

## THE BATTLE IS THE LORDS

I. Text – I Samuel 17:47

II. This duel of David with Goliath is an example of the conflict that goes on constantly between the righteous and the unrighteous. The secret of Goliath's strength was trained brute force, assisted and protected by sword, spear, and shield; the secret of David's strength was simple faith in God. Worldly forces, physical, mental, financial, social, and scientific are constantly putting themselves against God's cause and challenging His people to combat. The Goliaths who try to meet force with force will be defeated, but the Davids who meet force with faith in God will be triumphant.

Ancient history records a marvelous incident that took place in Gaul. Clovis who was the pagan king of the Gauls led his army against another mighty force that had swept down upon them to plunder their territory. His Christian wife Clotillis said to him, "My lord, you are going to conquer, but in order to be victorious you must invoke the God of the Christians. He is the sole Lord of the universe, and is called the God of Armies. If you call upon him in faith, nothing can resist you; Though your enemies were a hundred against one, you would triumph over them." After the battle had begun, Clovis' army was being routed by the enemy. In spite of his best efforts he could not rally his troops. Then he thought of the words of his queen,

and in his great extremity, lifted his eyes to heaven, and prayed, "O Christ whom Clotillis invokes as the Son of the living God, I implore thy succor; I have called upon my gods, and find they have no power; I therefore, invoke thee; I believe in thee; deliver me from mine enemies, and I will be baptized in thy name." The tide of the battle began to change immediately. The enemies were routed and reduced to tributaries. This victory is recorded as miraculous and from it Clovis dates his conversion to Christianity, A.D. 496.

## **I. THE GIANTS OF DESPAIR – I SAMUEL 17:1-11**

A. Dan Betzer's description of Goliath:  
"Striding out of the enemy camp came Goliath, one of the largest men in recorded history. He was approximately nine feet tall, or larger by a foot and a half than some of today's professional basketball players. His strength was massive. Goliath wore a bronze helmet that would have caused permanent curvature of the spine on most men. He wore a 200 pound coat of mail. He sported bronze leggings and a bronze javelin several inches thick and tipped with a 25 pound iron spearhead. His armor-bearer walked ahead of him with a large shield. It must have been a terrifying apparition."

B. Verse 11 describes the effect that Goliath's challenge had on the men of Israel. What giant has you terrified today? Your giant may be real or imaginary: physical handicap, a difficult job,

deep sorrow, financial problems, loneliness, a harmful habit.

## **II. DIVINE STRATEGY – II SAMUEL 17:26-29, 33-37, 38-40**

A. David was concerned that God would be glorified. In verse 26, David asked, “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?” In verse 29 he asked, “Is there not a cause?” Sometimes a man of faith has to stand alone.

B. David trusted in God. When Saul tried to discourage him, David testified about how God had given him victory over a lion, and a bear. Through the eye of faith Goliath looked no bigger than the lion or the bear (I Samuel 17:37).

C. David used the skills that he had developed in the wilderness. There was nothing wrong with Saul’s armor, but David had not been trained to use it (I Samuel 17:38-40). What are the weapons that God has given us today (Ephesians 6:11-18)?

## **III. A DRAMATIC VICTORY – I SAMUEL 17:50-52**

A. David’s victory over Goliath inspired faith in the hearts of the men of Israel and they defeated the Philistines.

B. God’s resources are unlimited and He knows how to help us beat the odds. The Turks once conquered a German town, and while they were marching up one of its narrow streets some

young women threw from a window a dozen or more beehives among them. The bees did, with their little stings, what the German soldiers could not do. It threw them into such confusion that they were easily put to flight. The Turks knew how to fight men, but not bees.

C. Does David always conquer Goliath? There may be times when Goliath appears to prevail but with God there is victory through defeat. (Stephen and Christ).

#### Conclusion

Are you facing some giant of despair in your life today? The God of David is here to give you victory now!