

GOLIATH: David's Enemy

study #3



THE LIFE OF DAVID: Cultivating a Heart for God

The story of David and Goliath is probably one of the classic tales of heroism in history. And yet it was more than a story - it really happened! There really was a giant who could have become a franchise player in the NBA; there really was an Israelite army paralyzed by fear; and there really was a youth with a courage beyond his years. God not only preserved this account to teach us about Israel's history, but also to encourage those of us who find ourselves in battles with seemingly impossible odds.

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

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. 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." Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

1 Samuel 17:4-11

Read *1 Samuel 17:1-58* and answer the following questions:

1. Where did all this occur?
2. Describe Goliath...
3. How much did Goliath's spearhead weigh (in modern terms)?
4. How was Saul dealing with the situation?
5. How did David's brothers respond to David?
6. Why did David refuse Saul's armor?
7. Was Goliath the only man to die that day?

In 1 Samuel 21:9 & 22:10 Goliath's name comes up again. What is the context?

For Extra Credit! There seems to be a discrepancy between 2 Samuel 21:19 and 1 Chronicles 20:5. How would you solve it?

In the book of **Proverbs**, the writer describes different types of persons in terms of their moral character. Look up the following verses and find out which type of person each group of Scripture describes:

📖 9:9, 13:14, 13:20 = the _____

📖 1:32, 14:15, 22:3 = the _____

📖 10:23, 14:16, 15:2 = the _____

📖 9:8, 21:24, 22:10 = the _____

“In 1504 Michelangelo finished his largest sculpture, the *David*. In this 13 1/2 foot statue, the sculptor has embodied all the passionate drama of man's inner nature. The sinews of the neck seem to tense and relax, the veins of the neck, hands and wrist ... the whole proud being seems to quiver like a war horse that smells the battle. But of the nature of the battle there is no indication whatever; it is eternal and in every man.”

Frederick Hartt,
Michelangelo: The Complete Sculpture

Based on your observations from Proverbs, which kind of person would describe ...

- *Samuel?*
- *Saul?*
- *Goliath?*

What do you think David learned about...

- ◆ *trusting majority opinion?*
- ◆ *spiritual warfare?*
- ◆ *taking risks?*

