

Royal Lessons from the Kings

By Doug Hamilton

David: The Man After God's Own Heart

In 1 Samuel 15, God rejected Saul from being king over the nation of Israel because of his practice of disobeying the LORD. Samuel personally proclaimed to Saul in *1 Samuel 15:23* “...*Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king.*” It was time to move onto another person more suited for leadership of God's people. In chapter 16 we are introduced to the historical account of David becoming king to the nation.

- 16:1-5 God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem to the house of Jesse in search of the next king. He told the elders of the city that he had come for the purpose of consecration.
- 16:7-11 Samuel was told by God to choose from the sons of Jesse one to be king. The eldest to the youngest of the sons came before Samuel and they were all rejected by God from being the candidate. God told Samuel 16:7 “...for God *sees* not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” With the seven sons rejected, Samuel asked if there was anymore. Jesse said there was still the youngest named David, for he was out tending the sheep. Samuel knew that he must be the one and refused to proceed until young David came.
- 16:12-13 David came before Samuel and was found to be ruddy with beautiful eyes with a handsome appearance. The LORD told Samuel to arise and anoint him for he was the one. While being anointed king the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily.
- The chapter ends with David being hired as a royal harp player for King Saul. When he was chosen for this, it was said in *1 Samuel 16:18* “...*Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man; and the LORD is with him.*” Focusing on the quality “Mighty Man of Valor”, we turn to chapter 17 of 1 Samuel.

The Philistinian Standoff

1 Samuel 17:1-7 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim.² Saul and the men of Israel were gathered and camped in the valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array to encounter the Philistines.³ The Philistines stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.⁴ Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.⁵ *He had* a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze. *6 He also had* bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin *slung* between his shoulders.⁷ The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron; his shield-carrier also walked before him.

- There was war again with the Philistines and the armies were gathered for battle. At the base of each mountain at the side of the valley were the opposing troops of Philistine and Israel. In the spirit of ancient warfare there was a period of taunting before battle. Select troops would come out and issue warnings and threats of intimidation. When it was the Philistines turn, a massive Giant of a man named Goliath came out from the Philistine

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camp. He stood nine foot tall and was armored to the hilt. As his shield-carrier stood with him, Goliath verbally challenged the Israelis.

1 Sam 17:8-11 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them, “Why do you come out to draw up in battle array? Am I not the Philistine and you servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me.”⁹ “If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us.”¹⁰ Again the Philistine said, “I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together.”¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

- The Israelites had never seen anything like this on the battlefield. This “human-tank” of a man was daring them to send someone out to fight him. There was not a single person that was willing to take on this giant in battle...that was until young David came out for a visit.

1 Sam 17:12-16 Now David was the son of the Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, whose name was Jesse, and he had eight sons. And Jesse was old in the days of Saul, advanced *in years* among men.¹³ The three older sons of Jesse had gone after Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and the second to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.¹⁴ David was the youngest. Now the three oldest followed Saul,¹⁵ but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father’s flock at Bethlehem.¹⁶ The Philistine came forward morning and evening for forty days and took his stand.¹⁷ Then Jesse said to David his son, “Take now for your brothers an ephah of this roasted grain and these ten loaves and run to the camp to your brothers.¹⁸ “Bring also these ten cuts of cheese to the commander of *their* thousand, and look into the welfare of your brothers, and bring back news of them.¹⁹ “For Saul and they and all the men of Israel are in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.”

- David, being the youngest of the eight sons of Jesse, was probably under the age of twenty, the age of service for war. He did have three other older brothers that were in the army with Saul the king that day.
- It was not uncommon in that day for a family to send food supplies of encouragement to relatives on the battlefield. This was a way to also keep informed of the happenings of the battlefield. It was during one of these deliveries of victuals to his brothers that David happened to see Goliath coming out for one of his taunting sessions.

1 Sam 17:20-23 So David arose early in the morning and left the flock with a keeper and took *the supplies* and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the circle of the camp while the army was going out in battle array shouting the war cry.²¹ Israel and the Philistines drew up in battle array, army against army.²² Then David left his baggage in the care of the baggage keeper, and ran to the battle line and entered in order to greet his brothers.²³ As he was talking with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine from Gath named Goliath, was coming up from the army of the Philistines, and he spoke these same words; and David heard *them*.

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- David arrived at the location and left the baggage with the handler to go down to the battle line. He greeted his three brothers when the champion Goliath came out for another taunting. It is now that we will examine David the Mighty Man of Valor.

A Mighty Man of Valor is not Intimidated by the Enemy.

1 Sam 17:24-27 When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were greatly afraid. ²⁵ The men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to defy Israel. And it will be that the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel." ²⁶ Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?" ²⁷ The people answered him in accord with this word, saying, "Thus it will be done for the man who kills him."

- Naturally the military men were "*greatly afraid*" because Goliath was a force to be reckoned with. He was truly a real enemy and bringing him down would be a task.
- David questions what is the prize for taking this chump down, for he is bringing reproach upon the nation of Israel? There would be three rewards for the man that took care of this:
 - Great Riches
 - A Royal Bride
 - Tax Free Living for the Family
- This would have been an added incentive for David to include with his anger over the Goliath's taunting defilements against the Israelites. Even more obvious is that David was a Mighty Man of Valor that was not going to be intimidated by the enemy. He was not shaking in his boots like the others that had for weeks been weakened and desensitized to the taunting.

Application:

We as the children of God must be a people of valor by not being intimidated by the world.

- When the world taunts us with evolution in the classroom, be the people of valor and confront it.
- When the world taunts us with peer pressure to cave into the drugs and drunkenness and immoralities, be the people of valor and stand up against it.
- When the world taunts us with the threat of sickness or financial crisis or stress, don't run from it, but take it on directly like a people of valor through faith, hope and charity.
- We are supposed to be a mighty people of valor and we should not be intimidated by those that are of the world.

A Mighty Man of Valor is not Discouraged by the Fellow Soldiers.

1 Sam 17:28-30 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger burned against David and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle." ²⁹ But David said, "What have I done now? Was it not just a question?" ³⁰ Then he turned away from him to another and said the same thing; and the people answered the same thing as before.

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- It is rather interesting to find that even among the friendly troops, his elder brother, there was criticism and discouragement offered to David. Often your best friend can be your worst enemy because you are left in a vulnerable position with your guard down. Eliab looked more like a Philistine instead of a supportive brother.
- David did not let that bring him down, for he simply questions Eliab and then deflected it. He simply turned his inquiry to another. This is because a Mighty Man of Valor is not discouraged by his fellow soldiers.
- We as the church are called to be the Mighty People of Valor. As you might have noticed we are simply a group of humans that have been saved by the divine blood of Christ. With that fact is the reality that we sometimes fall victim to discouragement within the congregation. Some of the greatest discouragement comes from those that should be on our side.

Application:

- Mighty People of Valor should not allow themselves to be discouraged by their fellow soldiers in the kingdom of God. We must keep in mind the need to overcome and press on in our efforts, even when it hurts. That is what a Mighty People of Valor should do!

A Mighty Man of Valor has a Track Record of Success.

1 Sam 17:31-37 When the words which David spoke were heard, they told *them* to Saul, and he sent for him. ³² David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” ³³ Then Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are *but* a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth.” ³⁴ But David said to Saul, “Your servant was tending his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued *it* from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized *him* by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶ “Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God.” ³⁷ And David said, “The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and may the LORD be with you.”

- David told Saul that he would go and fight the Philistine and to not be worried about it. Saul reminded David that he was but a youth while Goliath had been a great warrior from his youth.
- David presents his case as only a Mighty Man of Valor can do, for he had a Track record of Success. He reminds Saul that he had taken on a lion and a bear in the past while guarding the sheep. He credited the Lord for delivering him from out of their mouths and into his hand.

Application:

- We are also a People of Valor and also have a Track record of Success.
 - He blessed us with a family, a home, food and a congregation called home.
 - He delivered us multiple times through sufferings and struggles beyond belief.

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- He has helped us overcome habits that we thought we could never give up. Through Him you've kicked the habit, beat the anger problem, become self-controlled and become a better person willing and able to minister to others.
- He has made us more than conquerors through His Son Christ Jesus.
- We are a Mighty People of Valor like David that have a Track Record of Success.

A Mighty Man of Valor Trusts in God.

1 Sam 17:38-40 Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor.³⁹ David girded his sword over his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested *them*. So David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested *them*." And David took them off.⁴⁰ He took his stick in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in *his* pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine.

- Saul loaned this shepherd boy his personal royal armor and it was found to be a few sizes too large. David told the king that he could not wear it in battle for it was not tested, therefore he removed it. He was a Mighty Man of Valor that was going to put his trust in God.
- What happens next is of quite curious, for the text says that David "...chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook..." Why would a Mighty Man of Valor who trusts in God grab five stones to take out one giant? Surely David believes in God enough that he would only need one stone, right? Do we really have a 1 for 5 God or a God that we can trust 100% of the time?
- It is of interest to note that 2 Samuel 21:15-22 states that the Goliath had four descendents named Ishni-Benob, Saph, Goliath Jr. and a fourth described as having "many toes and fingers". The foremost actually had plotted to assassinate David for some unknown reason. 2 Sam 21:22 states *These four were born to the giant in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants*. It is likely they had a vendetta against David out of revenge for what he did to their dad. This passage is only about ten to fifteen years from the date of the incident. Just like David's three brothers went to war as a family, it was not uncommon for Philistines to fight as a family unit as well. I am persuaded those "publicly known" giant thugs would have been in the Philistine brigade that day and likely trying to add to the intimidation factor. If that was the case, then David was planning to go five for five with his sling and not one for five.

Application:

- Brothers and Sisters, we are a Mighty People of Valor that must put their Trust in God! We do not have a 1 for 5 or a 2 for 5 Father, but a Father that has not nor will not let us down! Make sure that we are keeping that in mind when facing the giants of life.

A Mighty Man of Valor Confronts the Giants of the World.

1 Sam 17:41 Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him.⁴² When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance.⁴³ The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.⁴⁴ The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the

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field.”⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted.”⁴⁶ “This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD’s and He will give you into our hands.”⁴⁸ Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.⁴⁹ And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung *it*, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground.

- David did not run from the path before him, but went toward Goliath. The giant continued his taunts, directing them more toward David personally. I like what the KJV states as David’s response to the giant. *1 Samuel 17:45 “...Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.”*
- David was a Mighty Man of Valor that Confronted the Giant before him with great courage and confidence. With that fervor David flung a stone with his sling and it struck Goliath in the forehead. Like a tree falling in the forest at the hand of a lumberjack, Goliath fell flat on his face in the dirt.

Application:

- Church, we are the People of Valor and must confront the giants that are before us! Who are your giants to be confronted?
 - If you were diagnosed with cancer, you are facing a giant!
 - If you were laid off your job and are going without a paycheck, you are facing a giant!
 - If your marriage is falling apart, you have met a giant!
 - If you are struggling with the giants of stress, duress, addiction, rejection, deception, depression, oppression and recession, you need some confession to deal with that giant. The first step in process is not to run from Goliath, but run toward him with your sling of faith and take him out in the name of the LORD of hosts of the God of the living Christians.
- You are the Mighty People of Valor and can take out any giants that come before you by the Mighty Power of the Blood of Jesus! If we will simply have this attitude in the name of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, we will have the victory that God wants us to have against the giants that are before us.
- The Philistines saw their champion fall and they fled with fear. If we will just fling that stone of faith at the giants of the world, watch them run and be prepared to celebrate the victory.