**September 18, 2020**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

**37 Market Street, New Haven, CT 06513**

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**The Late Bishop E. Samuel Green, Establishmentarian**

**DAVID AND GOLIATH (Part 1 of 2)**

**1 Samuel 17:1-26**

***I Samuel 17:1 "Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which [belongeth] to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim."***

The very first thing we must remember, is that the Bible is not in Chronological order. This, possibly, happened earlier than the happenings in the last chapter. We do know that, during the reign of Saul, there was great conflict with the Philistines. Not every skirmish is mentioned. This particular one is important, because it is where the fame of David in battle begins.

***I Samuel 17:2 "And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines."***

***I Samuel 17:3 "And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and [there was] a valley between them."***

It seemed, there was a large valley between the two encampments. Saul's army was on one side of the valley, and the Philistines were on the other side of the valley. They were poised, waiting for the battle to begin.

***I Samuel 17:4 "And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height [was] six cubits and a span."***

Goliath of Gath had entered this valley between the two armies, to challenge someone of Saul's army. If a cubit is 18 inches, this Goliath was 9 feet and about 6 inches tall. He was taller than any of Israel's men by at least 2 and 1/2 feet. An average man would have been no more than 6 feet tall, and Goliath would have been 3 1/2 feet taller than the average. He was one of the last of the giants. Someone would have to be filled with the strength of God, to overcome him.

***I Samuel 17:5 "And [he had] an helmet of brass upon his head, and he [was] armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat [was] five thousand shekels of brass."***

Not only was he a giant, but he was protected by metal on his head and his chest. It would be extremely difficult to get an arrow through all of that.

***I Samuel 17:6 "And [he had] greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders."***

This was almost like a suit of armour. His legs were covered and protected from injury. There was a protection on the upper half of his back, as well.

***I Samuel 17:7 "And the staff of his spear [was] like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head [weighed] six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him."***

The iron head of the spear weighed about 25 pounds. This was a very large spear. An average soldier would not even be able to pick it up and throw it a short distance. Probably, the giant and all of his armour, was more to frighten Israel and make them give up, than for fighting. He would be clumsy, to say the least, as large as he was, and with all of this armour on.

***I Samuel 17:8 "And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set [your] battle in array? [am] not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me."***

He cried out to the army of Saul, for a champion of Israel to come to the valley and meet him in battle. The Philistines were sure that no Israelite would meet Goliath in battle. They were convinced that Israel would fear the giant enough, that they would surrender to the Philistines.

***I Samuel 17:9 "If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us."***

He is saying, it is better for one to die, than for the whole army to die. Whichever champion wins the battle, the other army will serve the victor as their servants. It sounds like a very good idea, instead of everyone getting killed. It is not fair, however, for a man 9 1/2 feet tall to fight a man 6 feet tall. Israel and the Philistines are at a standstill.

***I Samuel 17:10 "And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."***

***I Samuel 17:11 "When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid."***

Saul knew that he, himself, was the largest man in the army of the Israelites. He, also, knew that Goliath was tremendously larger than he was. Saul knew that he had no men the size of Goliath, so he feared they had lost.

***I Samuel 17:12 "Now David [was] the son of that Ephrathite of Beth- lehem-judah, whose name [was] Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men [for] an old man in the days of Saul."***

David was the youngest of the sons of Jesse. "Beth-lehem-judah" means he was from the city of Bethlehem in the land of Judah. This, possibly, means that Jesse was an older man.

***I Samuel 17:13 "And the three eldest sons of Jesse went [and] followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle [were] Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah."***

These three older sons had to be twenty years old or older because they joined Saul to fight the Philistines. Fighting men had to be at least 20 years old in those days.

***I Samuel 17:14 "And David [was] the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul."***

***I Samuel 17:15 "But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Beth-lehem."***

David was too young to join the army, so he went home to take care of the sheep. His three oldest brothers stayed to fight with Saul.

***I Samuel 17:16 "And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days."***

"Forty" symbolizes a time of testing. The Philistines have sorely tried the endurance of the army of Saul. It appears, no one person is brave enough to go against this giant Philistine.

***I Samuel 17:17 "And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched [corn], and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren;"***

I am sure that Jesse had become concerned about his three sons. The wait had been so long, they were, probably, short of food. Jesse sends ten loaves of bread and an ephah of the parched corn to the three eldest sons. David is taken away from the sheep to carry the food to his brothers.

***I Samuel 17:18 "And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of [their] thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge."***

These ten cheeses given to the captain of the thousand that is over his brothers, will get David in, to take the other food to his brothers. Jesse wants a report on the condition of his three sons, as well.

***I Samuel 17:19 "Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, [were] in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines."***

It seemed, at this point, that fighting had begun between the troops of the Philistines and Saul's army, but no one had accepted the challenge of Goliath.

***I Samuel 17:20 "And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle."***

It appears that, David had other men working under him, to herd the sheep. He entrusts the sheep with them and goes to find his brothers. They had cut trenches around the camp to hide in, to rest from the battle. David found this trench, at the time for the men to go to battle. The shout was being given, as David arrived.

***I Samuel 17:21 "For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army."***

***I Samuel 17:22 "And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren."***

It appears that, David had come in a carriage. It, also, is apparent that someone was with him. We do know that David could not have carried the ten loaves, the ten cheeses, and the ephah of corn. He would have to have had some transportation. The wagon would have been ideal. The person, who was driving the carriage, stayed with the carriage, and David ran through the men to find his brothers.

***I Samuel 17:23 "And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard [them]."***

David found his brothers and was visiting with them, when Goliath made his challenge, again. This was the first time David had heard this challenge.

***I Samuel 17:24 "And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid."***

***I Samuel 17:25 "And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, [that] the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel."***

David could hardly believe, that Saul's army would back down from this challenge, and even run in fear. Every time the giant, Goliath, called out a challenge, that was not answered, it dishonored Israel. King Saul would do mighty things for any person who would come against Goliath and defeat him. Saul had even offered the hand of his daughter in marriage to the one who kills Goliath.

***I Samuel 17:26 "And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who [is] this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"***

It appears, at the time this challenge from Goliath happened, that Saul had great power in Israel. He could do about anything he wanted to do, because he was king. David cannot believe that some Israelite had not taken up this challenge. He reminds these soldiers, that Goliath is not on the side of the LORD {he is uncircumcised}. He, also, reminds the army of Saul that they are the army of the living God.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who brought their army against Israel?
2. Each army was gathered where to go to battle?
3. Who was the champion, that went out for the Philistines?
4. How tall was this Philistine giant?
5. What armour did the giant, Goliath, have on?
6. The staff of his spear was like what?
7. The head of the spear weighed how much?
8. What challenge did the giant give them?
9. If one of the Israelites could defeat him, what does he promise to do?
10. What effect did the giant's challenge have on Saul?
11. Where was David from?
12. How many sons did Jesse have?
13. What does "Beth-lehem-judah" mean?
14. Which three sons of Jesse went to war with Saul?
15. How old were these three sons?
16. When they went to war, where did David go?
17. How many days did the giant stand in the valley, and challenge Israel?
18. What does "forty" symbolize?
19. What did Jesse tell David to take his brothers on the front lines?
20. What were Saul and all the other men doing, when David arrived there?
21. Who did David leave with the sheep?
22. Where did he find his brothers?
23. When the men of Israel saw Goliath, what did they do?
24. What had Saul offered to anyone who would kill Goliath?
25. What did David call the giant?