in weapons. Israel did not have the same development of iron. So they were using mostly wooden weapons against the Philistines who had iron weapons. Israel was starting to develop it; they were getting some swords and things like that but not at the same capacity as the Philistines had. So the Philistines had this significant advantage in a military way because they had this new cutting edge technology of far greater use of iron in their weapons.

Now Goliath came, and he had the combination of physical size and strength. He was almost ten feet tall. Literally, he was not quite ten feet tall, but he had tremendous physical strength and had superior technology in weapons. He wanted to challenge one man in Israel. It was winner-take-all. He went before them and said, "You put your champion up, and I will come fight him, and whoever loses, that nation becomes slaves to the nation that wins." So he is not just like the state champion wrestling, boxer, everything. He is world champion, and he has cutting-edge technology. In the human sense he is unstoppable.

- B. A national military crisis erupted against Israel that was beyond their military capabilities. The outcome would determine their future, as the slavery and destruction of Israel was at stake.

It is a full military crisis that has come upon Israel because they had thousands with advanced technology in the Philistine army coming against Israel. It was a military crisis, and Israel's future was in the balance. This was not a passing situation. If they lost this battle, they would become slaves of the Philistines who would be brutal in their treatment of the men, women, and children. It would be a very, very destructive situation. They would take over Israel's farms and cities. That is how it was in the ancient world.

- C. This account of Goliath is often spiritually applicable to any attack against us that requires more than human ability for us to triumph. Only by God's power would Israel be able to triumph.

As I mentioned earlier, we can apply the biblical account of Goliath spiritually to many facets of attacks: individual giants in our hearts, giants in our circumstances, giants in our nation. It applies to whatever attack is coming against us that requires more than human ability in order to triumph and have success. Let's get right into the story.

II. THE CONFLICT WITH GOLIATH INTRODUCED (1 SAM. 17:1-11)

- A. The Philistines invaded Judah at Sochoh (17:1-3).

¹***The Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered together at Sochoh...***
²***Saul and the men of Israel were gathered...in the Valley of Elah [14 miles SW of Jerusalem], and drew up in battle array against the Philistines.*** ³***The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. (1 Sam. 17:1-3)***

The conflict with Goliath is now introduced. The Philistines have gathered together their armies. So this massive number of soldiers are mobilizing in Sochoh, which is a village by the valley of Elah. They are mobilizing together. So, verse 2, Saul and the army of Israel are gathering in the valley of Elah. Now the village Sochoh is at the end of this valley of Elah, and it is just about fifteen miles from Jerusalem. At the other end of the valley the Philistines are marshaling and mobilizing all of their armies together.

Israel drew up in battle array and said, "Okay, we are ready." It is a big valley, so the Philistines were on one side of the valley on a mountain and Israel was on the other side. I mean you can just imagine the drama, just thousands of soldiers with what is cutting-edge technology for their day. Israel was on the other side. So who was going to attack? I mean no one is going to go down into the valley, because you would lose the military advantage if you are down in the valley. The army with the high position is already at a point of an advantage.

- B. Goliath, the Philistine champion and giant, is described (17:4-7).

⁴***A champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span [nearly 10 feet].*** ⁵***He had a bronze helmet...a coat of mail, and the weight...was five thousand shekels of bronze [125 pounds].*** ⁶***And he had...a bronze javelin*** ⁷***...his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels [15 pounds]. (1 Sam. 17:4-7)***

So there is a forty-day stand-off. And what happens is, verse 3, the champion, the number one warrior, the Rambo times ten, comes down. He is the champion of the Philistines. His name is Goliath, and he is from the city of Gath. Gath is one of the five main Philistines cities. You want to remember Gath because we find out later that when David escapes from Saul he goes to the city of Gath. You'll feel like saying, "David, do not go to Gath. Not to Gath, bad city!" As you will find out when we read this in a couple of weeks from now, when he goes to Gath he is carrying the sword of Goliath. Anyway, I am getting ahead of myself. I just want you to know that Gath is one of the five main cities of the Philistines; it is on the west coast of Israel.

1. Goliath had the most advanced weapons of his day (a helmet, coat of mail, shield, sword, spear, and javelin with a wooden shaft as thick as a beam from a weaver's large loom).

Verse 5 describes his armor. First it describes his height. He is six cubits and a span; that is nearly ten feet, just under ten feet tall. Verse 5, he has a bronze helmet and a coat of mail which is made of bronze. In other words, the coat of mail he put around himself was covered with bronze plates. It weighed about 125 pounds. I mean his vest weighed 125 pounds. He had a bronze javelin, and the end of the javelin, the spearhead itself was fifteen pounds. This is one serious javelin. I mean he is covered in metal, ten foot tall.

2. These giants were the sons of Anak (Num. 13:32-33). Joshua had killed them all, except for the giants in the cities around Gath. So 500 years later, David was still dealing with them.

²¹Joshua came and cut off the Anakim...²²None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod. (Josh. 11:21-22)

- C. Goliath defied Israel, causing many to be overcome with fear, despair, and hopelessness (17:8-11). Goliath accused them, “Why have you even come to battle? You know you are going to lose.”

⁸He [Goliath] stood and cried out to the armies of Israel...“Why have you come out to line up for battle?... Choose a man...⁹If he is 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...”¹⁰And the Philistine said, “I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.”¹¹When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. (1 Sam. 17:8-11)

Verse 8, he goes and cries out to the armies of Israel. He does this for forty days. Every single day he went down into the valley where he stood up and cried out, “Israel, send your main guy. It is winner-take-all. That is how we are going to do it.” Verse 8, he would cry out to the armies of Israel. The idea was to fill them with fear and despair and hopelessness, and it was working. Israel was filled with fear when they saw him.

Now the enemy always uses the voice of accusation to accuse you so you get filled with fear instead of faith, instead of confidence. Faith and confidence are the same thing. You get filled with fear so you retreat, because if you are in retreat, you are far more vulnerable to the enemy. If you are afraid, you are drawing back, thinking, “Oh, no!” That is the position the enemy wants you in. He wants people convinced they cannot get free of their bondages. He wants them convinced they cannot get free of the negative circumstance. He wants them convinced that all the people resisting them, that whether it is a small number or a large number, they will never get free of them. So the enemy is accusing. That is his way.

Goliath says here to them, “Why have you come out to line up for battle?” He goes on, “Why are you even bothering to fight me? You know you are going to lose. You are hopeless! You are losers! You are weak! You have already lost!”

This is how the enemy literally talks to believers. They look at the big area in their life, that one issue, that particular appetite they cannot get under control or that relationship or that situation. The enemy says, “Why are you even fighting? Give up and give in. You know what? No one gets free of this anyway.” The enemy says, “Why?”

Goliath says, “Why?”

You know that is what Satan said to Adam and Eve, “Has God really said this?” The enemy says, “Why are you even trying? I mean come on, be honest, be real. Look how many years you have been trying to break through and you have not broken through. Why not give up and give in?”

Goliath says at the end of verse 8, “Chose your man.” Again, it is a representative type of military situation. It happened in various places in the ancient world where they would put the representative champions in the ring and whoever won, it was a winner-take-all kind of situation. Because they had this idea that the god behind the winning champion was superior, it would embolden the people of that champion. Our God is flexing his muscles today; our God is powerful. If they lost, they would think their god was defeated and they would run in fear and terror. There was so much idolatry, but this was all connected to their deep beliefs about the gods being in and participating in the battle and so what would happen in that representative contest of the two champions would

be an indication of how the gods were moving. It really created fear in the armies in the ancient world one way or the other.

Verse 9, Goliath said, “If your guy is able to fight with me and kill me, we will be your servants.” Not servants as you might think, but really slaves; we are talking about full-on slavery. We are not talking about a kind of nice, indentured servanthood where they pay off their debt and they go back home when it is over. He goes on, “But if I prevail—and therefore my gods are behind me and they are stronger than your God, O Israel—then you will be our slaves. All of my men will be emboldened.”

Even if Israel lost the battle and then said, “Hey, we do not want this,” the Philistines would be emboldened with the confidence that their god is with them.

Verse 10, the Philistine said, “I defy the armies of Israel. I challenge you. I insult you! There is not a chance you can win. Give me your man, and we will fight.” Verse 11, his accusing threatening words—threatening or accusation, they are all kind of flow out of the same reality—verse 11, “When all of the army of Israel heard the words, they were dismayed.” They were despondent. They were dismayed. They lost their hope, and they were greatly afraid. They were trembling.

The words of the enemy have no place in the Lord’s camp. The words of the enemy find their way into our hearts, and then—this is what is really bad—the words of the enemy get into our mouths. So often it is the servants of the Lord giving voice to the accusation and the threats of the enemy. “Why are we even going to try? There is no use. Nothing is going to change. It always goes badly.” Beloved, we do not want the enemy’s words in our mouth, not in our private life or in the way we talk to God, and not in the way we talk to each other or about one another. We want to bring our words to line up with what God says. We do not want the enemy’s words in our mouth. His words do not belong in the camp of the Lord.

III. DAVID ACCEPTED GOLIATH’S CHALLENGE (1 SAM. 17:12-39)

- A. Jesse sent David to the Valley of Elah (17:12-23).

¹⁵David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father’s sheep at Bethlehem. ¹⁶And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening. ¹⁷Then Jesse said to his son David, “Take now for your brothers an ephah [half a bushel] of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp [about 7 miles from Bethlehem]...” ²²And David...greeted his brothers. ²³Then as he talked with them...the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name...spoke according to the same words. So David heard them. (1 Sam. 17:12-23)

Well, in verses 12-39, David is going to accept the challenge. Of course we all know the story. Verse 15, occasionally David would return from Saul who lived in the city of Gibeah and he would go back home. He went and returned from Saul. He would go back and feed his father’s sheep at Bethlehem. So David was going back and forth in this several-year period. Remember he was in the Saul’s court as a court musician and as one of the armor bearers. Again, I have no doubt that Saul had a number of personal servants. He would go from Saul in Gibeah about ten miles back to his hometown, Bethlehem. I just cannot get over this! He would go back and mow the lawn. He would go back and tend the sheep. I mean when you are working at the White House, you probably are not going to go home and work at minimum wage. Probably not, but that is comparable to what he would do, meaning he took on the menial task. I just love this heart of David. You find these clues all the way through the story of David in First and Second Samuel of his graciousness and his servant spirit. I do not want us to miss that in the drama of the story because that is one of the great miracles: a king with prominence continued to live with a teachable heart and a servant spirit. I mean that is as great a miracle as defeating Goliath, for a man or a

woman of prominence to have a teachable heart and a humble spirit after they have been the head of a nation or a great company, you know worth millions of dollars or whatever.

Verse 16, Goliath the Philistine would draw near to them, which means he would go to the valley every morning and every night. I mean it was unrelenting. Forty days in the morning, forty nights, the same accusation. “Israel, why are you even bothering? Just give up and give in.” Threatening, accusatory, insulting statements. Again this is what the enemy is trying to do in our minds and trying to get us to give voice to it with our mouths, even to one another and against one another in the Body of Christ. This is how it works in families, too.

Verse 17, back home in Bethlehem—it is about seven miles away from the valley of Elah where this battle array is happening—back home, Jesse speaks to young David. Let’s just say David is about twenty now. I mean we do not know for sure, eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one, something like that. It has been several years since he was anointed. He has been going back and forth to Saul’s court in Gibeah and ten miles back home to Bethlehem, from Saul’s court back to the family business, the tending of sheep.

So I have no doubt the Lord moves in verse 17 where Jesse the father says to David, “Go, run an errand and bring these supplies to your older brothers.” The reason I said the Lord moved him because it puts David at the right position at the right time again. In this supernaturally natural way he just ends up at the right position at the right time. There are human dynamics involved. I call it “supernaturally natural” where things just unfold and the Lord’s invisible hand is involved in it.

He says, verse 17, “Now go take for your brothers some grain and some loaves and run to the camp.” In other words, run an errand for me. It is about seven miles away. Go bring them some food. Again David shows up at the right time on day forty. The accusations have been going day and night.

Verse 22, so David greets his brothers, “Hi, brothers.” Three of them are in the army, so counting David five are not in the army at this time. Then as he is talking to his three older brothers—I mean here is the younger brother, and he likes his older brothers. He is saying, “Hey, this is what Dad is doing home... What is going on?... It sounds pretty exciting being in the army, I mean wow... What is it really like?”—and all of a sudden the giant comes as he has for forty days and forty nights. Here it is the fortieth day, and he comes and talks the same way. He is defying the God of Israel and the armies of Israel. David asks, “What is this?”

- B. God sent David so that he was in the right place at the right time to hear Goliath’s challenge.
- C. David had been anointed by the prophet Samuel and worked in the king’s court, yet he is described as running errands and tending sheep. He served the king one day and ran errands the next day.

²⁰So 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...²²And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers. (1 Sam. 17:20-22)

1. David gained prominence, but also kept his servant heart, which was a practical expression of his intimacy with God.
2. David was faithful; he did not neglect his mundane responsibilities—he left the sheep with a keeper and the supplies in the right hands (17:20, 22). The Holy Spirit recorded David’s integrity and faithfulness in menial tasks in the context of his national victory.
3. From the king’s court, David returned to the sheepfold—his exalted position did not ruin him for humble service!

- D. The army of Israel saw *only* the giant; therefore, they were filled with fear (17:24-25). The picture here is of people who are accustomed to operating in the arm of the flesh and, thus, are terrified in the day of battle, because they have no experience with spiritual weapons of warfare. Saul had courage in his earlier days (1 Sam. 11:5-11; 14:47), when he was operating in the Spirit.

²⁴*And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.*

²⁵*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 shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father’s house exemption from taxes.” (1 Sam. 17:24-25)*

1. Fear will be one of the main issues dominating the human race in the end times (Lk. 21:26).

²⁶*Men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of things which are coming... (Lk. 21:26)*

2. The accuser’s voice was heard through Goliath. Satan accuses us night and day (Rev. 12:10).

¹⁰*...for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. (Rev. 12:10)*

So David hears this challenge. Verse 24, he sees the response of Israel. He saw that all the men fled from Goliath. They were dreadfully afraid. So the men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who has come up against us? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. It shall be for whoever kills this man King Saul will do three things. He will give him great riches, number one. Number two, he will give his daughter to him.” Poor daughter, I mean what if...? You fill in the blank. The idea is that the man who kills Goliath would be in the royal family. That is the point. There are so many advantages of prestige and honor and prominence from being in the royal family. Then, number three, David’s father would be exempt from taxes. His entire house, his family, would be exempt from taxes. That is a pretty good deal. I mean your brothers and your parents would be pretty excited to be exempt from taxes by the promise of the king. Now it is interesting Saul did not really keep his word on these promises, but that is another thing that we will pull out at another time.

It is the way that Israel is looking. All they see is a giant because the giant’s voice is in their head. The enemy wants his voice to dominate your thinking. All that Israel saw was a giant. David saw the God of Israel. He saw a King. He said, “How can this little giant (that is ten-foot tall) defeat our King?” He says, “It is not possible.” David saw the God of Israel, but all they saw was the giant.

Beloved, it is what you see that determines how you are going to respond and feel emotionally. Of course that was the strength of David’s life. He saw differently. Remember 1 Samuel 16; he saw his ministry differently than other men and women saw their ministry. He said, “I am king for God’s sake, for God.” He evaluated his life and heart based on his desire to obey God, not based on his skills or his outward appearance and performance. He evaluated others the same way, which we will look at in the days to come. The way David saw himself is the way he saw others many times. He saw the enemy differently than many in Israel saw. David saw his future differently; he was not afraid of losing something. Many men are so afraid of their future that they cannot hold on to what they have. David said, “It is in God’s hands. I am not afraid of my future. I look at my future differently than I did before the Lord showed me His way.” Well, the nation of Israel sees a giant, so therefore they are afraid. David sees the God of Israel, so therefore he is confident.

- E. David was rebuked by his oldest brother, Eliab, who taunted him for only being over a “few sheep” (17:26-30).

***²⁶David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”...²⁸Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; 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 your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.”
²⁹And David said, “What have I done now? Is there not a cause?” (1 Sam. 17:26-29)***

1. There will always be jealous people and leaders—maybe even be in your family—who insult those who boldly stand against the enemies of Lord. Samuel thought to anoint Eliab, yet the Lord said “No!” Eliab, moved by jealousy, now concluded that David was proud.
2. Jesse had eight sons (16:10, 11); three of them joined Saul’s army (17:13), and five were still at home in Bethlehem, with David being the youngest son (17:14).

So David spoke to the men. He said, “Who is this guy? What is that going on down there? He is mocking the God of Israel. Are you kidding me? What shall be done for the man that kills him and takes the reproach away? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he would defy the army of the Living God?” He asked, “Who is he?” Now circumcision was the sign of the covenant. So what he is really saying is, “Who is this man who totally disregards the covenant of God, the God of Israel? Completely disregards it and mocks it, who is he?” That is why he adds the word “uncircumcised” Philistine because he is putting it in covenantal language.

Remember Eliab, the older brother, tall, dark, and handsome? Nothing wrong with tall, dark, and handsome. He is the one who was rejected back in 1 Samuel 16, and now we are in 1 Samuel 17. In the last session he got rejected, and here he was still a little bit bothered. He had some issues that came out here. His anger was aroused. Verse 28, he said, “Why have you come down here?” He insulted David. He taunted him. “With whom have you left your few little sheep back home, peewee?” He says, “I know your pride. I get what you are doing. I know the insolence of your heart.” That is another word for pride again. “You came down to see the battle, to get excited, to have a little bravado. Here you are, a tough guy. You have never even been to war. You do not even know what this is about. Here you are putting us down saying, ‘Who is this guy?’ You do not know what this is like. I have been in the army for some years. You do not get anything.”

This is how Eliab the older brother saw David. Now God saw David very differently than his brother did. The important part is that David, without getting into bitterness or pride or rising up in a wrong attitude, lined up with what God says. He did not insult his brother, but he did not buy his brother’s words either. You know there are so many believers who are held in bondage and held back because they have the voice of a family member or a friend or a leader or a coach or a pastor in their head telling them that they are not going to make it anyway.

Somebody may say you are arrogant if you are pressing in for God. You are just legalistic in all this going hard after God. “What do you think, that you are special?” They are writing you off. Beloved, do not let that voice get into your head! That voice is all around the kingdom of God for everybody. I mean nobody is picking on you in a special way. That is just how it is. The enemy’s voice is unrelenting, and it is vented through many, many different people in the kingdom and outside of the kingdom.

His brother said, “What have you come down here for?”

Now David could have said, “Well, Dad told me to bring you some food. That is really why I am here. That is why I made the ten-mile walk, to bring some food from home.” But David answers him a little differently. “Why am I stirred up in the last few minutes? I will tell why I am stirred up.” David is answering him why he is stirred

up instead of why he made the trip, not because he made the trip to bring some food to his brothers, but because he was stirred up. He said, “Is there not a cause? Is there not a reason to go beyond business as usual? Is there not a reason to take a stand?” He goes on, “The God of Israel, we are in covenant with Him. Should we not, in relationship with Him, see His glory go forth? Why are we letting the enemy triumph in our thinking? Why? Is there not a reason to stand up and cast off this wrong thinking, this wrong way, this wrong approach? Is there not a cause? Is there not a reason to be bold? Is there not a reason to do it outside of the ‘business as usual’ style and approach? Business as usual is not getting it done, brother Eliab. Is there not a cause? Is there not a reason?”

Now again it is obvious to me that Eliab is jealous and is insulting and taunting his little brother because God chose the little brother. There is a lot of those human dynamics, even in the kingdom.

- F. **Leadership lesson:** Everyone in leadership must at times endure insults and accusations, sometimes even from family members and the experienced “soldiers” of the day (17:28).

Here is one of the leadership lessons: no matter what sphere of leadership you are in, whether you are leading a ministry, a business, the marketplace, whether education, military, you are going to be insulted and accused if you are in leadership. I know folks say, “Oh, I want to be in leadership!” They are imagining having influence and privilege. Leaders do have influence, and they do have some privilege, but I want to assure you that you will have many more enemies. The bigger your influence, the bigger the scope of your enemies and the resistance and the issues that will come against you. This is true all over the earth. This is not something particular to you or your life. This is how it works. If you do not know that, and you are pushing for more influence and a bigger platform because you are thinking you are going to have more honor and more privilege, then you get really thrown off when you get more insults.

I have had to talk some of the guys and gals over the sixteen years of IHOPKC. You know, they get on the Onething stage with 20,000 people out there, and they think it is going to be exciting, but it is not that exciting. Then they get tons of criticism. I mean a lot of people like what they do, but people are saying, “Why did you sing that song? Why did you give that message? Why are you doing it? You are not that good. How come you chose this one? Why didn’t you go there? Oh, now you are filled with pride.”

They respond, “Wow, what was this about? I thought I was just singing a few songs and leading some people and I got all of this criticism coming from within the camp and outside the camp.” It is not always all that, but I tell you, that goes with it.

Some preachers go out and come back, and people attack them when they are out there. They are talking, and they make a stand. It is like, “Wow, this is worse than I thought. I was not thinking about that. I was thinking that season would pass.” Let me promise you one thing: that season is not going to pass.

The bigger your influence, the bigger the criticism that is coming as well as the resistance. So if that bothers you, get out of leadership. If you sign up to do it for God, you do not take your cues from how easy it is or how many people like you. If you take your cues from that, you will be perpetually inside your head having all these conversations and battles that you really do not need to be having. Get your eyes on the Lord, know that His eyes are on you, lay that stuff aside, know it is never going to go away, and just keep going hard after God. Be humble, be teachable, have a servant spirit, let your enemies criticize you, and learn from them. Actually learn, even from people who do not mean well when they criticize you. There are morsels of truth; take them and learn a better way.

If you have this idea of, “Well, I just want to be an evangelist, I just want to win hundreds of thousands of people, you know.” I have been able to be with Reinhard Bonnke a number of times over the years, and you cannot imagine the amount of enemies that Reinhard Bonnke and Billy Graham have. Billy Graham, I am guessing, was

probably the most criticized believer in the Body of Christ in the twentieth century in America. Billy Graham was so ridiculed in the 1950s and 1960s, I mean unbelievably. I have read some of the articles of the leaders in the Body of Christ who rose up against Billy Graham. We think of Billy Graham now—he is ninety-five and he is a patriarch—and say, “Wow, Billy Graham!” It was not always like that.

The reason I am saying this is not to talk you out of leadership. It is to talk you into reality. We are in leadership for God, not so we can write home to Mom and say, “I told you I would make it one of these days.” That is not why we are going for leadership.

G. David’s answer was, “*Is there not a cause that is worthy of extravagant commitment to God?*” He was asking if there was something worth paying a price for to live differently in his generation.

H. David asked Saul for permission to fight Goliath (17:31-37).

³²David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” ³³And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth...” ³⁴David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, ³⁵I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth...I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. ³⁶Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.”... ³⁷[the Lord] will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you!” (1 Sam. 17:31-37)

1. David was mocked by Eliab (17:28), Saul (17:33), and, later, Goliath (v. 42-44). However, David lived by God’s view of him. Saul scoffed at the thought of a young person standing against the mightiest warrior that Israel had ever faced. In his opinion, David was unqualified.
2. The most important question in a crisis is, “*What does God say about the crisis or the giant?*” David saw Goliath through God’s eyes as one who defied the living God. David did not see Goliath as a viable threat to God’s purpose.
3. David answered Saul from his secret history in God—what he had experienced in his private life in God. David experienced God’s power in his mundane job among the sheep. God gives private victories over the “lion and bear” before He releases national victories.
4. I think Saul remembered feeling God’s presence when David sang over his oppression.

Verse 32, David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him.” Again David was twenty years old or younger, because you could become a soldier when you were twenty and he was not a soldier yet. So you imagine he was probably a little younger than that, though it is hard to know. He said, “Let no man’s heart fail.” Now here was David pastoring the army. He was not even in the army. He was too young to be in the army, but he was giving pastoral comfort to the army. Not all of the soldiers go for that.

He said to Saul, “I, your servant, will fight him. I will go.”

Saul looked at this guy. You know, they said David was of small stature. I do not know where I got this information, but I have heard it over the years, and you find it in books—I do not know how true it is that he was of small stature. I am not trying to lock that in. I have tried to nail that down with credible sources. He was not the picture of strength in the physical sense. He was of small stature.

So I can imagine Saul, the head of the army, the king of the nation, looking at him, looking up and down. David is maybe under twenty years old and not in the army, and Saul is thinking, “Hmm, I have heard you sing, and you have a good voice. You do well. You have a good spirit. I really like it when you sing; you got a great spirit. But I think we are going to need more than that when you stand against a ten-foot giant with all the cutting-edge technology.”

So in verse 33, Saul joined the criticism. Here was David is offering himself as a solution, and Saul joined Eliab, criticizing David. Goliath came, and David was criticized all afternoon long. We think of the great victory, but he overcame three major criticisms before the battle happened.

How do you respond when somebody criticizes you? Over the years I have heard people say, “Well, if they are going to say that about me, forget it! I will just forget it.”

I say, “No, no, no! Do not do that “forget it” thing. Put your hand in your pocket and stop that silly talk. The will of God is what you care about, not what they say.”

“Well, forget it if that is what they say.”

“No, you cannot forget your destiny in God because a few leaders around you do not get who you are.”

“Well, I am only going to serve if everybody around me knows how gifted and good I am. Then I will stay with it.”

No, you cannot quit God’s will for your life because they said it. Are you kidding? David went through three of them that day before one of the great victories of his life. Beloved, he weathered three storms before he actually got into the battle.

So verse 33 Saul said, “You are not able. You are a kid. You are not qualified. You are too young. You are not trained. You have no resume, and I am going to put you out there? This guy will crush you, and then we will be the slaves and they will be emboldened and come attacking us with all of this heightened courage from the sense that their gods are with them. Are you kidding?” So Saul joined the criticism of Eliab, David’s older brother, not in the same tone but he was saying, “Man, I do not know. I do not think so.”

*Verse in 34, David answered, “Well, I do have a resume; you just do not know what it is. I have more than some songs where you felt the presence of God.” He said, “When I was keeping my father’s sheep, on two different occasions a lion and a bear came into the flock.” Verse 35: I did not run **from** the lion. I ran **to** the lion.*

Beloved, on a personal note, I have the Holy Spirit, I know I do, but I would run from the lion right now, just about there. I mean it is out in the open field; a lion in the open field is not good. The lion grabs one of the little lambs, and David said, “I chased him down.” No, David! “Grabbed him by the beard, ‘Lion, get back here!’ and just gave it to him. I killed him.” The Spirit had been on David since that anointing. There is a different dimension of the Holy Spirit when he is singing. Not every time and everything he does, but he has these moments of unusual activity of the Spirit in his life.

David thought, “I do not know if a spirit of boldness came on me, but I went after him, and it worked. Then a few months went by, and a bear came in. I said, ‘Okay, bear, I am not afraid of you.’”

“I mean bears are big, David! You are little! I would go the other way if a bear came into an open field, not the zoo. Man, I am courageous, ‘You foul bear, get out of here!’ I mean I am so bold at the zoo! you ought to see me.”

Verse 36, he said, “I killed them both. This uncircumcised Philistine”—this giant, yes, a giant in the natural but no covenant—“he defies the covenant of the God of Israel? He will be like one of them.” Verse 37, he said, “I

will give you a prophecy, Saul. I will kill it. I will win. I know the Lord's presence. I have got a secret life in God you do not know about, Saul. The Lord and I have interacted in some dramatic ways, in a way that none of you even know about."

Beloved, the Lord gives you some victories in your private life, out of the eyes of the public, that build your confidence for the other times. You do not start with the number one national crisis as the first time you operate in the Spirit. There are all kinds of healings and salvations and financial miracles and breakthroughs and restored relationships and turn-around events and miracle operations of the Lord that can be happening in our lives over the years that are never well known or published. They are building our own personal history in God.

There had to be a sense of the Lord's presence when David was talking to Saul. So in verse 37, Saul said, "You know, okay, go." Now this is risky because if David goes and fails, Israel is in trouble.

Here is my theory: I think the Lord was moving on David right there when he was prophesying this, "I will bring this giant down in the name of the Lord, not in my own strength."

I think that Saul was saying, "You know, David, those times where you came to visit me, I would feel the presence of God with you." Because David would come for seasons—I do not know how many days or weeks at a time when he would come to Gibeah—to the king's court and play music when Saul was tormented.

Remember Gibeah was only ten miles from David's house. They would say, "David, come back. Saul is tormented. He is under this dark cloud again."

So maybe Saul was saying, "Man, you would play, and my mind would clear. The fog would lift, and the brightness would come. God is on you, man! I mean there is something about you when you and the Lord are connecting."

I tell you, I love it that the first anointing in David's life was in prophetic music and prophetic singing with the power. I say prophetic meaning the power dimension of God's moving on Saul's life.

Well I am glad that David, number one, took God's view of him instead of everybody else's. He has had three major criticisms. How many criticisms could you handle in one day before you said, "Forget it! I am out of here!"?

The answer is, "I am never out of here until the will of God is done. I am not lining up with a role based on what someone else thinks, if God is saying, 'I want you to do it.'" No matter how much resistance, we do it because the Lord has pleasure in it. Boy, if you get connected to that, you will have strength in your heart.

Number two, the important question of the crisis is, "What does God say about the giant?" Everybody was talking about what everyone else said about the giant and what the giant said about the giant. David was the only one who talked about what God said about the giant. Israel talked about the giant, and the giant talked about the giant.

- I. David refused Saul's armor. We do not want to walk in another person's calling (17:38-39).

³⁸So Saul clothed David with his armor...³⁹David...tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off. (1 Sam. 17:38-39)

1. David had not tested Saul's armor—he had no experience with Saul's equipment. We must not go to war against the enemy relying on another's experience and calling. David took Saul's armor off and went forth in what had been proven in his own history in God.

2. Saul put his armor on David, thinking that David needed more of what he himself relied on. Saul's armor was not getting the job done, so why would it be adequate for David? Do not go to war with "Saul's armor"; it is made of the same material as the giant's armor.
3. Cultivating God's presence in our life today is essential to standing against unexpected giants tomorrow.
4. The prayer closet is a key aspect of the Holy Spirit's seminary. The prayer room is away from the crowds, like David in the fields of Bethlehem where he killed the lion and bear (17:34).
5. Professional titles, achievements, and degrees do not move angels and demons. Adopting a lifestyle of prayer with fasting is a statement of relying on God's strength.

¹⁵The evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" (Acts 19:15)

So in verse 38, Saul said, "Okay, you are in. Here is the deal," he went on, "I have got cutting-edge technology; I have got armor," because no one else in Israel did, because iron was a newly developed technology. There were newly developed weapons, and the king had armor and maybe a few of the others had it as well. "Here, I am going to let you use the top technology. You are going to put on my armor on."

So David put on Saul's armor, verse 39. He tried to walk. It went, "Click-click." David was making a face like "You know this is not working." I am picturing the tin man in the Wizard of Oz, you know. It was going click-click, and David said, "Saul, I do not think this is going to work."

"Oh no, David! These are the best weapons on the market."

David said to Saul, "Yeah, but I can't even walk with these. I have not tested them," meaning I cannot take your approach. Well, number one, Saul's approach was not working because Saul was filled with fear. David said, "I cannot take your approach. I cannot use your technology. There is nothing wrong with the technology, but I cannot do it your way until I find the Lord in your approach. I must test it, and if I find the Lord in it, if I can take your approach and experience the presence of God, yeah, I will do it your way. But I have to test it before I go to battle, so in this crisis, this situation, I cannot go in your armor."

Beloved, do not take another person's calling or another person's approach until you test it out and find the Lord in it for you. I mean you can imitate people's faith and even imitate people's ways, but see that you can experience the Lord in it before you determine this is your way for the rest of your life. You know sometimes young people come and say to me, "How do you do this? How do you do that? How do you do the other?" I have been asked this for years you know, particularly concerning prayer.

I ask, "Well, why do you want to know?"

"Well, I just want to know."

I answer, "No, you want to know because you want to know what you are supposed to do."

*"Well, okay, you busted me! That **is** why I want to know."*

I say, "I know. I understand why you want to know. I am not going to tell you what I do because my mandate is that I am the leader of this ministry; you are a student here. We are in a totally different season of life, a totally different assignment, a totally different stage of our life. I am not going to tell you what I do, though I can tell you some principles, because I do not want you putting my armor on and thinking that is your way because you might not find God in that way. The verse I think of is Saul's armor. I am not going to put Saul's armor on you." I have

had some get disappointed, and some be grateful. I said, “I am not going to tell you exactly what I do, not because it is private, but because you are so zealous—I love your heart—that you are going to do it and it might not work for you. I will tell you principles. That is what I will tell you.”

IV. DAVID FOUGHT GOLIATH (1 SAM. 17:40-58)

- A. David came to Goliath in the name of the Lord, knowing that the battle was the Lord’s (17:40-47).

⁴⁰And he [David] chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag... and his sling was in his hand... ⁴²And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he despised him; for he was only a youth... ⁴³So the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?... ⁴⁴I will give your flesh to the birds of the air...!” ⁴⁵Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts...whom you have defied. ⁴⁶This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will...take your head from you...that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD’s, and He will give you into our hands.”
(1 Sam. 17:40-47)

1. Goliath trusted in his military might (17:43), despising David, and saying, “Am I a dog that you come against me with a stick?” You come as a kid with a slingshot? Goliath was insulted, because David had no resources, no money, no titles, no position, just a history in God.
2. David came in the name of the Lord, by invoking the power of God. The stone he slung at Goliath was guided by God’s invisible hands.
3. First David spoke a prophetic decree to the enemy based on God’s word to him.
4. Previously, Saul sought to talk David out of this battle (17:33). Saul agreed with Goliath’s view of David, seeing David as unable to prevail because he was an unqualified youth.
5. David had victories that Saul did not know of. Private victory precedes public victory. After we slay the lion and the bear in private, we will be bolder in public.
6. David understood that the Lord does not save with a sword, for the battle is the Lord’s. Goliath came to David with a sword (human power), but David came in the Lord’s name.

⁶“Not by [human] might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the LORD. (Zech. 4:6)

³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds. (2 Cor. 10:3-4)

David now fights Goliath. We will just go another couple moments here, then I will leave you with the rest of the notes to read. So verse 40, “David chose for himself five smooth stones, put them in the shepherd’s bag, and his sling was in his hand.

Verse 42, that near ten-foot giant said, “You insult me! You put this kid up here with a stick while I have all the cutting-edge technology and I am the champion warrior of the land.” Verse 43, he went on, “Am I a dog that you come with a little stick?” Meaning his sling shot. “Am I a little dog you are going to play a game with?” He was insulted. He said, “I will give your flesh to the birds of the air,” in verse 44. That is a key phrase.

You can read the reason at the end of the notes where you will see that this whole Goliath story is going to have its ultimate global expression through the great, eschatological giant called the Antichrist. He is going to have

cutting-edge technology, and he is going to defy the God of Israel. He will say, “I will give your flesh to the birds of the air,” but we read in Revelation 19:17-18 that the birds of the air eat his armies. It will go exactly the opposite of what he says, but that is for another time.

David said in verse 45, “You come to me with a sword and a spear” and all of your cutting edge iron technology, but “I come to you invoking the name of the God of hosts, the Lord of hosts whom you defy.” In verse 46, he is going to prophesy now to Goliath the same prophecy he gave to Saul earlier. He says, “This day God is going to deliver you in my hand and all the earth will know there is a God in Israel,” verse 47, “and all of the assembly of the warriors, both sides, will know there is a God in Israel for the battle is the Lord’s, though you have the sword and the spear.” Again that is cutting-edge technology; that is what that means in that context. So David spoke his prophetic word.

- B. David refused to settle down and accept the status quo. The Lord is calling young Davids to get prepared, take a stand, live differently, and believe for things to be different.
- C. The Lord is looking for a few good men and women who will boldly take their stand for Him.
- D. David killed Goliath, who fell on his face to the earth (17:48-54).

⁴⁸...David hurried and ran...to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth...⁵¹Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword...and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. ⁵²Now the men of Israel and Judah arose...and pursued the Philistines as far as...the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road... even as far as Gath and Ekron...⁵⁴And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem. (1 Sam. 17:48-54)

Now David ran to meet the Philistine. Here is the giant is out there, down in the valley. Now they are both down in the valley. Thousands of soldiers on each side, and one company of soldiers has cutting technology far superior to the other side. Goliath is there. David runs toward him, like, “Aaaaaaah!” Or maybe, you know, he advanced step at a time. No, he was probably thinking, “I ran after that lion and that bear. I know how this works!”

Goliath must have thought for a second—I do not think he was afraid for the moment—but he must have thought, “This is different. I have never run into this before.”

Verse 49, David put his hand in the bag, picked out a stone, and slung it. God’s hand directed it. God’s invisible hand directed the stone. I tell you, a stone that God directs is worth all the weapons in the earth. When God’s invisible hand directs the activity of His people, it is far superior to the best that all the earth can come forth with.

It struck the Philistine in the head, and he fell. He was knocked out or stunned. He fell down; he was not dead yet. He fell down like completely dazed or knocked out, one or the other. Verse 51, David was still running. He was running in verses 48-51. He was still running towards Goliath. He took Goliath’s own sword, his own cutting-edge technology, and cut his head off.

The Philistines saw this. Now the Philistines were seeing the God of Israel and His activity. In the course of these events, everyone could now see the God that David was seeing the whole time. They fled because they had the idea that the Philistine god was not flexing his muscles that day. He was not up for the battle that day.

Verse 52, “The men of Israel arose.” That is, they were emboldened, full of courage. It is said that in battle courage and boldness are such a significant part. I mean this. Morale is huge. So now they had the morale, the courage, and they pursued the Philistines as far as the gates of Ekron. That is about ten miles away. They were chasing them for ten miles. I mean after a mile, or two or three, it is like, “Yeah, yeah, let’s slow this pace down a little bit,” you know. They were running for ten miles after the Philistines. They were killing the Philistines. Imagine a ten-mile pathway littered with dead bodies. Again, that is a little snapshot of what is going to happen at the very end around the battle of Jerusalem in Revelation 19.

Verse 54, David took the head of Goliath and walked to Saul’s tent. I imagine this big head. I mean a head of a ten-foot guy, that is a big head. I mean way bigger than a basketball. I mean this thing is giant!

- E. Saul inquired about David’s family lineage (17:55-58). This question might have been in light of the promise Saul made that the man who killed Goliath could marry Saul’s daughter (17:25).

⁵⁵When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, “Abner, whose son is this youth?” And Abner said, “As your soul lives, O king, I do not know.”⁵⁶So the king said, “Inquire whose son this young man is.”⁵⁷Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.⁵⁸And Saul said to him, “Whose son are you, young man?” So David answered, “I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.” (1 Sam. 17:55-58)

1. Saul did not know who David’s parents were. David had served in the royal court as Saul’s armorbearer and court musician (16:18), but David here seems to be a stranger to Saul.
2. Saul probably never asked about David’s testimony or family life since he had a distressed spirit, which possibly left him with a bad memory and lack of focus through being tormented (16:15-23).

- F. Four categories of people in the conflict (from Reinhard Bonnke):

1. Ex-anointed professional—Saul (a picture of leaders who have lost the fire of the Spirit)
2. Un-anointed professionals—Saul’s army (a picture of ministries without power)
3. Anti-anointed—Goliath (a picture of the enemies of God’s people and purposes)
4. Anointed non-professional—David (a picture of God’s anointed vessels)

V. THE PROPHETIC CALL TODAY TO PREPARE GOD’S DAVIDS

- A. This account of Goliath is a prophetic picture of the end-time giant—the Antichrist. In the end-time crisis, the Antichrist’s coalition of nations will wage war against Israel and the Body of Christ. God’s people will use seemingly inferior weapons against the “strongest powers” on earth.

²For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem. (Zech. 14:2)

⁸“In that day, the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David...⁹It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” (Zech. 12:8-9)

²“I will also gather all nations...and I will enter into judgment with them there.” (Joel 3:2)

- B. The LORD will defend His people through those who will use “weak weapons” like David’s.

¹⁵The LORD of hosts will defend them [Jerusalem]; they shall...subdue with slingstones.
(Zech. 9:15)

- C. God will raise up His young Davids against the Antichrist for the greatest showdown in history. Goliath said that he would feed David to the birds (17:44); David said it right back to him (17:46). God will feed the Antichrist's armies to the birds of the air at the Armageddon campaign.

¹⁷Then I saw an angel....saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings... and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.”¹⁹I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse. (Rev. 19:17-19)

- D. The defiance of the nations against the God of Israel throughout history will culminate in the end times (Ps. 2:1-3). God will defeat the nations who dare to oppose Him (Ps. 2:4-5).

**²The kings of the earth set themselves...against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
³“Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.”⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh...⁵Then He shall speak to them in His wrath. (Ps. 2:2-5)**

At the end of this age there is an eschatological giant—which is you know a fancy word for end times; that is what eschatological means, “referring to the end times”—there is an eschatological giant that is going to rise up in the nations. There are lots of giants between now and then in our lives and in the nations, and there are giants emerging right now in our nation.

God is looking for Davids, men and women, old and young, to rise up. Is there not a cause? Is there not a reason to develop our private life in God where no one is watching, so we can bring it to the public arena? I am talking about the reality of the power of God. I am not talking about something like a little showmanship on a stage or something. I am talking about living out with others the reality of what we did in private in our walk with God. Beloved, I want to be a David. Do you want to be a David? I want to be killing the lion and the bear right now and some Goliaths along the way while we are waiting for some big Goliaths to appear in history, so we do not have to retreat. The nations will see that Goliath, but the people of God will see the God of Israel like David did.

Even right now in your lives there are little Goliaths that are attacking you. Get your eyes on the words of promise from the God of Israel, the covenant God. Do not sell yourself out to thinking, “This is how it is going to be. I am a loser. I will never break through. It will never happen—the breakthrough in my life, the breakthrough in my ministry, the breakthrough in my family, the breakthrough in our nation, the revival—they are not going to happen anyway.” Beloved, it is going to happen. It is going to happen!

In the name of the Lord we are going to come against that which assaults the will of God in our life. We are going to come invoking His name because we live in relationship with Him in our private life. Not just an occasional verbalizing His name, we invoke the name of the God of Israel, not just by words—words are important for sure—but by living a lifestyle and saying those words.

Amen, let's stand.