

Standing Alone

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 17

Standing alone: (3-1) Today we will study about a young man who LOVED God so much that He was willing to fight for Him against great odds. His brothers....his whole country of valiant warriors....even his king were not willing to stand and fight this giant. What was it that helped him to stand? Let's see if we can find out about this shepherd boy.

The threat. (3-2) The Philistines had gathered their men for battle against Saul and the Israelites. On one mountain the Philistines were camped, and on another mountain, the Israelites were camped with a valley in between. **(3-3)** The Philistines had a impressive hero—a man that was over 9' tall with a helmet of bronze on his head, a coat of mail, bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. Just imagine the weight of all of his armor. The coat of mail was a long garment that was made of metal rings that were interlinked. That alone weighed 125 pounds. And the head of the spear weighed 15 pounds. Combine those 2 things, along with the armor on his legs and the helmet on his head—the weight of his protection would have been like carrying a man. Every day, this giant would come to the valley, along with his shield bearer and shout this to the army of Israel:

“Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. 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. I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together.”

When Saul and all Israel heard him, they were greatly afraid. Goliath did this every morning and evening for 40 days.

***THINK:** Let's stop and think about this situation. Saul was a head taller than anyone. He would've been the natural one to go against this giant. The whole reason Israel rejected God as king was so that they would have a physical leader to go before in battle. But now their leader is afraid. And cowardice breeds cowardice. And a coward is not who you want to be your leader in war.*

Jesse and David. (3-4) Jesse's three oldest sons were in the battle. He wanted to send some grain and bread to his sons by David, and also to take some cheese to their commanders. Jesse wanted David to check on his brothers and bring back a token from them.

Early the next morning, David left his sheep with a keeper and took the provisions his father Jesse had given him. When he got to their camp, the Israelites and the Philistines drew up for battle. David left his provisions with the one in charge of the baggage and ran to the ranks to greet his brothers.

While he was there, Goliath came out and threatened the Israelites again and David heard him. David witnessed how Israel fled when they saw Goliath and how afraid they were of him. David asked, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away this shame from Israel. Who is this man to defy (boldly resist) the armies of the living God?” David found out that the king would give him great riches, the king's daughter in marriage and his father's household would be free from taxes. These were the “perks” for killing the Philistine champion.

When Eliab heard his youngest brother asking these things he was angry with him. When Saul heard about David's question, he sent for him.

David before Saul. (3-5) David told Saul that he would go and fight with the Philistine. Saul said, "You are not able to go against this Philistine, for you are but a youth and he has been a man of war from his youth." But David told him that he used to keep sheep for his father. **(3-6)** And when a lion or a bear took a lamb, he would go after him, strike him and deliver the sheep out of his mouth. If the lion or bear rose against David, David would catch him by the beard and strike and kill him. He had struck down lions and bears and was confident this Philistine would be like them, for he has defied the armies of the living God. "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"

(3-7) Saul clothed David with his armor, helmet, coat of mail and strapped his sword over it. But David took them off because he had not tested them. Instead, he took his staff, and 5 smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. With his sling in hand, he approached the giant.

David approached Goliath. (3-8) Goliath moved closer to David with his shield-bearer in front of him. He looked at David and despised him—why, he was just a kid, ruddy and handsome. "Am I a dog that you come to me with sticks?" And he cursed David by his gods. "Come to me and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field."

David said, "you come to me with a sword, spear and 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. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, I'll strike you down and cut off your head. I will give the Philistine's dead bodies to the birds and the beasts of the earth, and **ALL THE EARTH MAY KNOW THAT THERE IS A GOD IN ISRAEL**. And this assembly may know that God saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's."

(3-9) The Philistine came near and David ran to meet him. **(3-10)** David took out a stone, slung it and it sank into Goliath's forehead and he fell on his face to the ground. **(3-11)** David took Goliath's sword and cut off Goliath's head. **(3-12)** When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they fled.

Israel rose with a shout and took after the Philistines, pursuing them as far as Gath, and came back and plundered their camp.

As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner brought him to Saul with Goliath's head in his hand. Saul asked, "Whose son are you, young man?" David said, "I am the son of your servant Jesse, the Bethlehemite."

David took Goliath's head and brought it to Jerusalem and put his armor in his tent.

What gave David the confidence to fight Goliath? REMEMBERING how God delivered David before helped him as he was about to face another battle.

What did he want the whole world to know?

David's act of COURAGE was contagious. COURAGE breeds courage....just like COWARDICE breeds cowardice. Who/what was David's protection?