

David: Defender of the Faith

By Steven James

“David said to the Philistine... ‘I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel’” (1 Samuel 17:45 NIV).

(Read 1 Samuel 17)

How did the Israelites respond to Goliath’s threats? (vv. 11, 24)

How many times a day did Goliath take his stand? How many days in a row? So, how many total times did he mock Israel and their God? (v. 16)

Whom does Goliath refer to the Israelites as servants of?

Is that significant? (v. 8)

It wasn’t unusual in biblical times for two armies to choose representative warriors to fight it out instead of engaging in all out battle. However, it wasn’t exactly normal to have a guy as huge and unstoppable as Goliath. The Israelites were terrified.

When Jesse sent David to the front lines, he thought his sons were in the midst of a battle. Some battle. They were standing on the sidelines shaking in their boots. For over a month they shouted a war cry; but at the first sight of Goliath, they retreated with their tails between their legs. Then, along came David.

What was David’s motivation in fighting the giant?

What was David’s weapon? (v. 45)

Why did David run to attack the giant?

David's original mission was to deliver supplies and messages to his older brothers. But when he arrived on the scene, he was responsive to the real mission God had in mind for him. Very often we start out on a mission that doesn't seem too glamorous or important, but when we trust and obey, God plops us into the real battle!

David was prepared. Remember, he took his sling with him to deliver those cheese sandwiches! The giant came at David with weapons; David went toward him with total reliance on God. David even promised to cut off the giant's head before he even had a sword! Notice David didn't have blind faith. He didn't trust in God despite the evidence but because of it. He had assurance that because God had given him victories in the past over the lion and the bear, God would give him victory once again. And faith overcame.

David didn't have blind faith. He didn't trust in God despite the evidence but because of it.

Very often we start out on a mission that doesn't seem too glamorous or important, but when we trust and obey, God plops us into the real battle!

We can take confidence in God's power, past victories, and almighty strength, too. It's easy to stand on the sidelines and hope someone else will step up to face the giant. It's another thing altogether to have the kind of faith that runs toward a problem armed only with sticks and stones and trust in God!

What are some giants that you are facing in battle?

Why are those giants so intimidating?

What do you need to take with you in battle against the giants in your life?

Now remember, David didn't take just one stone into his battle with Goliath. He took five. He knew that even though God was faithful to deliver him, he might miss the giant the first time. Or the second. Or the third. Or the fourth. But that didn't stop him from carrying out his mission. He had an unshakable faith and an all powerful God on his side. Are you eager to take on giants just because you want to defend God's honor? Do you sling first and think about where you can find a sword later? Are you prepared for battle?

When was the last time you volunteered for a mission that involved a giant?

What will you do next time?