

(1 Sam. 17:1-3) - The story of David and Goliath is a factual account from the Bible that demonstrates how the Lord fights and intercedes for His people. In this story we can see David, the champion of Israel, as a type of Christ, the Champion of spiritual Israel. We can see Goliath as a type of all enemies of Christ and His people - sin, death, the devil, the curse of the law - which would kill and condemn us if not for the power of our Champion, the Lord Jesus Christ. As our Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer, Christ went to battle for us on the cross to purge away our sins and bring in everlasting righteousness by which God has justified all of His people. Christ, our Champion, paid our debt to God's law and justice (*Heb. 1:3; 10:14*). He conquered death and the grave for His people (*1 Cor. 15:53-58*). He defeated Satan so that all of his accusations against us would be groundless (*John 12:31-33; Rom. 8:33-34*). He removed the curse of the law from all the elect who were chosen of God and given to Him by the Father before the world began (*Rom. 10:4; Gal. 3:13*). Our Champion fought a spiritual battle against principalities and powers beyond our abilities, and He spoiled them completely for us (*Col. 2:9-15*).

(1 Sam. 17:4-11) - King Saul and his men were battling the Philistines, one of which was a nine-foot giant named Goliath. Goliath was strong and well-armed. Goliath challenged King Saul to find a man to fight him, and if Saul's man could kill Goliath, the Philistines would surrender and serve Israel. But if Goliath killed Saul's man, the Israelites would surrender and serve the Philistines. Here is a situation where the victory was conditioned on ONE MAN. All the men of Saul's army were afraid of Goliath, and there was no one to stand up to him. This is the way of our salvation by God's grace conditioned on ONE MAN, THE GODMAN, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (*Isa. 9:6-7; Rom. 5:12-21*).

(1 Sam. 17:12-26) - Recall that David was a shepherd, the youngest of the eight sons of Jesse of Bethlehem. For all appearances David would have been the last person to be Israel's champion. This can remind us of how Jesus Christ, as to His outward circumstances and appearance, was never considered by the Jews as a whole to be the Messiah. They looked for a mighty warrior who would come in the clouds, conquer their enemies, set up a kingdom on earth, and rule through them. Jesus came in a lowly manger, born of Joseph, a carpenter, and a virgin. As Isaiah prophesied, He grew up as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground, with no outward beauty that men would desire or follow Him. He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, and not esteemed by men (*Isa. 53:2-3*). He appeared to them to be anything but a savior, a conqueror, and a king.

David asked this question - "*who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?*" He recognized that Goliath was no match for the living God. He also recognized that, ultimately, this is the LORD'S battle. It would be won by the strength of the Lord, not by the strength of men. This is a lesson that had to be repeated often to the unbelieving Israelites, going all the way back to their liberation from Egypt (*Exod. 14:10-14*). In light of this consider how our eternal salvation is by God's grace and power in and by the Lord Jesus Christ. We fight and labor, but all the battles have already been won and victory assured by Christ our Champion (*John 16:33; Rom. 7:24-25; 1 Cor. 15:54-58*). We too have to be reminded of this often as many times we try to fight the warfare of the flesh and the Spirit in our own strength and not the Lord's.

(1 Sam. 17:27-37) - David's brothers were angry that he would say such things, and David's response was very profound - "*What have I now done? IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?*" (*17:29*). The cause was the glory of God in the preservation of His people according to His promise. This is

the same cause pertaining to the salvation of God's elect by Christ. God's glory is the cause that assures all our victories - *"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness"* (Lam. 3:22-23). This is why God's elect CANNOT perish! God has promised to save them to the end, and all of God's promise are sure and certain in Christ and based on His righteousness imputed to them (Rom. 8:33-39; 2 Cor. 1:20; Heb. 6:13-20).

David was brought before Saul, and because of his youth, Saul questioned David's ability to defeat Goliath. David recounts his past feats in protecting his father's sheep by killing a lion and a bear. But David also emphasized that just as the LORD had delivered him and his sheep from the lion and the bear, He would also deliver him from the hands of *"this uncircumcised Philistine"* who *"shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God."* Again, David recognizes and proclaims that any victory he had in the past or would have in the future was of the Lord. What a great picture of our salvation and the victories that we have over sin, Satan, the world, and the flesh. When we try to fight in our own strength, we fail. But when we look to and trust Christ, the Lord our Righteousness, we are invincible. When Israel looked to their own strength, the Lord would remind them of His own past acts to show that HE alone is their victory (Isa. 46:9-13). By God's grace, we who are saved look back to a past, finished act - Christ crucified and risen from the dead (Gal. 6:14; Heb. 10:14).

(1 Sam. 17:38-40) - Saul equipped David with armor and a sword, but David refused it. David took his staff and collected five smooth stones out of a nearby brook that he would use in his sling. This is a picture of Christ going to battle in his own wisdom and power and not with the implements of men. He did not put on armor or wield a sword. All He needed was His staff which is His Word (John 18:1-11). Many speculate as to why David chose five smooth stones instead of one. We have no biblical answer to this, so their views are simply so much speculation.

(1 Sam. 17:41-47) - By God's grace and power, David came and stood before the giant. David spoke with great boldness and confidence because he came *"in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, Whom Goliath and defied."* He said, *"This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand ... that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."* In David's mind this victory was not to bring himself fame and fortune but glorify the Lord - *"And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands."* This was (and is) the glory of God in Christ Jesus Who saves us and brings us to glory (John 17:1-5).

(1 Sam. 17:48-58) - David used his sling to kill Goliath by hitting him at his only weak point - his exposed forehead. As in the Bible the forehead often represents the mind, it is not a stretch to draw a parallel to the idolatry of false religion when they imagine their strength is in their appearance, their strength, and their works. They are ignorant in their minds of God's righteousness and going about to establish their own righteousness by their own strength and goodness. They have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God - Christ, the Lord our Righteousness (Rom. 10:1-4). Their righteousness will be exposed as evil deeds with the stone of the Gospel thrown at them as the one and only standard by which sinners can be justified before God (Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:16). Christ, our Champion, fought a spiritual battle for His people and conquered all of His (and their) enemies. His weapon was the glory of His Person and the power of His finished work wherein He established a righteousness for them by which God has justified them and from which He gives them life everlasting (Isa. 54:14-17; Rom. 5:21).