



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – July 2, 2024

The Lord be with you.

David and Goliath. What a story. It's a story a lot of us have loved from the time that we were little kids, a story that thrills us that inspires us. It is a classic underdog story where against all odds, a young shepherd boy, he takes on and he defeats the giant warrior, Goliath and he sends the Philistines running. Even people don't know much about the Bible. Well, they, they know the story of David and Goliath, but I am seeing as I am seeing in all of scripture that there was a lot more to this story than I thought. And it's that more to the story that I want to unpack with you today.

I'm turning in my Bible here to the Old Testament book of First Samuel chapter 17 where we read the story of David and Goliath. As the Philistines, they have assembled their forces for war and they are camped on one side of the valley of Elah. And Israel's army has formed the battle lines on the other side of the valley of Elah. And every day, every day, Goliath, a giant warrior over 9 ft tall, he, he comes out and he taunts the Israelites who are scared out of their wits. Goliath taunts them, challenging them to send out one to send out one soldier to fight him.

Now, David, the youngest son of Jesse, he's, he's back home tending his father's sheep and I mean, he's not a part of the army, but his father sends David to the battlefield with food supplies for his brothers and their commander. Ok, let's, let's pick up here in verse four of first Samuel 17 where it says, and, and there came out from the camp of the Philistines, a champion named Goliath.

Now it's the word champion that I, that I want to talk about as, as it is a word that adds so much to our understanding of the story. The Hebrew word translated champion is Ben Aim. Literally a man ish a man between now alongside me here, I have the Orthodox Jewish Bible as it explains, Ish Hin Aim. As I read, it says, a middleman champion whose single combat saves the day and decides the victor. So the word champion ish be ay, it introduces us to warfare in that part of the ancient world where a battle was determined by a single combat between the two best soldiers from each opposing army.

I mean, it's a theme that we see again and again in ancient warfare and literature. I mean, take, for instance, the story of Hector and Achilles in the Trojan War who in single combat, decide the battle and the course of the war. And so here we have a single combat. David, a young shepherd with a sling and David faces the giant warrior, Goliath, a champion in single combat. And David single handedly wins the victory.



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So the further down in first Samuel 17 verse 51 it says when the Israelites saw their champion was dead, they fled. Here is the meaning of the word champion. The idea of one on one combat, determining the battle.

Now, from the earliest days of the Christian faith, Christians have read the story of David and Goliath and I've seen David as a type a foreshadowing a pre furring of the son of David Jesus as Jesus victory single handedly. He wins for us. He wins for us. The battle against sin and death and all evil. Take, for instance, the words of Saint Augustine, as he said, David prefigured Christ. David overcame Goliath. Our Christ overcame the devil. David threw down the proud with a humble sling and Christ laid low, the proud with the weapon of the cross.

So as we read the story of David's single handed victory over the giant Goliath, we're reading there a for telling a foreshadowing of the great victory that Jesus has won for you and me over sin, death and the devil. I like how the Apostle Paul sets forth Christ's single handed victory for us. And in Romans chapter eight where, where Paul is all the enemies that we could ever have. And he's, and he concludes in Romans eight verse 37 he says in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us are. There is Paul again over in first Corinthians chapter 15, verse 55 where o death is your victory? Where o death is your sting? Thanks be to God. He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. That's what Jesus, our middle man champion whose single combat saves the day and decided the victory for you and for me. Thanks be to God.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.