

I. Introduction and review: A cosmic battle. Gen. 3:15 12:1-3

II. Goliath defies Israel. v. 1-11

- A. Israel and the Philistines reach a military stalemate. v. 1-3
- B. The Philistine champion Goliath issues his challenge. v. 4-10
 - 1. He is a very big man – over nine and a half feet tall. v. 4 I Chr. 11:23 Dt. 3:11
 - 2. He is heavily armed -- a human tank. v. 5-7
 - 3. Goliath defies Israel to send out a champion to fight him. v. 8-10 II Sam. 2:12ff
 - 4. Goliath is more than a big bully. He is a blasphemer who curses the LORD and His people. v. 10,16, 26,36,45 Ge. 12:3 Ps. 2:2
- C. Saul and Israel are terrified. v. 11,16,24
 - 1. What should their response have been? 2:3-4,9-10 17:26,36 Dt. 20:1-4 31:8
 - 2. Who should have fought Goliath? 8:20 9:2,16 10:23 16:6-7
 - 3. Their fear is due to unbelief. v. 11b,24 16:7 Nu. 13:32-33
 - 4. They see as man sees, rather than as God sees. 16:7
 - 5. They endure 40 days of terror. v. 16

III. David accepts Goliath's challenge. v. 12-40

- A. David is sent by his father Jesse to check on his brothers. v. 12-19
 - 1. David is reintroduced. v. 12
 - 2. Apparently David is too young for military service (under 20). 16:21 Nu. 1:3
 - 3. Jesse sends David on a mission. v. 18-19 Gen. 37:13
- B. David gets a close-up view of Goliath and the panic-stricken troops. v. 20-27
 - 1. He moves towards the front lines. v. 20-22 10:22
 - 2. David is indignant over the blasphemy of Goliath. v. 26b Gen. 12:3
 - 3. David sees as God sees. v. 26b 16:7 13:14 14:6 Num. 14:6-9 13:30
 - 4. Is David motivated by Saul's offer to the man who kills Goliath? v. 25-27
 - 5. David is zealous for the LORD's honor. Ps. 69:9
- C. David's brother Eliab rebukes him. v. 28-29
 - 1. It has been said that David had to fight three giants. He had to overcome the scorn of his brother and the doubt of Saul before he could fight Goliath.
 - 2. Why does Eliab speak this way? v. 28 16:6-7
 - 3. David's response is restrained. v. 29 16:18
- D. David volunteers to fight Goliath. v. 31-37
 - 1. Saul sends for David. v. 31-32
 - 2. Saul, who sees with the eyes of the flesh, doubts. v. 33
 - 3. David recalls how the LORD has helped him in the past. v. 34-35 Ps. 22:21
 - 4. David trusts LORD to deliver him again. v. 36-37a 10:18 Nu. 14:8-9 13:30
 - 5. Saul finally agrees and wishes David well. v. 37b 16:18
- E. David gets ready for battle. v. 38-40
 - 1. Why does Saul want David to wear his armor? v. 38 13:4
 - 2. Why does David reject Saul's armor? v. 39
 - 3. David prepares his sling and his stones. v. 40 Judges 20:16 I Chron. 12:2

IV. Concluding applications.

A. How is this story often misapplied?

B. How can we follow David's example?

- 1. Be zealous for God's honor. v. 26b**
- 2. Live by faith, not sight. 16:7 II Co. 5:7 4:18 Ps. 27:13**
- 3. Strengthen your faith by recalling the LORD's past faithfulness. v. 35
II Tim. 4:17 Phil. 4:4-7 Rom. 8:31-32**
- 4. Do not be afraid to fight spiritual battles against great odds. v. 37 Zech. 4:6
I Cor. 1:27 Phil. 1:21 4:19**
- 5. Do not be surprised if sometimes you are standing alone. II Ti. 4:16 Mark 14:50**
- 6. Do not try to carry on God's fight in Saul's armor. v. 39 II Co. 10:3-5 6:7
Eph. 6:10ff I Co. 1: 18ff 2:1-5 John 18:36**

C. With whom should we identify in this story?

- 1. We are like the Israelites who faced a fearsome foe they could not defeat.**
- 2. We face mighty fearsome enemies. I Pe. 5:8 I Jo. 3:13 5:19 I Co. 15:26 Jo. 15:18f
Heb. 9:27 Ro. 6:23**
- 3. On our own we are as helpless as Israel before Goliath.**
- 4. We need a Champion.**

D. Jesus Christ, the Son of David, is our Champion. Mt. 1:2ff Luke 2:4ff

- 1. He was anointed and sent by the Father to help us. v. 19**
- 2. He was seemingly insignificant in the eyes of men. 16:7 Isa. 53:2-3**
- 3. His brethren rejected Him. v. 28 John 1:11**
- 4. He does not revile in return. v. 28-29 II Pe. 2:23**
- 5. He comes in full faith in the LORD.**
- 6. He is zealous for the LORD's honor. John 2:17**
- 7. He is our Good Shepherd Who lays down His life for the sheep. Jo. 10:11 Is. 53:6**
- 8. He gains a great victory for His people by slaying our enemy.**
- 9. He is willing and able to help you today.**

Discussion Questions

- 1. How do some children's treatments of the story of David and Goliath miss the main point?**
- 2. Who should have fought Goliath?**
- 3. What was the difference between David's perspective on Goliath and that of Saul and the people of Israel?**
- 4. What other 'giants' did David have to overcome?**
- 5. How had the LORD prepared David to fight Goliath?**
- 6. Why is David unwilling to fight in Saul's armor?**
- 7. How is the story of David and Goliath sometimes misapplied?**
- 8. How can we be like David?**
- 9. With whom in the story should we identify?**
- 10. How is David a type of Christ in this passage?**