

# To the Saints of God at Topeka, Kansas

March 3, 2016

## David and Goliath, Part 6

*1 Sam. 17:37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee. 38 And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. 39 And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.*

Saul, being the man of the flesh, thinks this fight is going to be won by the flesh, so he equips David with armor. King Saul would have had access to the best armor of the day and he would have experts whose sole occupation was to craft and fit the armor and weapons to the person. Saul gave David a helmet of brass and a coat of mail. It would have been heavy (a minimum of 30-40 pounds) and would have been restricting. For all intents and purposes if Goliath is able to get a single clean hit on David, this match is over with or without armor. So probably all that the armor Saul gave him would do is get in David's way and slow him down. David's true and only armor and shield is the LORD God of Israel.

I saw a reality TV show where two men duel with long broadswords and heavy armor in a small, arena. What I noticed is that whoever is the largest, tallest, biggest, and strongest usually wins. If you are taller than your opponent you can strike from a higher position with gravity working in your favor. If you are smaller, you must strike constantly upwards, you work against gravity. The stronger pursues the weaker and the weaker runs trying to stay out of the way of the devastating weapons. Surprisingly, there was a lot of punching, kicking, and physical strength involved in holding and pushing your opponent. When the swords hit each other, you sometimes have this stalemate where the combatants are close to one another and this is where all this extraneously contact comes into play. It is not pretty and it is brutal. All of this would favor Goliath.

Saul also gave David a sword. Swords were hard to come by in those days in Israel (1 Samuel 13:19 *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.*) David would not have had access to such a weapon and would not have had any experience with it. Goliath on the other hand would have trained every day for years with a sword. So here is David all outfitted in the latest military

weaponry of the day and he takes it all off, and seemingly goes into the battle unarmed. Thankfully, the battle is the Lord's. The spectators of both armies would have been in awe of this sight. Here is a very young man coming to a duel against a seasoned giant with seemingly no weapon. They must have been thinking, what is he going to fight this giant with - harsh language? The Philistines are thinking there is no way Goliath can lose this fight, when in reality, there is no way he can win. (Ec 9:11 *I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, . . .*) What Goliath doesn't realize is that David, by Christ, is coming to the battle with a thoroughly tested weapon that he has been training with probably every day for a minimum of 7-8 years. God put it upon David to do it.

*40 And he (David) took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.*



*And he took his staff in his hand...*" This is what a shepherd's staff looks like. It is typically around 6' long and it has a hook on one end. The hook is for corralling the sheep around the neck. The stick is long because it is a good walking stick on uneven terrain and because you can extend it out as another way to corral sheep. David is wading into this battle with a shepherd's staff. The shepherd's staff is unsuspectingly important. Goliath sees it and rightly assumes it poses no military threat to him. But it is a ruse. It is a visual cue for Goliath



to focus on (and complain about), but the real weapon, the lethal weapon, is hidden in David's other hand. The shepherd's staff is contemptible to the mighty Goliath.

*"...and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand:"*



The shepherd's sling is a "primitive weapon." It is an old weapon. People have been using this type of sling for a very long time. The sling that you are looking at is about six feet long. The way a sling works is simple, but very effective in the hands of an expert. A traditional shepherd's sling has a small cradle or pouch (typically of leather) and on either side of the pouch is a length of cord. A stone is placed in the pouch. Now, if you are going to kill a lion or bear with a stone, you are going to need a medium or large-sized stone, so the pouch probably would have been relatively large to accommodate a 6-8 oz. stone. If you put a stone that is too large for the pouch, then the stone flies out prematurely. The pointer or middle finger is placed through a loop on the end of the cord and a tab at the end of the other cord is placed between the thumb and pointer. The sling is swung in an arc and the tab released. This releases the stone.



In a bit of irony, the Palestinians of our day are famous for using slings against the Israeli army. In the right hands, slings are amazingly accurate. The stones go amazingly straight, even in wind, if the stone is reasonably dense. A stone coming out of sling is more like a bullet than an arrow. And, in fact, routinely, the sling breaks the sound barrier and you can hear it crack.

The Israeli penal code treats stone-throwing as a felony, with a maximum penalty of up to 20 years, depending on the circumstances and intentions. I have a small to average size sling. It is thought this sling might be about the size of the one David used. This sling is about 6' long, or 3' long when doubled-up. The sling of the Palestinian in the picture is closer to 10' in length or 5' when doubled-up. Expert slingers can sling stones around 400 yards or a quarter of a mile. Longer slings can cast stones farther, but shorter slings are far more accurate. Because accuracy was so important with David's throw, it is thought his sling may have been about this long (6' or 3' doubled-up). The sling is usually the length of the thrower's arm-span.

When you put a dense stone in the sling, think of it as a major league pitcher when he throws a fast ball. If David swung 5 or 6 times around, the stone leaving the sling would have been like the fast ball, leaving the sling in excess of 60 miles per hour. The difference between the baseball and the stone is that the stone is far denser and if it hits flesh it will penetrate the flesh.



I did some research and it literally takes years and thousands and thousands of casts to be highly accurate. One person said they cast 300 times over 2-3 days learning and never hit their small target. Another person said it took them a year with 30,000 casts to be accurate enough to hit a target the size of a small animal

three out of four times at 30 feet. They said after that year they were as proficient with the sling as a small child would have been in ancient times and that people would throw from the sling all their lives. The reality is that for David to realistically pull this off he would have had to have been training for this day most of his young life. I watched a lot of You Tube videos about how to cast. I cast 20 times and actually hit the lower target once and hit the red dumpster 3 times. The time I hit the target, it easily went through the cardboard. To get the best accuracy I could, I only swung the sling 1 time over my head and then I let it go. And, even with me only slinging it one time over my head, when the stone hit the dumpster, it hit hard. There are different ways to cast the stone, including overhead, underhand and figure eight. I am told that it is common for those in Israel to use the figure-eight method. I found the overhead method to be the most accurate for me.

The stones are a critical piece of this story and David handpicked these stones for the job at hand. He went to a nearby brook. The brook was probably the Elah brook, which is right in the vicinity there. David had not presented himself to Goliath yet so he had all the time he wanted to pick the stones. David most likely chose the stones very carefully. In addition to the stones being smooth, he probably wanted stones that were approximately all the same weight since that will affect how far they fly and he would want consistency among them as well. Why does he choose five stones? It is so if the first one does not hit its mark he has additional ammunition. Why are they smooth? It's aerodynamics. A smooth stone will have greater accuracy and leave the pouch on a better trajectory. Don't think like me that the stones were ones you might skip when you are at a pond



or lake. These were not skinny, flat, smooth stones. The stones most likely would have been round. In addition, David would have wanted stones with the same density since this also affects accuracy. It is easy to cast a stone in the general direction of something but if you want to hit something square on, everything matters. If a stone is less dense than average it tends to release too early from the pouch and if the stone is too dense it releases too late. The stones probably would have weighed between 4

and 12 ounces with an average being around a 6-8 oz, or half of a pound. The most accurate stone for me was nearly round and weighted 5 ounces; a medium-sized stone.

David also had a shepherd's bag, which most likely was made of leather to store the stones in. This would have made the whole weapon self-contained, with the sling and stones being contained in the bag.

*...draws near to the Philistine.*

David is now "armed" and ready to go and he *draws near to the Philistine*. David is not presenting himself as a soldier to Goliath but is presenting himself as a lowly shepherd. (David, as a type of Christ: Joh 10:11 *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*) The man of the flesh will always underestimate the good shepherd. This appearance before Goliath therefore is a deception that gives David an element of surprise. Further, Goliath generally did not know much about Hebrew sheep-herders or he would have known David would have been armed with more than a shepherd's staff and probably a light shepherd's coat.

If Goliath had seen the sling in David's other hand, he might have thwarted it by retrieving his shield from his armor bearer. What a wonderful work of God this was. (Hab 3:4 *And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.*) Interestingly, David had the sling on his person. It is interesting because he obviously had no idea that he would be facing down a giant when he went on the grocery delivery errand for his dad. He must have taken the sling with him as protection against wild animals along the way. I believe David already had some stones in the bag (the sling would have been worthless against a lion or bear without them), but it does not appear he was confident in them for the job of dealing with Goliath.

*41 And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. 42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.*

David had no helmet, no mail, no shin guards, no sword, no spear, no bow, no quiver, no arrows, no knife. The text said that a man went before Goliath with his shield – since his hands were full with weapons. Goliath *disdained* David. The word *disdain* means, despise, scorn, contempt, vile, and worthless. Goliath is expecting a big, strong, warrior. If Goliath slays meager David, it will not add to his lore and legend. Goliath's immense pride is showing forth. He thinks that it is not worth his time to slay this youngling. You don't use a tank to swat a flea. David is beneath the mighty Goliath. The text says David was a *youth*. Strong's says it means: boy, lad, servant (again, I think David was 13-15 years old). It says David was *ruddy*. Strong defines it as: red. He was red with youth – think "ruddy cheeks." The text says he had a *fair countenance*. That is, he was beautiful and handsome, probably thin (puny) and light. David is presenting as an effeminate, young dancer,

singer or a jester, not a rugged, battle and weather-hardened, savvy, and seasoned warrior. Goliath is expecting a Navy Seal, from Seal Team 6 and what he gets is a youth violinist from the orchestra. Goliath instantly hates him.

*43 And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.*

Goliath says in as much - *are you coming to me with sticks to beat me like a dog is beaten?* Remember, all Goliath sees is the shepherd's staff, no sling. And as I said in a previous sermon some of the writers say that Goliath had acromegaly – giants' disease – because he says that David had plural sticks when most likely it was one. They say Goliath had bad eye sight and needed a handler (the armorbearer) to get him where he need to go. Josephus says that when Goliath said *Am I a dog...* that David answered him and said, *No, not so good as a dog.*

Then Goliath cursed David by his god, Dagon. *Dagon destroy thee...* or some such thing.

*44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. Goliath, says come to me...* the expositors say that it is likely that Goliath stopped since he was in big heavy armor and probably had a big and slow gait. He bids David to come to him since David was light and nimble. Goliath then threatens him saying he will feed his flesh to the fowls of the air and the "beasts of the field." Goliath means wild beasts, but Jarchai says what he says is "beasts of the field." You know, like sheep, cattle, horses and oxen – who don't devour a man like that – they are plant eaters! Goliath is so mad he can't see or talk straight!

Now, you get to see the real difference between David and Goliath. This next speech by David shows his spirituality, his piety, his character, his integrity and his faith in God, which is his real strength and weapon. This is all juxtaposed to Goliath the man of the flesh and his chest beating.

*45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. 46 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 says that his commission is from God, the LORD of hosts, **the Great Jehovah** (*the existing One*). David is referencing the warring arm of the Godhead also known as the **Lord of Sabaoth** (**Rom. 9:29 - *And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.***) **The Lord of Sabaoth** - the Lord of the

armies of Israel, as those who are under the leadership and protection of Jehovah and who maintain His cause in war). The “**LORD of hosts**” is God as Lord over all earthly and heavenly armies (of men and of angels) and bodies (sun/stars, moon, planets, galaxies, super nova, black hole, superclusters), and the whole of creation, every last whit of it.

In Psalm 24 David writes about the Lord of hosts. *Psalm 24:1 « A Psalm of David. » The earth is the LORD’S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. 2 For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. 3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in His holy place? 4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of His salvation. 6 This is the generation of them that seek Him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah. 7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? **The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.** 9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 10 **Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.***

David says that God will vindicate His honor through him and avenge His people. David says, it is not by me or my hand that I will obtain victory but it is through God’s. He says “*this day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand.*” David had wisdom beyond his years. David was given the spiritual understanding that God is the primary cause of all things. And, here is the plan - I am going to walk right over there and cut off your head (and I don’t even have so much as a knife) and I will give not only *your* carcass but all of the carcasses of the whole host of the Philistines to the fowls of the air and the *wild beasts of the earth* (not the beasts of the field). I am going to do this, not for my glory, but this will be done according to God’s plan so everyone will know there is a God in Israel and that He is in charge of all of this and He has determined to give you into the hands of His people, for His glory. David says, this is who I am representing (the Lord of Hosts) and you have defiled and defied the God of all creation and His blessed name for the last 40 days and now He will have vengeance.

*Ro 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

*De 32:35 To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.*

*De 32:41 If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.*

De 32:43 *Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.*

*48 And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that **David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.***

The parley is over. The combat is now on. So, Goliath, who had previously rested a bit, is now on the move, but probably not too fast. He doesn't see David as a threat so he probably isn't moving too fast. Goliath is steaming mad because he just got rebuked sharply by the violinist in the orchestra. This wasn't close. David took everything that Goliath verbally threw at him and improved upon it with Truth. However, David, was not just about his words. David is now going to do something that very few people have ever had success in. He is going to charge a fully-armed giant (one expositor called Goliath *a walking armory*). *David hasted*. It means to hurry, to move quickly. When you are a giant it comes with advantages, but it also comes with disadvantages. When you are big, it usually means you are slow and lumbering. David is going to exploit a weakness of this lumbering giant. *David ran toward the army to meet the Philistine*. David is not only running toward Goliath, but he is running toward the whole Philistine army. This is crazy, brash, valiant, courageous stuff! He is closing the gap quickly between him and Goliath precisely because he has no amour and he has great maneuverability. He is running toward Goliath probably at a full sprint. Beloved, I dare to say that this might be a new experience for Goliath. He is used to people running from him, cowering to him, and being intimidated by him. David is running to Goliath for several reasons, 1) David is inherently not afraid of Goliath, 2) he wants the element of surprise when he takes out his hidden weapon, the sling, 3) he doesn't want Goliath to have time to react to the sling and get his shield, 4) he would like to hit Goliath while Goliath is still moving and his center of gravity is off, 5) David wants to close the gap so the distance he is slinging is a little shorter – the shorter the distance – the better accuracy of the sling to hit its mark, and, 6) he wants to get his stone in the air first, before Goliath can get his spear or dart in the air. Even for the best slingers in the world now, trying to hit a moving target (Goliath was moving) the size of a pair of sunglasses is incredibly challenging, but when you consider that David was most likely running toward Goliath and trying to hit a moving target that small, that was nothing short of spectacular.

Courage is risky business by definition. Courage is the implementation of something that is frightening. . . mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.

De 31:6 *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

De 31:7 *And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.*

Ps 27:14 *Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Ps 31:24 *Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.*

2 Tim 1:7 *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

Ac 20:24 *But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself...*

Beloved, David is a type of Christ here. Christ is the Captain. Christ is courageous and valiant. When you see David, you should immediately think of Christ.

There were outstanding slingers in Israel's army. Judges 20:16 *Among all this people there were seven hundred chosen men lefthanded; every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss.* The expositors say that were ambidextrous and that is saying something. But, none of them had the spirituality and courage of David. Again, it's not David's arm that wins this battle, it's his heart; his God-given gift of faith in God.

Ec 9:11 *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.*

Jas 4:6 *... Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*

Beloved, we will all decide in this life what we are about and what our strategy is. Are we going to play it safe and not expose ourselves and lie low in this life or like David are we going to have faith in God and be valiant? Are we going to expose everything that we have and that we are for this prize? One of the silk-stalking lawyers we did battle against would always say "the strength of the wolf is in the pack." It means that you play it safe, you don't expose your position, you have others around you to protect your flanks and that all of your moves are carefully coordinated with the pack. Are you going to be ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ or not?

Luke 9:23 *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? 26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.*

Mat. 13:43 *Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.* 44 ¶ *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.* 45 *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:* 46 *Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.* That's the risk! What if you got it wrong! What if you sold everything you had and you are wrong – now you have nothing!

Mat.11:12 *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*

The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence – we are in the church militant stage. The church is under great stress from Satan and his army of minions. They are a formidable enemy. They are motivated and lethal. 1Pe 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.* The violent must take it by force. The kingdom of God will not be handed to you. You must sell all that you have to gain it. It takes strength, vigor, commitment, courage, bravery and zeal to lay hold on it. If you do not the your crown will be literally taken from you! Rev. 3: 11 *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*

Lu 13:24 *Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.* **Strive means: to contend with adversaries, fight, struggle with difficulties and dangers, to endeavor with strenuous zeal.**

Matthew Henry: Self must be denied. **The bent and bias, the frame and temper, of the mind must be altered; there are hard services to be done, and hard sufferings to be undergone.** We must put force against the corrupt nature. We must run, and wrestle, and fight, and be in an agony to win such a prize, and to get over such opposition from without and from within. They who will have an interest in the great salvation must have a strong desire and will have it upon any terms, and not think them hard, nor quit their hold without a blessing. They who will make their calling and election sure must give diligence. **The kingdom of heaven was never intended to indulge the ease of triflers, but to be the rest of them that labour.** It is a blessed sight; Oh that we could see a greater number, not with an angry contention thrusting others out of the kingdom of heaven, but with a holy contention thrusting themselves into it! **Beloved, if you are not striving and if you are not facing giants, you are on the wrong path. You are on the wide way and you have gone through the broad gate that leads to destruction.**

2 Tim 2:3 *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.* 4 *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.* 5 *And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.*

*49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.*

I believe it is at this point as David is running toward Goliath that he drops the shepherds staff. The ruse is over. He quickly gets the stone in the sling and within a 3-4 seconds he has the stone in the air. The stone is in the air so fast that Goliath does not have time to react. Some experts say that David may have been as far out as 30-40 yards (90-120 feet) when he hit Goliath. That may or may not be true. The targum renders forehead as “house of his eyes,” so the stone passed through the eye hole into his brain. There is a lot of speculation here. Did Goliath take off his helmet because he thought David posed no serious threat, was the forehead left open in the helmet by a design defect, did the helmet ride up to expose his forehead, or like the Septuagint says did the stone hit with such force that it passed through the brass helmet. In addition, the slingers could throw very heavy stones in their slings in battle, particularly when sieging fortified cities and they learned how to sling from a very early age. In the end it doesn’t matter. Jarchi says that Goliath probably fell backwards but the text says he fell upon his face. Maybe he just stood there for a moment teetering and then fell forward. In any case, the stone is lodged in Goliath’s forehead and probably gave him a massive concussion but also it is likely the stone penetrated Goliath’s skull and the stone pushed the skull into the brain.

*50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. 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.*

Goliath, the champion of the Philistines is down. And like a heavy weight title fight when you have the person on the ropes, you finish the person off as quickly as possible to not give them time to recover. So David seizes the opportunity and stands on Goliath’s giant body and draws out Goliath’s sword from the sheath. Apparently, Goliath didn’t even have his sword drawn. Maybe he truly saw David as no threat at all. And while standing on Goliath’s body he cuts off his head so there is no question who the victor is and it sends a clear message to the Philistines that your champion is dead, God is with us, and now we are coming after you. God now appoints terror to the Philistines so they fled.

It is said that David wrote Psalm 9 regarding this event. *To the chief Musician upon Muthlabben, A Psalm of David. » I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High. When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence. For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right. Thou hast rebuked the*

*heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever. O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them. But the LORD shall endure forever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment.*

*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. 53 And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents.*

The Israelites chased the Philistines all the way to their fenced cities. This begins the reign of David over the Philistines. Josephus says the Israelites killed 30,000 men that day and 60,000 were wounded. Josephus says it was 8 miles to Ekron, 20 miles to Ashkelon and 24 miles to Gath.

*54 And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent. 55 And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, Abner, whose son is this youth? And Abner said, As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell. 56 And the king said, Enquire thou whose son the stripling is.*

Matthew Henry says: *Though David had been at court formerly, yet, having been for some time absent (#1Sa 17:15), Saul had forgotten him, being melancholy and mindless, and little thinking that his musician would have spirit enough to be his champion; and therefore, as if he had never seen him before, he asked whose son he was. Abner was a stranger to him, but brought him to Saul.* This is not entirely satisfactory answer for me, but it is as good as any.

*57 And 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. 58 And Saul said to him, Whose son art thou, thou young man? And David answered, I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.*

I love you all. Amen.