

“One Giant Whoopin!”

I. **INTRO:**

A. **David** is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, the *Son of David*.¹

1. He was born in Bethlehem & misunderstood by his family; he was an obedient son & a conquering hero.
2. The name David means “*beloved*”, & Jesus is the Father’s “*beloved Son*”.
3. **David** was anointed king long before he took the throne & ruled, & **our Lord** is King of Kings even though He is not yet reigning on this earth.
4. Like **David**, our **Lord** has had to experience rejection & exile before reigning.

B. Our story this morning sits in a little valley 15m W of David’s city of Bethlehem in Elah.

C. **Outline:** Goliath, A Pint Size Giant! - David, A Genuine Giant! [note: Title]

II. **GOLIATH, A PINT SIZE GIANT! (1-11)**

A. **A LITTLE MAN, IN A BIG BODY!** (1-11)

B. To avoid an all-out battle, the Philistines chose a one-on-one contest of champions to decide the victor.

C. The earth must have seemed to shake each time he came out.

1. Stretching 9’9”; w/between 125-200 lbs of armor plating; an oversized spearhead of 15 lbs; over his shoulder is a bronze javelin; strapped to his side a mighty sword; he was a fully loaded fighting machine.
 - a) And an **armor bearer** w/a full-sized shield to ward off any arrows.

D. Israel’s response? **Dismayed & greatly afraid.**

III. **DAVID, A GENUINE GIANT! (12-58)**

A. **40 DAYS OF PURPOSE!** (12-27)

B. Enter **David**...the *real giant* of the story!

1. Just as the *Spirit-filled* David came to rescue the *Spirit-emptied* Saul in **ch.16**, so we now see the *faith-filled* David coming to save the *cowarding faith-less* Saul in **17:12**.²

C. (15) For those pulling **2 jobs** right now, **see** David’s divided duties in vs.15.

¹ Warren Wiersbe: With The Word; pg.172

² Charles Swindoll; David: A Man of Passion & Destiny; pg.27.

- D. (25) Great incentives...**but it still begs the question...**Why didn't **Saul**, Israel's king & most imposing man, fight for his people?
- E. (26) Here's what David's really asking...What is Goliath compared to Yahweh? How can he shake his fist in God's face & expect to win?
- F. **SUCH A TIME AS THIS!** (28-39)
- G. (34-37) Prepared for such a time as this!
1. Our **private victories** make possible our **public victories**.
 - a) Oh the practical lessons of the value of *remembering*.
And, the importance of *proving God's presence & power* in ordinary daily living.
 - b) It's as though David sees **Goliath** as *just another animal* attacking God's flock!
 2. As a shepherd alone in the fields, he had learned to trust God.
 - a) David had *confident faith in God* in the valley of Elah **because** he had *found Him dependable* in the fields.
- H. (37,38) When Saul said, "*the Lord be with you*", what was lacking? (note vs.38, go & take my armor)
1. Note vs47 David makes it clear what God uses to win battles(not weapons but Himself)
- I. (38) **Obstacles**: Whenever you step out in faith, other people will often put obstacles in your way. **Often another Christian, or even somebody right in your own family!**
1. **Eliab** ridiculed him w/a "**verbal smack down!**" (28) [although there had been no battle didn't seem to embarrass Eliab].
 - a) Maybe **Eliab** was still battling *the giant of jealousy* that invaded his heart when Samuel anointed his little brother, instead of him!
 - b) **But David ducked his brothers jabs**. He's too intent on fighting *the real enemy* to get into a scuffle w/his bro. [Stay focused!]
 2. **Saul** basically said, "*you aren't able to do this!*"(33); Then **Saul** said, "*If you must do it, do it my way*", and encumbered David with his heavy armor(38).
 3. Jesus said, **a man's enemies will be those of his own household**. Mt.10:36
 - a) That came true in **David's** life; it also came true in **Josephs** life (whose brothers hated him, lied about him, & sold him for a slave);
Moses was criticized by both his own brother & sister; **Our Lord's** earthly family at one time misunderstood Him & opposed His ministry (Mrk3:31-35).
 4. So, in spite of *criticism*, in spite of *discouraging counsel* & *bad advice*, David had to **ignore** the obstacles, & keep his faith *in the Lord*.

- J. (38) Saul didn't have the faith to believe that God could do something **new so** he suggested the *old-fashioned time-honored* method of warfare.
1. David, a **36 regular**, wearing the armor of Saul, **a 52 long!** (Swindoll)
 2. We can't meet our Goliath's in **someone else's strength**, because what works for **them** may not work for **us**. We have to be who we are.
 3. Also, "It was believed in that day that to wear the clothing of another was to be imbued w/his essence & to share his very being. **i.e.** Saul would be able to take credit for, or at least to share in, David's victory over the Philistine giant."³
- K. (39) Saul was really echoing the report of the 10 unbelieving spies who saw the **giants** in Canaan & decided that it was impossible to enter the land (Numb13).
1. When we **walk by sight**, we calculate everything from the human perspective, & this always leads to **discouragement**; but when we **walk by faith**, God comes into the equation, & that changes the results.
 2. David had to do **God's work, God's way!**
- L. **IT WAS THE LORD'S VICTORY!** (40-47)
- M. (45-47) **Saul** stood head & shoulders over the rest, but he was not big enough to meet Goliath. **David** was a man of faith, & God gave him **spiritual stature!**
1. **Great faith makes great men & women.**
- N. (47) **The battle is the Lord's!!!** - *The hallmark of David's life!...Is it yours?*
1. Are you facing a giant of your own...mistreatment, fear, discouragement, guilt?
 2. Remember **the battle is the Lord's**. Not yours! Your part is to trust His power.
 - a) He specializes in "*hopeless*" situations, using the **window of our weaknesses** to shine through His strength & magnify His name.
 3. **My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.** 2 Cor.12:9,10
- O. **IT WAS DAVID'S VICTORY!** (48-51)
- P. "All **God's giants** have been weak men, who did great things for God because they reckoned on His being with them." *James Hudson Taylor*
1. He also said, "I am **the very little servant** of an illustrious Master!"
 2. I just heard a great quote by Mother Theresa, "I am a **little pencil** in the hand of a **writing God** who is sending a **love letter** to the world".

³ Commentator Ronald F. Youngblood.

Q. **What is it** that made David view the situation differently & gave him courage?

1. Is.51:12,13 I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you should be afraid of **a man** who will die, And of the son of a man who will be made like grass? And you forget the Lord your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth; You have feared continually every day Because of the fury of the oppressor, When he has prepared to destroy. And where is the fury of the oppressor?

R. **4 Reminders for today's battles!** Lets not only *confront* our Goliath's...but **slay** them!

1. **Facing Giants is Intimidating!** - Faith *doesn't blind us to reality* (the giant was really big!), **but** it does enable us to **see beyond the externals** as we draw on God's power.
2. **Doing Battle is Lonely!** - Your Goliath's are **your** Goliath's! In fact, they might not be gigantic to anyone else but you. The battle is for **you & the Lord** to fight together. Your pastor, your counselor, your friend **can't** fight it for you. They can stand behind you & cheer, **but you** need to cross the battle line!
3. **Trusting God is Stabilizing!** - It's amazing how calm David was. It was as if he knew the outcome even before he stepped into the battle. **That's the nature of true faith**, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
4. **Winning Victories is Memorable!** - Has God come through for **you** in the past? Hang onto those victories; write them in marble not sand. **Keep a lock of lion hair** from the lions you slay. **Keep a bear rug** in your den to remind you of the bears you fought. Mount a **Goliath head** above your mantle...well, maybe not.
 - a) **David had no idea** that when he woke up that morn he'd be *nose-to-kneecap w/a giant that afternoon!* Giant problems most often appear when you **don't** expect them!
 - (1) A pink slip at work; a car accident & you were just running to the store; you just felt a mysterious lump; the phone rings & its the police & they have your son/daughter.
 - (2) Unexpected giants are intimidating, overwhelming, & definitely frightening.
 - (a) But there is only 1 way to handle a giant...face him head-on.
 - b) Lets not only *confront* our Goliath's...but **slay** them!

S. (49) The typical **sling stone** in the ancient Near East were about the size of a **tennis ball** & weighed about **a pound** apiece. (Shepherd's Notes; pg.30)

1. God guided the stone & it sank into the giants forehead.
 - a) There are **Free Fall Bombs** & there are **LGB's** (Laser Guided Bombs/missiles).
 - b) **David** sent it out; **God** guided it; & the **intended target** received it perfectly.
 - (1) Known in the military w/the acronym **SSKP** (Single Shot Kill Probability).

2. David would say later (Ps.144:1) **Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle.**

T. **IT WAS ISRAEL'S VICTORY!** (52-54)

U. David displayed one of the marks of a **great leader** he took the **risk** & opened the way so that **others** could share in the victory.

V. The **Philistines** didn't keep their end of the bargain; they fled in fear.

1. So the Jews chased them at least 10 miles to Goliath's home town of Gath.

W. (54) Goliath's head to Jerusalem, actually not till he made it the capitol in 2 Sam.5:1-10.

1. The head of Goliath, *as grisly as it was*, would remind David that **the Lord** could be **trusted** to give the victory if we seek only to **glorify Him**.[mounted over mantle?]

X. **IT WAS NOT SAUL'S VICTORY!** (55-58)

Y. **When Saul saw David going out to battle...**some things don't change!

Z. Saul didn't remember David's dad's name(Jesse). **Maybe asked for a couple reasons:**
[1] Promise of exemption of taxes for David's family [2] Wanted David as permanent bodyguard [3] Jesse's son would be marrying his daughter.

AA. **What's the point of this whole story?**

1. Yes, it's a great children's story.

2. Yes, its an allegory about defeating the "*giants*" in our lives.

3. There are many **applications** but only one **interpretation...** **David did what he did for the glory of God!**

4. David came to the contest in the name of the Lord, the God of the armies of Israel, & he wanted **Goliath**, the **Philistine army**, & **all the earth** to know **that the true & living God was Israel's God!**⁴

BB. **God wants to use His people to magnify His name to all the nations of the earth.**

1. Its why God chose Israel, **Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, & they shall be afraid of you.** Deut.28:9,10

2. It's 1 purpose for Israel's sojourn in Egypt & the judgments God sent against Pharaoh, **But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, & that My name may be declared in all the earth.** Ex.9:16

3. The **parting of the Red Sea**; the opening of the **River Jordan**; even the building of the **Temple...****was to witness to all the nations** that Israel's God was the true God

⁴ Warren Wiersbe: Be Successful, 1st Samuel; pg.94

CC. David's faith lifted the war to a much higher plane, just as Paul did in Eph.6:10.

1. Our battle is against the devil & his army, & human weapons are useless in that conflict.
2. Faith in God makes us *participants w/the Lord* in the battle for truth.
3. **And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.** 1Jn.5:4

DD. A *seemingly trivial errand* led to a **challenging situation** that **brought glory to God & recognition to David.**

1. **Be prepared; you never know when your opportunity will come.**

EE. So many Christians believe in *the God of history & the God of prophecy*; we believe all the great things **He did** in Wesley's day & in Moody's day. We believe in the great things He is **going to do** when He comes again. **But** how few of His people really believe that He is *the God of today*, **that** He is a **present, living power in our hearts!**⁵

FF. **Ps.27:1-3**

⁵ Alan Redpath: The Making of the Man of God.