

"The Battle is the Lord's"

1 Samuel 17:8ff

Introduction:

The echoes of war resounded across Palestine as the nation of Israel and its adversaries struggled for control of the holy land. This conflict symbolized the eternal struggle between good and evil, righteousness and unrighteousness, and light against darkness. Throughout human history, this war has persisted. During the reign of King Saul, a Philistine giant named Goliath challenged the Israelites to a limited contest, proposing, "Send me a man, and if he defeats me, then our nation will serve you, but if I defeat him, then you will serve us" (1 Samuel 17:8, 9).

God had surprises for his people

The ancient world employed this method as a military strategy to minimize casualties and shorten the duration of wars, benefiting both sides. Goliath, an experienced warrior, represented the Philistines. However, Israel needed a counterpart to match the giant's strength and expertise, leading to panic among the people. Unbeknownst to them, God had surprises for His people and their adversaries.

David arrived at the camp

A young shepherd named David arrived at the camp at the request of his father, Jesse. While his elder brothers served in Israel's armed forces, David had experienced God's favor as a shepherd. This expression, "a man after God's own heart," reflected the bond between David and God (Acts 13:22, 1 Samuel 13:14). Unaware of Goliath's threats, David was present when the Philistine returned, hurling defamatory remarks and insulting the God of Israel. That irked David, who felt compelled to intervene against the ungodly Philistine.

Despite being too young for the battlefield and facing skepticism from his brothers, David, motivated by the righteous cause and Goliath's serious threat, decided to act in faith for the deliverance of Israel. He understood the

secrets of war, the source of victory, and the strength that leads to success (Proverbs 10:29; 21:31, 2 Corinthians 3:5). Crucially, he recognized that the battle was not personal; it belonged to the Lord, and he was willing to let the Lord fight through him (1 Samuel 17:47).

David stepped up to the battle

1. The conflict was unique, a battle between good and evil, spirituality and sensuality, light and darkness, faith and flesh. Despite lacking military experience, David fearlessly stood against his opponent, relying on his unwavering belief in God's power (Matthew 19:26). David, choosing the armor of faith over the armor of flesh, knew that victory depended on God, not human might, knowledge, or experience (2 Corinthians 2:14, Zechariah 4:6).
2. David's reliance on faith defied expectations, leading to victory over Goliath. Today, facing daily giants, many underestimate the power of God. Like David, believers confront challenges—sin, anxieties, adversities, and enemy attacks. These resemble Goliaths, yet God urges believers not to cower but to stand firm, armed with the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-17, 1 Timothy 6:12).

David chose his Armor

3. David's choice between the armor of flesh and the armor of faith illustrated the spiritual nature of the battle. Attempting to wear King Saul's armor, David felt discomfort and recognized its inadequacy for the conflict. Just as David rejected the armor of the flesh, believers are cautioned against battling with incorrect armor, as it gives the enemy an advantage (Ephesians 6:11-12, 2 Corinthians 2:14, Ephesians 4:26, James 4:7).
4. David's decision to lay down the armor of the flesh and embrace the armor of faith showcased his dependence on God for victory. Proclaiming, "I come to thee in the name of the Lord" (1 Samuel 17:45), David expressed his unwavering faith. Although Goliath seemed invincible, David's faith contradicted the flesh and confounded human

intelligence. Similarly, believers are urged to trust in the power of God, confronting life's Goliaths with faith (Hebrews 11:1, 6).

5. In Ephesians 6:12-17, the apostle Paul details the components of the armor of faith, encouraging believers to confront their Goliaths with trust in God's power. The message echoes today: put down the armor of flesh, secular strategies, and distractions violating God's will. Take up the armor of faith, for David proved its effectiveness against lions, bears, and even Goliath.
6. In conclusion, believers must confront their Goliaths with faith, standing in the name of the Lord and praying for victory. Acknowledge that the battle is the Lord's, trust Him, and witness His victorious intervention in your life!