Someone had told me recently of a friend of theirs who used to be a strong believer, but now confessed they don’t believe in the Old Testament.

My first thought was: “Well, isn’t that just special…” They must have put your big boy britches on for that one!

As we have been learning here on Wednesdays…

The Old Testament is mankind’s free ancestory.com. Everyone of our roots can be traced back to Genesis.

God’s John 3:16 promise, that Jesus would one day come and die for the sin of the world, is rooted in Genesis 3:15.

It’s also where we find God’s good & perfect plan for our lives.

So… to do away with the O.T. would meaning missing all of that, plus the relevant, life changing message that God has given me to deliver to you today.

It is a familiar passage of Scripture to many of us… but if you will open your hearts and receive these truths, God will rock your life!

Context: David (a young shepherd boy walking faithfully God) had recently been anointed by the prophet Samuel to replace Saul as King of Israel, because Saul began giving power and authority to disobedience, rather than to following God’s instructions. (1 Samuel 15).

Which meant that Saul had begun working AGAINST God and the Covenant He made with Abraham hundreds of years earlier…

to give His people future and a hope. A land from which they would bless the rest of the world by leading them to a faith in the One True God.

It is the same for you and I today… obedience to God’s Word has too many positive benefits to list because God will use you to positively impact many future generations.

Conversely, disobedience, and has too many negatives to list as one works against the good plans of God…, The worst of which is being separated from God by being an example of disobedience… that others will follow as well.

Picture this: 1 Samuel 17:1-3 - The Philistine army had assembled on one hill, while outgoing King Saul and the Israelite army assembled on the opposing hill with a valley between them.

1 Samuel 17:4-11

“Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall! He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver’s beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds.

I found a picture of Goliath’s spear!

His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield. Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. “Why are you all coming out to fight?” he called. “I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!” When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.”

Would you go?

The Israelites were in this predicament because of their unwillingness to do what Joshua had said back in Joshua 24:14-15

And now the army of the Philistines… has the army of the living God paralyzed, fearful, shaking in their boots!

We have to give Goliath credit for one thing though… He accurately named their problem in V8… “they were only servants of Saul.”

Some believe this passage is prophetic of (God’s army) the church today… With many Christians inside living in fear, shaking in their boots, unable to fight.

And why? For the same reason… following & serving false gods… living for self, rather than the Lord.

Serving the false god’s of religion, lust, money, power, gluttony, gossip, power pride, & control…

This is why in last week’s baptismal service I was sure to remind us that…

True Christians will WANT to surrender & die to our past… serving ourselves, or other things ABOVE the Living God…

We will WANT to sanctify/set ourselves apart to be in church to learn and grow in holiness & Christ-likeness…

We will WANT to submit our life to God so that He can do amazing things thru us...

That is victory in Jesus…

* Not I’d like to… but I just got married.
* Not I would… but I just bought a field and I need to go check on it.
* I just bought a pair of oxen and the list goes on…

Many Christians have lost their “want to”… The good news today is God has not left you and He wants to help you get your “want to” back.

V12- David’s three oldest brothers had joined the Israelite army,

while David tended dad’s flocks of sheep.

One day Jesse, David’s father instructed him to go take a basket of food to his brothers, to give some cheese to the captain and come back with a report as to how they’re all doing.

So David runs out to greet his brothers on the battlefield and he hows up just in time to see… Goliath… taunting the Israelite army, and to see them run away.

David responds with a very convicting question in V26

Who is this joker and why is he being allowed to defy the armies of the Living God?

What! Didn’t David get the memo? We’re supposed to be afraid of the things we face that are bigger than we are!!

What a different perspective David had… “pig/cow” (thank you Norman Moore)

David’s perspective (spiritual) & Goliath and everyone elses? Physical

The Israelite army saw a GIANT, while David saw a mere mortal defying Almighty God.

Saul & his army saw something to big to get away from!

David saw a target that was too big to miss!

How do we view the GIANTS that we face?

It’s important to understand that this isn’t about David being a brave young man and that we just need to bravely face our GIANTS…

What God did, was create another Gideon scenario… with impossible odds). God could break Vegas with one situation!

Gideon started with 22,000 men for battle and God said “too many”

Gideon reduced to 10,000 men… God said “too many”

God gave Gideon a method of getting to the right number…

It was a lapping matter!!

Finally God reduced Gideon’s army to 300!!

Not because they were the only ones who could fight worth a darn, but because God wanted everyone to know that when the Israelites won, it could not have been them… it could only have been God.

He now has David in the same kind of situation.

Nothing can defeat God, so He just keeps proving His adequacy thru the weakness of his faithful servants, over and over…

V28-31 David’s oldest brother through’s him under the bus! You wicked boy! You’ve left everything you’re supposed to be taking care of at home, just to come watch the battle!

David was confused and couldn’t understand what he had done wrong!

David’s confusion finally gets reported to King Saul, who sends for David.

Who then proceeds in V32 to tell King Saul; “Don’t worry about this knucklehead, I’ll go fight him!

In V33 King Saul (who was supposed to be the example of Spiritual vision & leadership) reveals his Spiritual blindness… by telling David; “you’re too young & inexperienced… you cannot win this fight!

David replies by getting out his resume… and giving Saul his background!

V34 - “Your servant has been a shepherd and when a lion or a bear steals one of the flock, I go after it, club it, and rescue the sheep.”

V36 - He’s says, “I’ve done this to both lions and bears and I’ll do it to this Pagan Philistine too, for he has defied the armies of the living God.”

Childlike faith at any age, regardless of experience is an advantage…

Over age and more experience in knowing all the faithless reasons why you can’t win. David continues…

V37 – “The Lord who rescued me before, will rescue me from this Philistine.”

Saul said, “Go for it, and the Lord be with you.”?

Saul did try to help David by giving him his armor, but it was too big & bulky for David…

V39 - So David used what he had seen God work thru before…

He grabbed his staff and 5 smooth stones for his sling and headed toward the Giant. For those of us who know… David would only need one.

V41-43

That attitude is to be expected from an arrogant, self absorbed SOP (son of a Philistine).

After all Goliath’s name & reputation were on the line…

V45 – To David, the name & reputation of the living God were on the line…

The armies of the (all loving, all knowing, all powerful, & ever present) Sovereign God should have been standing confidently because they experienced nothing but VICTORY by Him…

This was so important to David that he was willing to risk his life for it…

Is God’s name and reputation that important to you?

Are you willing to inconvenience yourself and risk everything in order uphold, NOT your name and reputation, but the name & reputation of the living God?

Who would those closest to you say you are most like in this account so far? David or Goliath?

David? Do you boast in the power & strength of God and live in obedience to God’s Word to glorify and honor Him… even when other believers are weak and unwilling to d so?

Or would those closest to you say that you are more like Goliath? Boasting in yourself, your power, your resources, your abilities?

Your “I can handle this” mentality…

I believe that is one of the most important questions that you and I will ever be confronted with…

Are God’s people living to bring glory & honor to His name or their own?!!

Today it seems that there are many more striving to become like GOLIATH… self-sufficient… rather than David… & God focused/reliant…

David was going to slay his GIANT because he was clear on who was going to be doing the slaying…V46

V47 restates David’s purpose for leaving his comfortable life… out in the green pasture, resting beside quiet waters… tending sheep… playing his harp… writing Psalms/songs about the Lord…

Read V47

So that others will know how the Lord saves… That the living God is real, and He wants to reveal Himself by slaying the GIANTS you face…

How will He slay our GIANTS? By following David’s example…

* Living obediently for God by His Word.
* Allowing God’s power to become undeniably visible through your life… putting away excuses why you can’t face the GIANTS of this life.
* Fighting every day to bring honor & glory to God’s name… and upholding His reputation.
* Then rejoice and give praise to God, telling others how He has SLAYED YOUR GIANTS…

Do you “want to” be that kind of Christian this morning? If so, come quickly to an Altar of prayer…

Only Trust Him…

God will meet you here as you open your heart and life to surrendered, sanctified, submission to Him…