

20. David and Goliath

Quote: "This day will Yahweh deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."

1 Samuel 17:46

Verse By Verse Marking

1 Samuel 17:4 - "**champion**" - means "the man between the two". ie. between the two camps.

"six cubits and a span" - that is 9ft 9in, or about 3 metres.

1 Samuel 17:5 - "**helmet of brass**" - it covered his brain. Brass is a symbol of the flesh (Num 21:9). Goliath had the mind of the flesh.

"Coat of mail" - overlaid pieces of metal like fish scales.

"the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass" - approx 90kg (average weight of a man).

1 Samuel 17:6 - "**he had greaves of brass upon his legs**" - ie. A shin-piece.

"a target of brass between his shoulders" - ie. A javelin. NASB - "a bronze javelin slung between his shoulders". This was in case he lost his spear or sword.

1 Samuel 17:7 - "**the spears head weighed six hundred shekels of iron**" - 11 kg

Colour the following **RED**:

- The six articles Goliath had in v5-7.
- The word "**six**" in v4 and v7, and the word "**brass**" in vv5-7.

Put a **red circle** around the words that describe Israel's response to Goliath:

- v11 "they were dismayed and greatly afraid";
- v24 "saw", "fled", "sore afraid";
- v25 "surely to defy Israel is he come up".

Put a **yellow circle** around the

words of David that contrast with the words of the army of Israel:

- v26 "who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?";
- v32 "Let no man's heart fail because of him, thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine";
- v36 "seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God";
- v37 "the LORD that delivered me";

Mark the following either opposite 1 Samuel 17:4-7 or at the top of your page above these verses.

Goliath was fighting with the arm of the flesh. It was the might of the flesh that defied the armies of Israel, and by extension defied Yahweh (v45). This is emphasised in vv4-7 with the six articles of armour and warfare, the use of the word "six" and the emphasis on "brass". It therefore was not a battle of Israel vs the Philistines, or David vs Goliath. It was Yahweh vs the flesh in the form of Goliath backed by the stony image of Dagon (v43).

- v45 "I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied";
- vv46-47 all of both verses.

1 Samuel 17:8 - **"choose you a man for you"** - Israel had done this. (See 1 Sam 8:19-20). Saul being head and shoulders above the people was best suited to the task (1 Sam 10:23); indeed it was his duty (1 Sam 9:16).

1 Samuel 17:36 - **"lion"** - on average a male lion is 150-230 kg and almost 3 m long. A female is 120kg and 3.5m long.

"bear" - a grizzly bear can be more than 3 m long and weight 780 kg. Black bears grow to about 1.8m, and weigh 90-230 kg.

1 Samuel 17:40 - **"five smooth stones"** - these would have been approximately the size of a tennis ball. Why Five? Five is the number of grace. The stones were made smooth by the washing of water which is a symbol of the Word (Eph 5:26) - in David's day there was only the five books of the Law. This is what directed David as he endeavoured to overcome the flesh in his life.

The stone David used represented Christ - Dan 2:34-35,44-45; Matt 21:42-44. Who would bruise the serpent in the head and ultimately grind to powder all the kingdoms of the world.

1 Samuel 17:43 - **"the Philistine cursed David by his gods"** - There was a religious aspect to this conflict just as there will be when Russia comes down with all his company to invade Israel (Ezekiel 38:7) in Armageddon.

1 Samuel 17:49 - **"the stone sunk into his forehead"** - ie. Types the work of Christ, bruising the serpent in the head (Genesis 3:15).

Optional Homework:

Mark up the headings and chapter breakdowns for Psalm 144 and Psalm 8 from your Lesson book (p143-144).