

## SERIES: 'CONNECT WITH GOD' (#2) — 4/6/26

### PASTOR LEE

- Today's 'story'...so popular!...about the 'weak' verses the 'strong'....the 'underdog' vs. the 'favorite'....we can all relate to that....but its so much more! What is it in this story....going much deeper as we study it today, that can help us in our connection with God? Lets examine the Scripture, remembering that 'Faith comes from hearing the Word of God' (See Romans 10:17).

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*Sam 17:1-58 - -*

**1** Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and they were gathered together at Socoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. **2** And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched in the vale of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. **3** And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them. **4** And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. **5** And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was clad with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. **6** And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a javelin of brass between his shoulders. **7** And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and his shield-bearer went before him. **8** And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. **9** If he be able to fight with me, and kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. **10** And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. **11** And when Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

**David Accepts the Challenge:**

**12** Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Beth-lehem-judah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man was an old man in the days of Saul, stricken in years among men. **13** And the three eldest sons of Jesse had gone after Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. **14** And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul. **15** Now David went to and fro from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Beth-lehem. **16** And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days. **17** And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to thy

brethren; **18** and bring these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge. **19** Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the vale of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

**20** And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the place of the wagons, as the host which was going forth to the fight shouted for the battle. **21** And Israel and the Philistines put the battle in array, army against army. **22** And David left his baggage in the hand of the keeper of the baggage, and ran to the army, and came and saluted his brethren. **23** And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them.

**24** And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. **25** And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

**26** And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? **27** And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

**28** And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why art thou come down? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. **29** And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

**30** And he turned away from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

**31** And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul; and he sent for him. **32** And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. **33** And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. **34** And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep; and when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock,

**35** I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. **36** Thy servant smote both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. **37** And David said, 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 shall be with thee.

**David Slays Goliath**

**38** And Saul clad David with his apparel, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head, and he clad him with a coat of mail. **39** And David girded his sword upon

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

**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 withal of a fair countenance. **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. **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. **45** Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a javelin: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, which thou hast defied. **46** This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from off thee; and I will give the carcases 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 that all this assembly may know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hand.

**48** And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. **49** And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead; and the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell upon his face to the earth.

**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** Then David ran, and stood over 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 that their champion was dead, they fled. **52** And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou comest to Gai, 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 camp. **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, Inquire thou whose son the stripling is. **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 Beth-lehemite.

- Verse (V)- 1-3: Background: The Philistines worshiped Baal and were fighting God's people Israel and were occupiers of the land of Canaan. They were a bad people, worshipping a false god and engaging in evil practices like sacrificing their first-born babies and self-inflicted injuries. Their military was very strong and technologically advanced. notwithstanding that the Israelites had most recently defeated them just 4 months earlier. (About 1024 BC.)
- Pastor Lee illustrates the impending battle scene....Israelite army on one mountain....Philistine army on the other....a valley (Elah) in between. Note: "David and Goliath" is NOT a story....its an historical account.
- V-4-11: Goliath, about 9.5 feet tall ( a giant!.....Nephilim? See Genesis 6: 1-4....also Numbers 13:16-33) and armored to the hilt was this Philistine champion who *defied* Saul's entire army and challenged any Israelite champion to meet him 'one-on-one' in battle....winner take all He repeats this twice daily for 40 days!!!!. Saul and his army were terrified. Was Goliath demonic?.... see 2 Peter 2: 4...angels who had been cast into darkness...Jude 1: 6....where angels intended to mix with humanity (God said NO). So Goliath may well have been demonic....making this, even more emphatically, a SPIRITUAL BATTLE (!).

(Pastor Lee summarizes last week's sermon....Israelites- asking for a King...Saul was first anointed, then, turning from God....loses His Blessings...Samual then anointed, at God's command, the lowly/unlikely shepherd boy, David, - "a man after God's Own Heart" etc. )

- V-12-21: David is at battleground, ostensibly and per the instructions of his father, Jesse, to bring food to his three brothers (and commander) and check in on them.....just as the respective armies were drawing up for battle. (No volunteers had come forward to fight Goliath...after 40 days of struggling with battle plans, all eyes are on Saul to lead the men in ferocious/traditional battle).
- V-22-30: David greets his brothers...gets 'up to speed' on the defiance/challenges/kingly rewards, etc., all while rejecting his oldest brother Eliab's prideful/angry accusations. Simultaneously, Goliath, again emerges out of the ranks and defiantly challenges a champion to come forth. David, the underaged and ostensibly the most unlikely of 'champions', asks- -in his display of complete faith- - "who is Goliath...that he should defy the armies of God".....(all while Saul's army was fleeing away from the enemy).

It is here that we clearly see that this is a SPIRITUAL BATTLE...reflecting God's Glory!

- V-31-40: After initially doubting David, Saul hears David's response (ie. 'Let no man's heart fail because of him'....'your servant has struck down lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has *defied* the armies of the living God'). Saul reluctantly approves and has David 'armored up' which David ultimately sheds knowing that his power and protection came from GOD....so he picks up his stones, staff and sling and draws out from the mountain enclave.
- Note: David is motivated for all the right reasons this in this instance.....ie. love of God... faith in God...the glory of God, etc. BUT....as we'll learn later on....he is- -even as 'a man after God's own heart'- -human, a sinner and susceptible to human incentives like money, women, no taxes'.....the tension is real!!! (See Prov 4:23- -' Above all else, guard your affections for they influence everything else in your life'). Love Jesus more!!!!
- But, in this instance, the contrasts between David, his brother Eliab, Saul and the rest of this seasoned battle-proven army are stark.

- **V-41-47: As they approach each other, Goliath mocks, disdains and curses David. David says: "YOU COME TO ME WITH A SWORD AND WITH A SPEAR AND WITH A 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.....further, he said: ".....FOR THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU INTO OUR HANDS.**
- **V-48-54: David, of course, wins the battle...striking Goliath, with deadly force, using just his stone and sling.**
- **This man David, who so connected with the LORD, wrote Psalm 27 which, in part (verses 7-8) says: : Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! You have said: "Seek My Face." My heart says to you, "Your Face LORD, do I seek."**
- **Also, Verse13-14: I believe I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

**WAIT FOR THE LORD!!!**