

DAVID AND GOLIATH

The Battle Is the Lord's

The Life of David, II

I Samuel 17

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INTRODUCTION

I. ISRAEL'S SHAME AND FAITHLESSNESS ~ 17:1-25

A. A Military Confrontation ~ vs. 1-3

B. Goliath Enters the Picture ~ vs. 4-7

C. Goliath Speaks ~ vs. 8-10

D. Fear in the Heart of Israel and her King, Saul ~ v. 11

E. The Providential Arrival of David ~ vs. 12-22

F. Goliath's Frightening Threats ~ v. 23-25

II. DAVID'S HONOR AND FAITHFULNESS ~ 16:26-33

A. David's (Passionate) God-Centered Worldview ~ vs. 26-27

B. Eliab's "Elder Brother Complex" ~ vs. 28-30

C. Saul's Summoning of David ~ v. 31

D. David's Willingness to Fight ~ vs. 32

E. Saul's Lack of Faith ~ v. 33

F. David Defends His Cause ~ vs. 34-37

III. DAVID'S TRUST IN AND DEPENDENCE UPON THE LIVING GOD ~ 17:38-58

- A. Saul's Attempt at Provision ~ v. 38**
- B. David's Pronounced Weakness ~ v. 39-40a**
- C. David's Christ-like Resolve ~ v. 40b**
- D. Goliath's Haughty Speech ~ vs. 41-44**
- E. David's Confident Speech ~ vs. 45-47**
- F. The Notorious Contest ~ vs. 48-49**
- G. The Riveting Rest of the Story ~ vs. 50-58**

CONCLUSION ~ Closing Applications

- 1. Man looks at outward appearance; God looks at the heart**
- 2. Have a God-centered (theocentric) worldview**
- 3. Take Courage and Defend the Honor of Your God**
- 4. When Everyone Flees, That Does Not Make it Right**
- 5. Remember past victories**
- 6. Zeal for the Lord will drive you into battle**
- 7. Your battle is not against flesh and blood; and our weapons are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (See Ephesians 6:12; II Corinthians 10:4)**
- 8. Kiss David's Greater Son, even Jesus**

Hence, the driving concern of this chapter is the honor of Yahweh's name, His reputation, His glory. David is driven by a passion for the honor of God. Does this make any difference in how one interprets the chapter? Yes! It should keep us from going around talking about the cleverness of David or the bravery of David. The focus of the chapter is not on David's courage but on Yahweh's adequacy in David's weakness. David himself has told us this (vs. 37, 45, 47). An interpretation that refuses to see this steals the glory from God which in this Scripture He has designed to receive for Himself. Hermeneutics can be hazardous. The chapter will allow us to focus on David in one respect, to follow him in one particular, namely, to share the vision of his faith, a faith that kept its eyes fixed on the honor of Yahweh. Hence, in this chapter David essentially says to Israel and to us: Yahweh's reputation is at stake; that matters to me; that matters enough to risk my life for it.