

To the Saints of God at Topeka, Kansas

June 3, 2018

David and Goliath, Part 1

There are many places in the Bible that amaze me, particularly when I view them in light of my own flesh. I say to myself “how did they do that?” There are several Bible stories and passages at the top of my “amazement” list.

The first is Moses. When you are building a bridge you need great big, deep pillars that go all the way down in the ground to secure it. If you are building a skyscraper you need footings and cornerstones that hit bedrock like in New York City. Moses is a pillar for me. Your religious beliefs need grounding - something that you believe is fundamental and which will hold you in times of great distress when Satan comes calling. I think often of Moses’ faith in Hebrews 11. You should look for and grab hold on pillars for your faith. 2Pe 1:10 *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.*

Heb 11:24 *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible.*

Beloved, this is what “good” looks like. Charles reminded us a few weeks ago about the necessity of personal sacrifice and he reminded us of Moses’ sacrifice. It is only through enormous faith that one does something like this. Another verse that is a pillar for me is: Mat. 7:13 (Christ talking) *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction (Strong’s: eternal misery in hell), and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*



Another high on my list of Bible passages and stories that amaze me is David and Goliath. Moses had the benefit of life experience. He was about 40 years old when he made the decision to forsake Egypt. David on the other hand took on Goliath (Bunyan’s “Giant Despair”) as a youth. He undertook this personal sacrifice without much in the way of age and life experiences. David’s belief and faith in God, all his life, is wonderful and is an amazing work of God. His faith in God is the single most important thing about David. David’s raw courage and faith is astounding. By fleshly standards, it is Medal of Honor quality stuff! And, his God given faith, is why he is listed in Hebrews 11.

Sometimes, we have need of great courage. I think about the raw courage of the souls of this church – like when the power of the United States Government came calling in *Snyder*. Albert Snyder, a Sodomite, sued members of this church on behalf of the United States government and military. The “industrial military complex” came knocking at the doors of this very church. There was a mismatch in apparent power. You had the sheer power of the President of the United States of America, the power of nearly all sitting United States Senators and Representatives, and the power of all the United States military branches (including millions of soldiers, generals, the Joint Chiefs, and military psychiatrists and experts that predicted that under the pressure of this case and the use of military tactics that we would collapse). All that fleshly power was concentrated on one thing – to stop the words of God or to bankrupt God’s ambassadors on earth (as a means to shut us up). I say, it takes raw courage to look that fleshly beast in the eye and do battle with it – seemingly being unarmed (except for the spirit of faith that can see the chariots and horses of fire that camp round about Israel day and night – 2 Kings 6:17). They truly are there! It was a mismatch of power because we fight for God and He is the LORD of Hosts, the Most High God, the Possessor of Heaven and Earth (Gen 14:22). Truly, the mismatch is in our favor. The miscalculation of Satan and his hosts is to trust in the arm of flesh when they go to eat up the servants of God.

Here is what David said to Goliath when Goliath taunted him (1 Sam 17:45)...*I come to thee in the name of the LORD of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast*

defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

David's faith in God is counted as being worthy of being mentioned in Hebrews 11.

Heb. 11:32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets.

David made the list, but, did he deserve to?

*Heb. 11:33 **Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,** 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

- Did David “subdue kingdoms?”
 - Why “yes,” he did. David, through God subdued the whole Philistine army after he slew Goliath.
 - David subdued a number of kingdoms. 2nd Sam. 8:1-15 *And after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them...2 And he smote Moab...And so the Moabites became David's servants... 3 David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah... 4 And David took from him a thousand chariots...5 And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succour Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men. 6 Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and the Syrians became servants to David... 8 And from Betah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, king David took exceeding much brass... 12 Of Syria, and of Moab, and of the children of Ammon, and of the Philistines, and of Amalek, and of the spoil of*

Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.15 And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people.

- Did David “wrought righteous?”
 - David “wrought righteousness” when he shut the mouth of this uncircumcised Philistine who was mocking and defying the armies of the Living God in the name of his own gods (Dagon – the fish god – some say the Philistines were sea faring people that came from Crete). Goliath cursed David by his gods (1 Sam. 17:43).
 - 1st Sam. 13:13-14 *And Samuel said to Saul...But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.*
 - 1 Kings 15:3 ... *and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father. 4 Nevertheless for David’s sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem: 5 Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.*
 - David wrought righteousness in Israel by turning from the idolatry of Saul and seeking after God.

- Did David “obtain promises?”
 - David believed in the promises of God in how he dealt with Saul’s persecution of him. David never raised his hand against Saul even though he had opportunity to do so. He had faith and believed in the promise that he would

eventually be king – not by his own hand in wrenching the kingdom from Saul, but by God’s hand in God’s own time.

- Did David stop the mouths of lions?
 - I tend to think of this being a reference to God shutting up the mouths of the lions when Daniel was shut up with them. However, point in fact, David did stop the mouths of lions (1 Sam 17:34-35). He told Saul that he is not without some experience in battle because as a shepherd slew a lion when a lion stole one of the lambs from the herd. Shirl and I watch a show where the producers take two people and drop them in the middle of nowhere (Africa in this instance) with practically no resources to see if they can survive. In a recent episode, an African game warden came on camera and told the people in the challenge that 2 lions just killed and ate two poachers so they needed to be very diligent.

- Did David quench the violence of fire?
 - This most likely refers to the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace. But, there is this story about David and it is indicative of how David dealt with most problems in his life. *1st Sam. 30:1 And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; 2 And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way. 3 So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. 4 Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. 5 And David’s two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. 7 And David said to Abiathar the priest,*

Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. 8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all. David quenched the violence of that fire.

- Did David escape the edge of the sword?
 - Yes, he did. We know that Goliath had a sword because David cut off Goliath's head with it (1st Sam. 17:51).
 - And in 1 Sam. 21:8 Ahimelech the priest gives David, Goliath's sword, when he is running from Saul. And David said to Ahimelech "*there is none like that.*"
 - Beloved, Goliath's sword would have been massive. A standard sword for a 6' tall person is roughly 32" (just short of 3 feet). If you kept the proportions the same, Goliath's sword would have been 56-60 inches (around 5 feet), or nearly twice the length of a standard sword (this would be a huge advantage in a sword fight – you enter the kill zone of the giant long before you can even reach him with your sword). Goliath's sword also would have been of the highest quality, and very strong, not to mention heavy.
 - But a good question is why would Ahimelech the priest (probably the High Priest) have Goliath's sword? Wouldn't that be a great memento for David? Wouldn't it be proudly displayed as a trophy over David's mantle at home? If you go to the "cribs" of the famous athletes of our generation, they all have a trophy room (Lance Armstrong). Wouldn't it be worth a lot of money and wouldn't David have cherished it? Well, no! We find it at the Tabernacle of God. Gill says that Saul placed the Tabernacle in Nob, which belonged to Benjamin, his tribe. Goliath's sword was wrapped in a cloth behind the high priest's ephod (where sacred vestments were kept). Goliath's sword was reserved as a tribute not of the victory of the man David, but of the goodness of God to Israel, and of the Lord's deliverance and salvation to His people. Gill says it was kept there so when the Israelites came to sacrifice they could see it. And, why would David go to the Tabernacle at all when Saul was chasing him all over Israel? The answer is in 1 Sam 22:10. *Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of*

*Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. 10 And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine. He went to the tabernacle and the priest to seek God and to inquire about what he should do next! That is what we have to do beloved, when we are faced with challenges – large and small. That is where our power is – not in our own flesh, but in the faith of God. Our prayers are a sweet savor to God. Ps 50:14 *Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the Most High: 15 And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.**

- David also escaped Saul's sword (and the King's army) as well.

- Was David made strong out of weakness?

- Yes, I believe he was. Beloved you do not get much weaker than David was against Goliath. A poor shepherd boy against a well-armed and experienced military champion at the height of his power.
- 1 Cor. 1:26 *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are.*
- 2Co 12:10 *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*
- Eccl 9:10 *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest. 11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. 12 For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.*

- Rom 8:30 *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? It is a rhetorical question – no one can be against us!*
- David was made strong out of weakness, because he had faith in God and did NOT draw back. *Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report. 3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear... 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*
- Rev 19:16 *And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God. 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.*

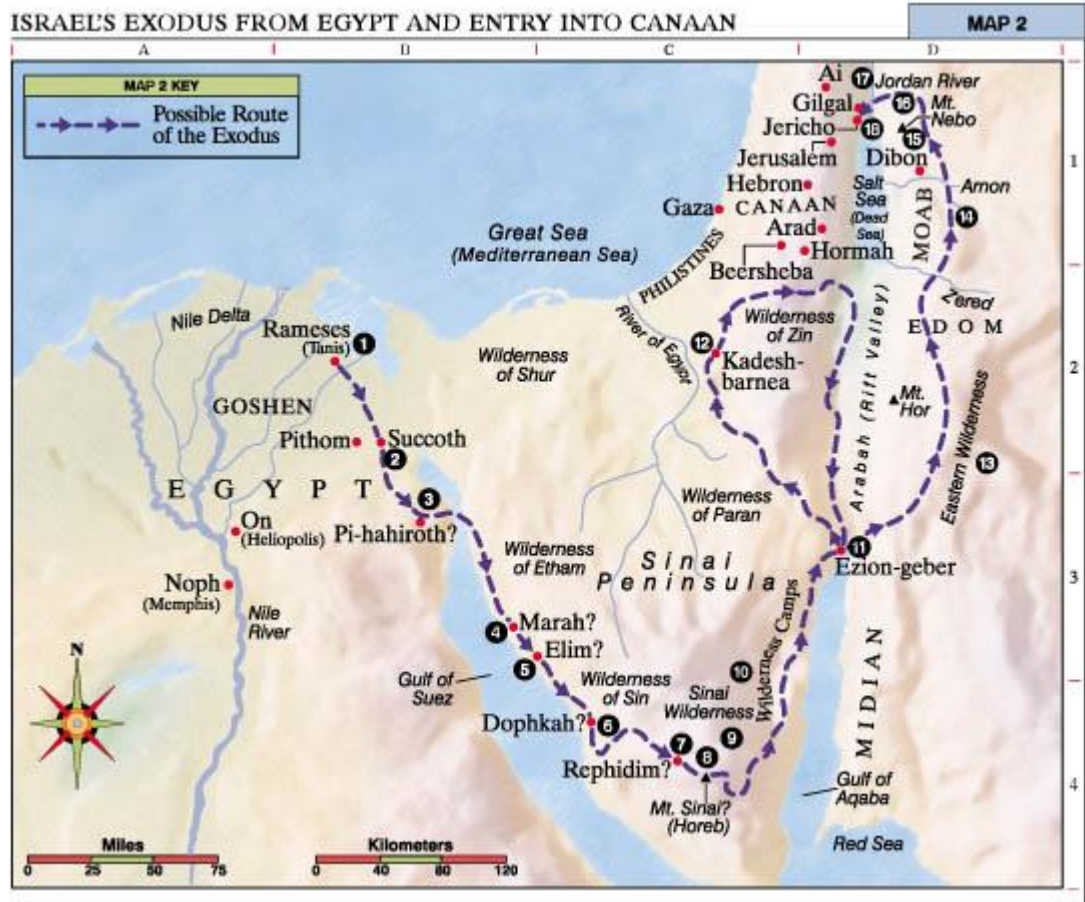
Did David wax valiant in fight?

- Valiant means: bold, courageous, brave, heroic, stouthearted, strong, powerful and mighty.
- It's hard to imagine someone being more valiant in fight than outmanned, outgunned David. He trusted in God and God gave him faith in His promises and he slayed the giant that towered over him.
- Col 1:27 *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*
- Phil 1:6 *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

And, did David turn to flight the armies of the aliens?

- You know that he did. This uncircumcised Philistine mocked and reproached the armies of the Living God twice a day, morning and evening for forty days (1st Sam 17:16).
- *1st Sam. 17:51 Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. 52 And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron.*
- Beloved, why wasn't there a whole division of Anakims at the Valley of Elah (like the division of trolls in the Lord of the Ring movies)?
 - Beloved the Anakims had been a problem for the children of Israel since the beginning. The Israelites can't see past them.
 - You will recall that when the Israelites came out of Egypt at the Exodus they sent out 12 spies. Numbers 13:21 *So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath. 22 And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmaj, the children of Anak, were (Anak's three sons).* At Kadeshbarnea the 10 faithless spies said this: Numbers 13:27 *We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. 28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. 30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. 31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. 32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to*

search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. 33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. Based on this faithless report the whole nation rebelled. Numbers 14:1 *And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. 2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! 3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? 4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.* This is Kadeshbarnea.





So, yes, David belongs in Hebrews 11 as much as anyone not because of his strength or skill, or cunning, but because of his faith and reliance not on his own strength but on God.

Beloved, the story of David and Goliath is one of the most often mentioned Bible stories in culture, save only to possibly The Flood. There are children's books about it ad nauseum. It is often mentioned in any kinds of sports when there is an apparent mismatch in strength and talent. It is used in politics when one candidate is stronger than another – typically an incumbent that has been in office a long time and has great financial strength and is well-liked. It also is used in nearly every kind of journalism to juxtapose great strength on one side and great weakness on another. I did a Google search in News for David and Goliath and got 173,000 hits in .026 seconds. It also represents the classic “underdog” scenario. There is a plethora of secular and non-secular self-help books and the like about “slaying your giant.” In addition, Goliath sometimes is a reference all on its own to something large and foreboding. The list is truly never-ending and several times a week I hear a reference to this story. But they always get it wrong. It's not about David, or David being the underdog, or Goliath being over confident, or trying to inspire others to overcome, or about strategy – it's about God delivering His people whom He purposed to deliver, and, for His glory, giving them unwavering faith in Him.

David stands representative as a type of Christ. And, of course, David in the lineage of Christ. Christ is the Captain of the host who leads his people in victory over their adversaries by God-given faith and stirring up their hearts to serve God and minister to God's people. *Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

Goliath is representative of the natural, fleshly man. His service and power is the works of the flesh, not the works of the spirit. The natural man knows nothing about the works of the spirit. That is a foreign concept to him or her.

1 Cor. 15: 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Here is the pre-fight scouting report – the “tale of the tape:”

Goliath	David
 <p>Hometown: Gath/Philistia* Las Vegas Odds: Can't Lose Fighting Records: 1,000 Wins, 0 Losses (Champion) Age: 30-35 Height: 9' 9" to 11' *** Weight: 700 to 800 pounds Reach: 114" to 130"**** Military Exp: 10-15 years (U.S Special Forces – Green Beret, Seal Team 6, etc.) Soldier Class: Heavy Infantry</p> <p>Weaponry: Modern – Sword*****, Spear, Shield, mail Military Survival Score: 10 Strengths: Age, height, reach/range, power, strength, experience, defensive capability</p>	 <p>Hometown: Bethlehem/Israel* Las Vegas Odds: Can't win Fighting Record: 0 Wins, 0 Losses (Shepherd) Age: 16** Height: 5' 10" Weight: 150 pounds Reach: 71" Military Exp: 0 – No military combat</p> <p>Soldier Class: Artillery/Slinger/Archer Weaponry: Shepherd staff/sling</p> <p>Military Survival Score: 1 Strengths: God given faith and gifts of speed, cunning, skill and experience with a sling</p>

*It wasn't until 2013 that archeologists confirmed that the Philistine's even truly existed in archeology. They found a cemetery with 200 corpses in it and have attributed it to the Philistines. Before that, there was a large question amongst archeologists of whether they ever truly existed. The archeologists currently say there is little archeological evidence to support King David's reign 3,000 years ago.

**How old was David? Numbers 1:3 *From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies.* It appears

David was under 20. And since Jesse had eight sons (1st Sam. 16:10 and 18:12) and only three were serving with Saul in the military (1st Sam. 17:13-14)– the implication is that the 5 other sons were under age 20 because they were not serving with Saul. 1st Sam. 14:52 *And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.* We also know that David was the youngest (1 Sam 17:14) so some expositors say David could not have been any older than 16.

*** Goliath was 6 cubits and a span (1 Sam. 17:4). The Jewish cubit was the length of the middle finger to the elbow or approximately 18-21 inches. A span is a half a cubit. The expositors say he was between 9' 9" and 11' tall. Gill and Henry say Goliath was 11' and that is because the typical Jewish cubit was 20.4 inches (see cubit stick).

**** Reach – I used to be 5' 10" and now I am 5' 9 ½". We measured and my reach or arm span is 5'9" inches just a half an inch shorter than my height. Goliath's arm span or reach would have been around 11' or about the length of a small car.

***** 1 Sam. 13:19-22 *Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears... 22 So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.*

I love you all. Amen.