

1 Samuel 17 – the Messiah who fights for God’s people and God’s honour

Warmup: What are some examples of where the David & Goliath story comes up?

Today we look into a Bible classic. But just as a heads up: you and I are not David. If we are to locate ourselves here, it’s with God’s people Israel.

Pray and Read (a big chapter concerning a big enemy and a big victory!) **1 Samuel 17:1-58**

First responses: Why is this story so enjoyable to hear?

1. What details are given to show Goliath to be an enemy impossible to defeat?
eg the detailed desc of Goliath v4-7; the fact that none answer v11 and all are terrified, and this happens daily v19.
2. What causes David to step forward for this fight?
eg honour for God; the fact that none of the soldiers do; the reality that God is able to save etc.
3. What does David need for the fight according to v33-40?
Age? Experience? Courage? Trust in the Lord? Experience of the Lord’s help and faithfulness with lions to face this Philistine; armour? A bronze helmet? A tunic? Only a shepherd staff, some stones and a sling(!)? really?
4. David wants everyone to know how to interpret a victory ahead of the battle in v45-47.
What is important to know? Who needs to hear this?
This is the key interpretive speech (or commentary) on the battle. The victory is the LORDs. Notice there is a word of warning for Goliath v45-46, a word of courage for the armies of Israel, a message for the whole world, and for those gathered here.
5. What is the change this victory brings for God’s people?
Compare verses 11, 16, 19, 24, 25, 32 with verses 52-53.
6. Why might this big account finish on note of David’s identity: who and where he’s from?
Why is this important in 1 Samuel? What about in the whole Bible?
Ch 16 has given readers info that Saul doesn’t have: this son of Jesse has been anointed with God’s Spirit. Joseph’s own identity and home town is a big deal in Luke 2:4-14.
7. What is the way the victory of the LORD in 1 Samuel connects to the victory of Christ in the New Testament?
Our enemies are not flesh & blood, but spiritual enemies: death; the devil; disbelief in the world arising from wickedness, ignorance, injustice, separation, isolation etc.
8. How does 1 Corinthians 15:26 connect Christ with death and victory?
Have someone read.
9. How does 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 conclude and show the natural response for the church?
Hope. Steadfastness of faith. Strengthened willingness to serve ahead of his coming.