

# Running Towards The Battle

Sunday, May 15, 2022

1 Samuel 17

17 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. 2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. 3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; 6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." 10 Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." 11 On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was very old. 13 Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. 14 David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem

16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

17 Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. 18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. 19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."

20 Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions,

shouting the war cry. 21 Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. 22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. 23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it 24 Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

25 Now the Israelites had been saying, “Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.”

26 David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

27 They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, “This is what will be done for the man who kills him.”

28 When Eliab, David’s oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, “Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.”

29 “Now what have I done?” said David. “Can’t I even speak?” 30 He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. 31 What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

32 David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

33 Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 42 He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. 43 He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

45 David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

Goliath was a champion... He was big... He was strong... He was loud... He was scary...

That bible says that...

11 On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

24 Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

I want to know... What battles are you facing today... What giants have been looming over you creating frustration, anxiety, fear, hopelessness and more?

**16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.**

As a pastor I know that there are many battles being fought within our church body. Each week there are multitudes of things happening in your lives. I hear your concerns, your needs, your prayer requests, your difficulties.

Jessie wanted some assurance about how his sons were doing in the battle and so he sent David to find out. He sent David with some provision for them and that was good, but it wasn't what was going to win the battle for them

**17 Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. 18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. 19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."**

Sometimes I feel like that... Like all I can do is provide a little bit of provision; but I want you to have more than that. I want you to have what you need to fight the battles and be victorious.

I want to draw your attention to two key verses in this passage

The first is verse 48 and summarizes theme of my message today

**48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.**

Of all the Israelite warriors on that battlefield, only David ran toward the battle. Not even Saul, who was a mighty warrior himself, who stood a "head taller than all the rest;" ran toward the battle but rather hid in fear.

I think so many of the battles we face are lost, not because we can't be victorious over the enemy; but because he scares us into never fighting in the first place.

It's time for us to face our battles head on and rather than running away, run towards them.

The second key verse I want to consider is verse 40

**40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.**

Now I know that a lot of different thoughts have been offered up regarding the 5 stones that David picked up. Some have suggested, that David had such great faith, he only needed one stone to kill Goliath, that he knew he only needed one stone, and that picking up 5 wasn't a lack of faith, but was because Goliath had 4 brothers. Personally I think that David was no idiot and he knew he was going into a fight so he picked up what was available to him and what he thought it might take to get the job done.

But for us today I want to imagine that our particular battle is the Goliath standing before us and that for us to Run Towards the Battle and find victory; there are 5 stones that we need in our pouch

## **Passion**

There needs to be a fire in our hearts to fight the battles that come our way. I'm not talking about going out a looking for a fight. But being willing to fight the battles that come against us.

David had a passion inside of him that drove him towards the battle rather than away from it.

Passion keeps our eyes on the victory more than the giant

**25 Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel."**

**26 David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"**

Passion says, with God nothing is impossible. Passion says, greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world. Passion says, what shall separate us from the love of Christ - we are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us. Passion says weeping may last for

a night, but joy comes in the morning. Passion says we'll not be defeated. Passion says, I am trusting in God. Passion says, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Passions says I will not quit.

Now you might say, that's the problem. I don't have any passion left to fight this battle. I'm tired, I'm overwhelmed, I'm worn out, I'm scared. But notice what David did. He took his staff in his hand, began looking around, saw that first smooth stone, reached down, picked it up and put it in his bag.

What I am saying is that running towards the battle begins with walking by faith. We do the things that we already know how to do as we take steps toward the battle. As you do, ask God to stir up a passion in your heart to run toward the battle not away from it.

## **Praise**

The second stone we need to pick up is PRAISE. As we praise God, we run towards the battle.

26 David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

We praise God for...

Who He is

What He has done

What He is going to do

Remember Passion keeps our eyes on the victory more than the Giant... Praise keeps our thoughts on the size of our God rather than the size of our enemy

### 1 Chronicles 29:10-13

10 David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. 11 Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. 12 Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. 13 Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

## Prayer

Our third stone represents prayer. This particular passage doesn't tell us how David prayed regarding this battle. But the Psalms show us that David was a man of prayer throughout his life.

### Psalm 5:2

2 Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray.

We will never win the battle without prayer. James 5:16 says

### James 5:16

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Acts 4:31 tells us...

### Acts 4:31

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

That's why we are told to pray without ceasing. That's why Jesus taught his disciples to pray and not give up. We pray before the battle. We pray during the battle and we pray after the battle is over

I love Peter's prayer in Acts chapter 3 when encountered the lame man at the temple gate begging for money

Acts 3:6

6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

That's the kind of praying I want to do when I am running towards the battle

## Proclamation

Proclamation is a powerful stone that we can use gain the victory in our battles. In military warfare one of the strategies is to bring out the big guns and bombard the position of the enemy to soften them up and weaken their defenses. Perhaps it's cannons of a battle ship pounding the shores of a beach where a landing is about to happen. Maybe it's an air assault dropping bombs on enemy territory before an invasion of their territory.

Our bombs of proclamation destroy the lies of the enemy and bring us hope and encouragement

The truth of God's Word

The promises of God's Word

The faith in the outcome of our victory

Listen to David's proclamation as he runs towards the battle...

45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

I'm not talking about name it claim it or blab it grab it theology. I am talking about proclamations that recognize that there is life and death in the power of the tongue. I am talking about proclamations that declare the truth that faith is being sure of what we hope



for and certain of what we do not see. I am talking about proclamations that stand with a faith like Abraham about whom the Word says.

#### Romans 4:18-21

18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 19 Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. 20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

#### Power

\*We can't do it in our own strength, but we can do it with what God has given us.

He has given us the power His presence. He has given us the power of His anointing. He has given us the power of His Holy Spirit.

Remember that the Weapons of our warfare are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:4)

#### Ephesians 1:19-20 (NLT)

19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.

#### Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.