

Series: David: Man of Passion and Destiny

Sermon: David 2 “The Giant”

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:1-58

Text: 1 Samuel 17:37 “‘The Lord,’ David added, ‘who rescued me from the power of both lions and bears, will rescue me from the power of this Philistine.’”

Blurb: Giants are strong! We try to tackle them in our own strength, and they overpower us. What giants do you face? Is there a giant opposing you in your relationships, in your fiances, in your family, in your marriage, in your health, in your job? A teenager named David faced a very tall man, but that man wasn’t his giant. David claimed God’s power in his battle, and “the giant came a-tumblin’ down!” Come this Sunday to hear how God gives this power to everyone who turns to Him. The secret is having a heart for God!

Sources: *David: A Man of Passion and Destiny* by Charles R. Swindoll

Bible Study notes by Bruce Moyer at Red Rock Camp, 2011

**PP#1:** David: Man of Passion and Destiny. The Giant

“‘The Lord,’ David added, ‘who rescued me from the power of both lions and bears, will rescue me from the power of this Philistine.’” -1 Samuel 17:37

David: Man of Passion and Destiny. The Giant. 1 Samuel 17:37 “‘The Lord,’ David added, ‘who rescued me from the power of both lions and bears, will rescue me from the power of this Philistine.’”

David is the only person in the Bible described as a person after God’s own heart. We’re going to spend some time looking at David because we want to be people after God’s own heart. Our focus as a church is on growing spiritually, growing in our relationship with God, and there is no better way of saying this than we are seeking after God’s own heart.

**PP#2:** Old Testament Timeline:

Abraham	Moses	Samuel <b>David</b>		Israel Conquered		Jesus
Joseph	Judges	Saul	Solomon	Judah Conquered		
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2,000	1,500	1,070	1,000	722	586	4 B.C.

David was a king in the Old Testament, ruling about 1,000 years before Jesus in Israel. In fact, he is considered the greatest earthly king Israel ever had. But what the Bible says made him so great was because he pursued God passionately and wholeheartedly. He was not perfect, by any means. In fact, he made a lot of bad decisions. He’s actually a lot like you and I, actually. But in David we see that it is devotion, not perfection, that is the secret of living a life pleasing to God.

Saul was king before David. He had potential, but his heart was divided. And at key junctures, he waffled in his devotion to God. God makes a tragic report about Saul, “I regret making Saul king because he has turned away from following me and hasn’t done what I said.” (1 Samuel 15:11) So God picks David to be the next king. God says about David, “He is a person after my own heart, doing what I want him to do.”

Notice that for God, seeking after His heart is not just a belief thing, or a worship thing. For God it means also “doing what I want him to do.”

Well, last week we saw that David was a nobody, the youngest of an obscure family, a shepherd. But God does not see things like people do. The Lord sees into the heart. And God saw great potential there!

So, Samuel secretly anoints David as the next king, but that's not going to come for a while. What he was noticed for at that time was his music abilities, playing lyre, and he was interestingly invited to come and play for the king whenever the king's moods dipped into despair. It helped, but David still spent most of his time at home, still shepherding.

**PP#3:** *Picture from the news release this week (Fox News) of the Philistine remains discovered.*

Did any of you catch the headline this week? Over in Israel they discovered the first remains ever of the ancient people called Philistines. They were a warring people often mentioned in the Bible, but up until now, they had only found some of their structures and other artifacts. But now they found actual bones, so they are hoping to run DNA tests to see if they can trace where the Philistines came from, whom they descended from.

**PP#4:** *Map of Israel during the time of David showing Philistia.*

But when Saul was king, the Philistines were the arch enemy. The Israelites never seemed to defeat them after they had entered the Promised Land. So, they continued to plague the Israelites. One of David's greatest honors is that after he becomes king, he finally subdued them. An amazing story of David as a teenager foreshadows his future victory.

Turn to 1 Samuel chapter 17.

**PP#5:** 1 Samuel 17

1 The Philistines assembled their troops for war at Socoh of Judah. They camped between Socoh and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. 2 Saul and the Israelite army assembled and camped in the Elah Valley, where they got organized to fight the Philistines. 3 The Philistines took positions on one hill while Israel took positions on the opposite hill. There was a valley between them.

4 A champion named Goliath from Gath came out from the Philistine camp. He was more than nine feet tall.

You can find 1 Samuel if you turn to the middle of your Bible and go a bit to the left.

Verse 1, "The Philistines assembled their troops for war at Socoh of Judah. They camped between Socoh and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. Saul and the Israelite army assembled and camped in the Elah Valley, where they got organized to fight the Philistines. The Philistines took positions on one hill while Israel took positions on the opposite hill. There was a valley between them.

"A champion named Goliath from Gath came out from the Philistine camp. He was more than nine feet tall."

Whoa! Shocking development! The Philistine army on one hill, and the Israelite army on the other. They get ready to fight. But all of a sudden, the Philistine reveal they have a secret weapon. They bring out a massive soldier nine feet tall!

So, we need to get into the moment. Can you imagine how shocked they all were? When I say "Out came Goliath," you all gasp in fright, OK? Here we go, "Out came Goliath!" [Gasp!]

**PP#6:** *Picture of André the Giant from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gigantism>*

There is a rare disease called gigantism that causes some people's bodies to produce way too much growth hormone as kids, and they grow super tall. Unfortunately it is really hard on the body, and although they may be big and strong for a time, their bodies eventually give out prematurely. Andre the Giant was one famous example. The tallest man in recent history was just shy of 9 feet.

Well, Goliath was still in his prime, strong and way scary! The Bible says his armor weighed 125 pounds! Out came Goliath! [Gasp!]

**PP#7:** 1 Samuel 17

8 Goliath stopped and shouted to the Israelite troops, "Why have you come and taken up battle formations? I am the Philistine champion, and you are Saul's servants. Isn't that right? Select one of your men, and let him come down against me. 9 If he is able to fight me and kill me, then we will become your slaves, but if I overcome him and kill him, then you will become our slaves and you will serve us. 10 I insult Israel's troops today!" The Philistine continued, "Give me an opponent, and we'll fight!" 11 When Saul and all Israel heard what the Philistine said, they were distressed and terrified.

Verse 8, "Goliath stopped and shouted to the Israelite troops, 'Why have you come and taken up battle formations? I am the Philistine champion, and you are Saul's servants. Isn't that right? Select one of your men, and let him come down against me. If he is able to fight me and kill me, then we will become your slaves, but if I overcome him and kill him, then you will become our slaves and you will serve us. I insult Israel's troops today!' The Philistine continued, 'Give me an opponent, and we'll fight!' When Saul and all Israel heard what the Philistine said, they were distressed and terrified."

Things were not looking good! What was Saul to do? There stood a giant looming in front of them.

**PP#8:** David 2: The Giant

1. Giants loom (unexpectedly?) in your life

I made you all gasp, because I want you to participate in this story. Now, I doubt any of us will face a giant on the battle field. But think about those things in your life that threaten you, that scare you, that are too powerful for you. What are you facing that makes you distressed and terrified? Finances? A crumbling marriage? Cancer? A prodigal child? Unemployment? An addiction? Fear of the future? And notice that the giant is a surprise to David. He's not expecting anything like this. Our giants can surprise us, come out of nowhere. As we hear this story, I want you to keep the giants you're facing in mind. How does a person after God's own heart face them?

**PP#9:** 1 Samuel 17

12 Now David ... 15 went back and forth from Saul's side to shepherd his father's flock in Bethlehem.

16 For forty days straight the Philistine came out and took his stand, both morning and evening. 17 Jesse said to his son David, "...Find out how your [three oldest] brothers are doing and bring back some sign that they are okay. 19 They are with Saul and all the Israelite troops fighting the Philistines in the Elah Valley."

Verse 12. Now, I'm going to be skipping some parts. Be sure to go back and read the whole story on your own. Verse 12 and 15, "Now David ... went back and forth from Saul's side to shepherd his father's flock in Bethlehem. For forty days straight the Philistine came out and took his stand, both morning and evening. Jesse said to his son David, '...Find out how your [three oldest] brothers are doing and bring back some sign that they are okay. They are with Saul and all the Israelite troops fighting the Philistines in the Elah Valley.'"

So, day after day the giant taunts them. Hmmmm. Ignoring the giant didn't make him go away. True for us, too, reckon! Meanwhile Jesse sends David with some food to check on his three older brothers. When he gets there, he goes to the front lines to see his brothers. And right then, out came Goliath! [Gasp!]

The soldiers talk among themselves that Saul will give anyone great riches who would dare face Goliath.

#### **PP#10: 1 Samuel 17**

26 David asked the soldiers standing by him, "What will be done for the person who kills that Philistine over there and removes this insult from Israel? Who is that uncircumcised Philistine, anyway, that he can get away with insulting the army of the living God?" ...

28 When David's oldest brother Eliab heard him talking to the soldiers, he got very mad at David. "Why did you come down here?" he said. "Who is watching those few sheep for you in the wilderness? I know how arrogant you are and your devious plan: you came down just to see the battle!"

29 "What did I do wrong this time?" David replied. "It was just a question!"

Verse 26, "David asked the soldiers standing by him, 'What will be done for the person who kills that Philistine over there and removes this insult from Israel? Who is that uncircumcised Philistine, anyway, that he can get away with insulting the army of the living God?' ... When David's oldest brother Eliab heard him talking to the soldiers, he got very mad at David. 'Why did you come down here?' he said. 'Who is watching those few sheep for you in the wilderness? I know how arrogant you are and your devious plan: you came down just to see the battle!' 'What did I do wrong this time?' David replied. 'It was just a question!'"

Here we see David's mindset. Who is that creep, anyway? He's not on God's team. How can he get away with insulting the army of the living God? David is incensed that God's army is being mocked. No one mocks the one true and living God!

And do you see what David's older brother says to him? Remember, he's the one Samuel though should be king. He accuses David unfairly of being arrogant and devious, just wanting to see what's going on.

#### **PP#11: David 2: The Giant**

1. Giants loom (unexpectedly?) in your life
2. Even those close to you will push you down

Here's something else we experience like David. When we step out in faith, others will try to push us down. Even your own family, even sometimes your church family. When you step out against your giants, trusting in God's strength, it will not necessarily go easily for you. But that must not stop you! Press on!

**PP#12: 1 Samuel 17**

31 The things David had said were overheard and reported to Saul, who sent for him.

32 “Don’t let anyone lose courage because of this Philistine!” David told Saul. “I, your servant, will go out and fight him!”

33 “You can’t go out and fight this Philistine,” Saul answered David. “You are still a boy. But he’s been a warrior since he was a boy!”

Verse 31. “The things David had said were overheard and reported to Saul, who sent for him.” But notice, it is David who encourages the king. Saul, God’s king, is scared and cowering. David, a young lad, thinks it’s a simple matter. Anyone can go out and face the giant, because it is God who will fight. 32 ““Don’t let anyone lose courage because of this Philistine!’ David told Saul. ‘I, your servant, will go out and fight him!’” Heck, even I could do it. No problem!

David is looking at things with eyes that trust in God. Saul, however, is looking at everything very practically. 33, ““You can’t go out and fight this Philistine,’ Saul answered David. ‘You are still a boy. But he’s been a warrior since he was a boy!’”

**PP#13: 1 Samuel 17**

34 “Your servant has kept his father’s sheep,” David replied to Saul, “and if ever a lion or a bear came and carried off one of the flock, 35 I would go after it, strike it, and rescue the animal from its mouth. If it turned on me, I would grab it at its jaw, strike it, and kill it. 36 Your servant has fought both lions and bears. This uncircumcised Philistine will be just like one of them because he has insulted the army of the living God.

37 “The Lord,” David added, “who rescued me from the power of both lions and bears, will rescue me from the power of this Philistine.”

“Go!” Saul replied to David. “And may the Lord be with you!”

Take a close look at David’s answer. Verse 34 ““Your servant has kept his father’s sheep,’ David replied to Saul, ‘and if ever a lion or a bear came and carried off one of the flock, I would go after it, strike it, and rescue the animal from its mouth. If it turned on me, I would grab it at its jaw, strike it, and kill it. Your servant has fought both lions and bears. This uncircumcised Philistine will be just like one of them because he has insulted the army of the living God. The Lord,’ David added, ‘who rescued me from the power of both lions and bears, will rescue me from the power of this Philistine.’”

David’s appeal to faith in God encourages Saul. He catches a glimpse of hope. OK, if this boy is that strong in faith, then maybe it’s a chance. ““Go!’ Saul replied to David. ‘And may the Lord be with you!’”

**PP#14: David 2: The Giant**

1. Giants loom (unexpectedly?) in your life
2. Even those close to you will push you down
3. Remember God’s faithfulness in the past

Notice what embeds David’s faith here. As he is facing a surprising and unnerving giant, he remembers what God had done for him in the past, all that God brought him through. He has faced scary enemies before, ones that were too strong for him. David rests his faith solidly on God’s faithfulness to him in the past. So, church, when you face your giants, remember. Remember all that

God has done for you, all that God has brought you through. Maybe you need to spend some time intentionally remembering. It will give you courage for what you face today.

**PP#15:** 1 Samuel 17

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own gear, putting a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David strapped his sword on over the armor, but he couldn't walk around well because he'd never tried it before. "I can't walk in this," David told Saul, "because I've never tried it before." So he took them off. 40 He then grabbed his staff and chose five smooth stones from the streambed. He put them in the pocket of his shepherd's bag and with sling in hand went out to the Philistine.

Well, Saul tries to give David his armor. But, of course, it is too big, and David is not used to it. So, instead, verse 40, "He then grabbed his staff and chose five smooth stones from the streambed. He put them in the pocket of his shepherd's bag and with sling in hand went out to the Philistine."

**PP#16:** David 2: The Giant

1. Giants loom (unexpectedly?) in your life
2. Even those close to you will push you down
3. Remember God's faithfulness in the past
4. Use your own strengths

Lesson here for us. We can't fight our giants in other people's armor. We can't use their strengths. We have our own. They may not be all that impressive, but God can use them in mighty ways. David took his sling and chose plenty of smooth rocks.

What a comparison! Imagine. The Bible is certainly making a point here in this story. God is using small David with a crude weapon to face a huge giant amazingly outfitted. What do you need to face your giants? Exactly what you already have! Stop comparing your strengths to others. Yours are sufficient! You only need to go with God as you use them. What are your strengths? Your resources? How can you use them in a way to meet what is in front of you?

**PP#17-18:** 1 Samuel 17

43 The Philistine asked David, "Am I some sort of dog that you come at me with sticks?" And he cursed David by his gods. 44 "Come here," he said to David, "and I'll feed your flesh to the wild birds and the wild animals!"

45 But David told the Philistine, "You are coming against me with sword, spear, and scimitar, but I come against you in the name of the Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel's army, the one you've insulted. 46 Today the Lord will hand you over to me. I will strike you down and cut off your head! Today I will feed your dead body and the dead bodies of the entire Philistine camp to the wild birds and the wild animals. Then the whole world will know that there is a God on Israel's side. 47 And all those gathered here will know that the Lord doesn't save by means of sword and spear. The Lord owns this war, and he will hand all of you over to us."

Verse 43. "The Philistine asked David, 'Am I some sort of dog that you come at me with sticks?' And he cursed David by his gods. [Uh oh, Goliath is making this a religious battle. Who's

god is more powerful?]' 'Come here,' he said to David, 'and I'll feed your flesh to the wild birds and the wild animals!'

"But David told the Philistine, [You dare make this a religious battle?]' 'You are coming against me with sword, spear, and scimitar [a curved blade dagger], but I come against you in the name of the Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel's army, the one you've insulted. [Let me tell you how it's really going to go.] Today the Lord will hand you over to me. I will strike you down and cut off your head! Today I will feed your dead body and the dead bodies of the entire Philistine camp to the wild birds and the wild animals. Then the whole world will know that there is a God on Israel's side. And all those gathered here will know that the Lord doesn't save by means of sword and spear. The Lord owns this war, and he will hand all of you over to us.'"

Wow! David's passionate faith pours out here. This is amazing! He's telling off the giant! He's naming the victory even before the fight! In David's mind there is no doubt. He is hanging on God, and in his conviction, there is only one option: God wins. "I come against you in the name of the Lord of heavenly forces...Today the Lord will hand you over to me....then the whole world will know which God is true!"

#### **PP#19: David 2: The Giant**

1. Giants loom (unexpectedly?) in your life
2. Even those close to you will push you down
3. Remember God's faithfulness in the past
4. Use your own strengths
5. It's not your battle!

When you put your whole trust in God, then it's not your fight. God will use what you bring, but it will be God who wins. We can see into David's fiery heart here. It is solid on God.

I think we need to memorize these words for our own fights. "I come against you in the name of the Lord our God...today He will hand you over to me." We need to say this to the giants we face, over and over again. We need to stop trying to fix it all on our own, and failing miserably. We need to remember David, and put our trust in our God. Repeat after me: "I come against you...in the name of the Lord our God...and He...will hand you over to me." That is a smooth stone in your pouch.

Sometime today, I want you to go face your giant. Let that worry flood your mind and weigh on your heart. And then, I want you to pray against it, name it out loud, "I come against you...in the name of the Lord our God...and He...will hand you over to me!"

#### **PP#20: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

9 He said to me, "My grace is enough for you, because power is made perfect in weakness." So I'll gladly spend my time bragging about my weaknesses so that Christ's power can rest on me. 10 Therefore, I'm all right with weaknesses, insults, disasters, harassments, and stressful situations for the sake of Christ, because when I'm weak, then I'm strong.

Let God fight your battles for you. You do your part: show up, use your strengths, apologize, make changes in your daily spending, grant forgiveness, get an accountability partner, submit your application one more time. Then trust God! 2 Corinthians 12:9, God says, "My grace is enough for you, because power is made perfect in weakness." God comes through for us. He fights for us. He wins the victory!

**PP#21: 1 Samuel 17**

48 The Philistine got up and moved closer to attack David, and David ran quickly to the front line to face him. 49 David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone. He slung it, and it hit the Philistine on his forehead. The stone penetrated his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. 50 And that's how David triumphed over the Philistine with just a sling and a stone, striking the Philistine down and killing him—and David didn't even have a sword! 51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine. He grabbed the Philistine's sword, drew it from its sheath, and finished him off. Then David cut off the Philistine's head with the sword.

Verse 48. The giant is enraged and attacks. But David, in amazing courage, runs up to meet him. "The Philistine got up and moved closer to attack David, and David ran quickly to the front line to face him. David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone. He slung it, and it hit the Philistine on his forehead. The stone penetrated his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. And that's how David triumphed over the Philistine with just a sling and a stone, striking the Philistine down and killing him—and David didn't even have a sword!"

David has skill, and stones, but it's God who guides the stone right to the sweet spot. God wins.

**PP#22: David 2: The Giant**

1. Giants loom (unexpectedly?) in your life
2. Even those close to you will push you down
3. Remember God's faithfulness in the past
4. Use your own strengths
5. It's not your battle!
6. God makes you way bigger than your giant

Saul is cowering behind safe lines, fretting and worrying. David, only a boy named David, breaks through the front lines attacking the giant. David sees the size of the giant as puny with the eyes of God's righteousness and power. The God of Israel is the only giant that David sees.

David uses Goliath's own sword to cut off his head. The Philistines freak out and flee. The Israelites are rallied, and attack, and they win the day!

**PP#23: *Image of superhero Apache Chief, big!***

David faces a giant, but it is David who is the real giant. He has a faith in God that makes him far bigger than his enemy. And that makes David steady, assured, even confident.

David's God is our God. When we trust in Him, He gives us the power to face any giant.

This is us! When you face your giants, recall all that God has done for you. And then I want you to envision yourself, filled with God's power, bigger than whatever you face. I want you to feel that peace, that calm, that courage, that assurance.

But remember, God is not merely your muscle. God is your Lord. This victory doesn't usher David into a season of blissful peace. In fact, it places him in direct conflict with a bigger problem, a jealous Saul. But, as we will see next week, David continues to trust in God, and God continues to fight for David.

So, remember, when...out comes Goliath! [Gasp!] We trust in God and shout, "I come against you...in the name of the Lord our God...and He...will hand you over to me."

Amen!