Lessons from: David and Goliath

David And Goliath

• The story of David versus Goliath is one of the most well known in the scriptures.
• Most understand what a “David vs Goliath” situation is.
• The word Goliath has become synonymous with something that is huge.
• The British used to have a big battleship called the Goliath.
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• Six Flags in Georgia has a big roller coaster called the Goliath
• We have applied the name Goliath to different species of animals and fish.
• We have given this name to one creepy critter that especially bothers me. It is called the “Goliath Birdeater”.
• This is a Tarantula with a 12” legspan!

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• At the time this story takes place, Saul had already been rejected by God because of his sins.
• Some commentators believe David to be about 15 years old.
• David’s main occupation was as a shepherd.
• Unknown to Saul, David probably has already been anointed King of Israel by Samuel.
**David And Goliath**

1Sa 17:1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered together at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim.

2 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.

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.

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4 And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

   It is generally accepted that a cubit is approximately 18” and a span was about nine inches. This would make him almost 10 feet tall.

5 He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.
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• This coat of mail weighed approximately 156 pounds
• 6 And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders.
• 7 Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.
• The head of his spear weighed 18 lbs and 12 ounces
• The total weight of his armor was about 270 pounds
• The average soldiers armor of the day was about 60 lbs
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8 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.

9 "If 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 and serve us."

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10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

• Saul and his army had not learned the lessons of the past.

• If they had only remembered and believed what all God had done for Israel.
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• He had defeated much greater enemies of Israel than this one Philistine.
• He had delivered them from Egypt without the Israelites even striking a blow against their enemies.
• Samson had defeated 1000 philistines at one time by the power of God.
• Many times as humans we have very short memories.

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12 Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced in years, in the days of Saul.
13 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 were Eliab the firstborn, next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.
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14 David was the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul.
15 But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.
16 And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.

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17 Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp.
18 "And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them."
19 Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.
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20 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 was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle.

- David made sure his responsibilities were taken care of

21 For Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army.

22 And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers.

23 Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them.
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 in Israel."

26 Then David 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?"

27 And the people answered him in this manner, saying, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him."
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• 28 Now 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."

David And Goliath

Many times when we stand up for what is right like David did:

▪ People become angry with us just like David’s brothers did with him
  ▪ It makes them look bad.
▪ Our own family and friends may turn against us
▪ Our motives may be questioned
  ▪ Why did you come here?
David And Goliath

- They may even accuse us of doing evil. David was accused of:
  - Neglecting the sheep
  - Pride and Insolence (showing an aggressive lack of respect in speech or behavior)
- In spite of all of this David did not back down!
- Many of the followers of God have been falsely accused through the ages.

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- Joseph was falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife
- Elijah was falsely accused by Ahab for being the one who troubled Israel
- Paul was falsely accused of bringing a Gentile in to the temple
- Even Jesus was falsely accused of blasphemy.
- We should not be surprised if the same thing happens to us because we are children of God
29 And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?"
30 Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did.
31 Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him.
32 Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

Saul immediately recognizes as far as physical things are concerned David is no match for Goliath.

No doubt Saul thought it to be suicide for David to try to match the giant.

David was a young man and certainly not a trained warrior
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• Goliath on the other hand was an experienced warrior that had trained since he was a youth.
• Saul looked at this as a battle between a young boy and a giant warrior who would easily destroy him.
• David saw this as a battle between God and one who defied Him, because of this David knew Goliath stood no chance.
• David goes on and explains to Saul why he had such confidence

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- 34 But David 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,
- 35 I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.
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- 36 "Your 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 Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

Lessons from: David and Goliath
David And Goliath

- David had learned lessons from the past. God had delivered the bear and the lion into his hands. He would also deliver the philistine.
- We also need to learn the lessons from the past.
  - Sometimes we must stand alone.
    - Noah
  - Job: even his wife told him to curse God and Die
  - Elijah: faced 450 prophets of Baal on Mt Carmel
  - Apostle Paul: No one stood with him before Caesar
  - If God is on our side we are not alone!!

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- 38 So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail.
- 39 David fastened his sword to his armor and 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.
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40 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 he drew near to the Philistine.

41 So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him.

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42 And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking.

43 So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.
David And Goliath

• Youth is not an excuse to not do what is right
  • The world may excuse bad behavior in young people by saying:
    • Kids will be kids or boys will be boys
    • They need to sow their wild oats
    • He’s just 12, 15, 17 or however young they are

David And Goliath

• David did not use being “young” as an excuse to not stand up for what was right!
• Neither did:
  • Joseph
  • Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
  • Timothy
• God will not excuse your sin like men do because you are young!
David And Goliath

• Do you remember what happened to the youths who ridiculed Elisha?

• 2Ki 2:23 Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!"

• 24 So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the LORD. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.

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• God expects you to be obedient in spite of your youth

• 2Ti 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

• Ec 12:1 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them"

• 1Ti 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
• 1Sa 17:44 And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

• 45 Then 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, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

• 46 "This day the LORD 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 air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

• 47 "Then 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."
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- David learned from a young age not to fear the threats of man but to depend upon the power of God.
- The Bible is filled with examples of godly people that other men wanted to destroy but God delivered
  - Moses: Pharaoh wanted him dead
  - David: Saul wanted to kill him
  - Elijah: Jezebel wanted to kill him

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- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego: thrown into the furnace
- Daniel: Thrown into the lion’s den
- Mt 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
- We need to remember that man is very limited in the amount of damage he can do to us, but God can destroy us eternally!
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- God will deliver the righteous even today
  - Spiritually
  - 2Ti 4:16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.
  - 17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

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- The deliverance Paul refers to in vs 17 is physical.
- He was delivered from Caesar during his 1st imprisonment in Rome.
- In the next verse Paul talks about his future spiritual deliverance
- This is the same deliverance we have to look forward to today
- 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!
David And Goliath

- Did God deliver the Apostle Paul from every evil work?
- Was he delivered from all of the harm that men tried to do to him?
- No!
- He was beaten, shipwrecked, imprisoned, stoned and finally beheaded.
- So, what was his deliverance? Eternal salvation
- The same deliverance we can look forward to if we remain faithful to God.

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1Sa 17:48 ¶ So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.
- 49 Then 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.
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- 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.
- 51 Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

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- 52 Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron.
- David was able to overcome the Giant!
- The righteous will overcome
  - If we remain faithful. As long as we are on God’s side things will eventually turn out to our good.
David And Goliath

• Rev 2:10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
• Ro 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

David And Goliath

• Some Battles Must be Fought:
  • 1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
  • 2Co 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.
**David And Goliath**

- 1Pe 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from *fleshly lusts which war against the soul*,
- 1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

**Conclusion**

- Have we learned the lessons from young men like David?
  - Are we ready to fight our battles as Christians?
    - They will come
  - Are we ready to stand alone with God?
    - The time will come when we need to.
Conclusion

• Are we ready to face the false accusations others will make against us?
• They will be made
• Are we ready to suffer for our Lord?
• 2Ti 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
• Are we ready for it?