



**Christ is the Giant Slayer**  
19<sup>th</sup> in the “God’s King” Series  
1 Samuel 17  
October 23, 2022  
Pastor Mickey Klink

**Introduction**

In this passage, God rebukes the wisdom of the world by showing his great power in the one man, Jesus Christ.

**The Text: 1 Samuel 17**

<sup>4</sup> And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. <sup>5</sup> He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. <sup>6</sup> And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. <sup>7</sup> The shaft 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.

<sup>8</sup> He stood and shouted to the ranks 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.” <sup>10</sup> And the Philistine said, “I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together.” <sup>11</sup> When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. ... <sup>26</sup> And David said to the men who stood by him, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

<sup>27</sup> And the people answered him in the same way, “So shall it be done to the man who kills him.” <sup>28</sup> Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, “Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.” <sup>29</sup> And David said, “What have I done now? Was it not but a word?” ... <sup>32</sup> And David said to Saul, “Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” ... <sup>37</sup> And David said, “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!”

<sup>40</sup> Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine. <sup>41</sup> And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. <sup>42</sup> And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. <sup>43</sup> And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.” <sup>45</sup> Then David said to the Philistine, “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. <sup>46</sup> This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, <sup>47</sup> and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand.”

- 1) The perceived dominance of Goliath forces us to look at things from God’s perspective (vv. 1-7).
- 2) Goliath’s challenge of God’s people directs us to look to Christ alone to be our champion (vv. 8-26).
- 3) Like Jesus, David was misunderstood by his people, did not trust their reasoning, and did not entrust himself to their weapons (vv. 27-39).
- 4) David’s victory lifts us to see the truth that all battles belong to the Lord (vv. 40-58).

**Response**

Let the church confess, “There is none like you, O Lord; You are great, and great is your name in might” (Jer 10:6).

## Sunday Text Questions

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- 1) Starter Question: Have you ever faced a challenge that was or felt like it was insurmountable?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How intimidating would Goliath have been if you could have seen him in person and up close (vv. 4-7)?
- 4) What kind of a challenge is Goliath making to Israel (vv. 8-11), and why upon hearing it does David interpret it as a challenge against God (see vv. 26-27)?
- 5) What made David respond to Goliath's challenge with such confidence and certainty (vv. 31-37)?
- 6) Why would David not use an untested weapon in his fight against Goliath (vv. 38-40)?
- 7) What is the theological significance of David's two important statements in v. 45 and v. 47?
- 8) What significance might there be that David cut off Goliath's head with Goliath's own sword (v. 51)?
- 9) Why do so many Christians transpose themselves for David and transpose their problems (money, health, relationships) for Goliath, and how might that be a misreading of this biblical story?
- 10) In contrast, how does this text present David as a type of Christ, the one man who represents God's people in a great battle?

**Further study this week:** Passages that declare the mightiness of God: 1 Chronicles 16:23-27 (Mon); Psalm 47:2 (Tues); Jeremiah 32:17-19 (Wed); Luke 1:49-53 (Thurs); Ephesians 1:19 (Fri).