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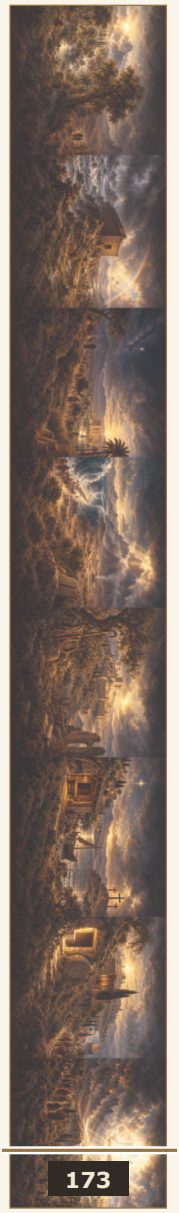
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

PSALM 119:105



JOHN WEAVER

WEAVER BIBLE COLLEGE



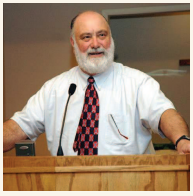
The battle is the LORD'S.

1 SAMUEL 17:47, EXCERPT

The account of David and Goliath provides a pattern for facing formidable trials. John Weaver considers faith, criticism, providence, and the support believers need in their struggles. These messages encourage readers to confront one difficulty at a time, trusting God's power rather than treating fear as the final measure of what can be done.

"With Almighty God Himself enabling and empowering us, we will learn what David learned: The bigger they come, the harder they fall."

JOHN WEAVER



John Weaver

John Weaver's sermons form the teaching collection presented by Weaver Bible College. This volume gathers his teaching from that collection.

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Contents

Chapter 1: Killing Giants - Part One of Two 5

Introduction: The Reality of Giants 5

Spiritual Giants in Our Lives 7

God Providentially Allows Giants 9

The Character of Goliath 9

The Consequence of Not Fighting 11

Common Temptations and God's Faithfulness 13

David's Righteous Anger and Faith 14

God's Providence in Bringing David to the Battle 16

Joseph's Example of Overcoming Rejection 17

Joshua and Caleb's Attitude Toward Giants 18

Two Applications 19

Applications: Faith Over Fear and Trust in Sovereignty 19

Chapter 2: Killing Giants - Part Two of Two 21

Introduction and Review 21

God Prepares Us for Battle 25

God Providentially Prepares Us to Face Giants 25

Lessons David Learned from Smaller Battles 26

God Providentially Prepares Us for Critics 30

One Giant at a Time 32

God Allows Us to Face One Giant at a Time 32

God Gives Help with the Rest of the Giants 33

Applications and Conclusion 34

Topical Index 39

Scripture Index 41

Study Guide Link 43

CHAPTER 1

Killing Giants

Part One of Two

SCRIPTURE READING - 1 Samuel 17:1-16 (KJV)

Introduction: The Reality of Giants

Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belonged to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 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. 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. 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.

And he had a 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. And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. 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.
>
> 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. 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. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

"Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem-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. 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. And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul. But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days. 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; And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge."

So the title of the message, as I mentioned, is "Killing Giants." Everyone in this room knows that David is known as the giant killer. However, David is certainly not the only one that killed giants in the Bible. You will see before we end next week that a number of individuals faced and killed giants as well. When you and I hear the word "giant," or we hear the word "giants," we always think of huge, strong, and burly men. I suppose it is only natural for us to do so.

I remember years ago when our oldest daughter was probably about four, though she may have been five, but probably closer to four. She made an astonishing assessment. One of my college professors, who also happened to be a very good friend of mine at

the time, was Dr. Fred Athman. He used to ride with us to Spartanburg, South Carolina, every Sunday morning because we both preached there. He would ride with me, I would drop him off, someone would pick him up, and he would go to his church; then I would go to the church where I was preaching. Dr. Athman was six foot six and a half. I never will forget: Wendy was sitting in the back seat with Alice, and I let Dr. Athman out. He unfolded himself and stood up, bent back down to pick up his briefcase, shut the door, and Wendy looked at me and said, "Daddy, is that what

What does the Bible mean when it says there were giants in the earth in those days? To a little girl who is about two and a half feet tall, someone six feet six or six feet six and a half would indeed appear to be a giant. One must consider that, yes, there were giants in the Bible, and I am going to show you some things momentarily. But some who are considered giants may not really be giants. In fact, they are assumed to be giants because of an unbiblical and ungodly attitude and assessment.

Remember what the children of Israel said concerning the sons of Anak in Numbers 13:33: “And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.” The sons of Anak may have been huge men; they may have been called giants. But what made them appear so great was that the Israelites considered themselves so small. They said, “We are as grasshoppers in their sight,” and, “And so we were in their sight.”

How could the children of Israel know how the sons of Anak viewed them? The truth is, they could not. They simply assumed that the sons of the giants looked upon them the way they looked upon themselves. Unhappily, many times we make giants out of men and problems because of our lack of faith and our unbiblical attitudes. They are not really giants, and they are not really gigantic. We simply assume them to be, fail to exercise faith, and underestimate the power of God in our lives.

Spiritual Giants in Our Lives

Today I want to share with you some truths on killing giants. You may say, “But Brother Weaver, hang on. There are not any giants

around here to kill." I understand your statement and objection. However, there are many giants. Do you remember Pilgrim's Progress, and how Pilgrim and Faithful were thrown into Doubting Castle by Giant Despair? Charles Haddon Spurgeon said, "Great thoughts of your sin alone will lead you to despair, but great thoughts of Christ will pilot you into a haven of peace."

Then he says, "The weight of my sin presses down on me like a giant's foot would crush a worm, but oh, it is but a grain of dust to him because that he has borne that sin on the cross." Spurgeon is saying that if I am left to myself, and if all I think about and meditate upon is my sin, wickedness, weakness, helplessness, and hopelessness, it leads to nothing more than despair. But when I understand Christ and His great sacrifice, it leads me into a haven of peace.

You need to think of all the giants that not only you face, but your brothers face as well. There are spiritual giants that must be faced not only personally, but familially. It is not simply the giant despair that some must face. We must also face giant apathy, giant ignorance, and giant unbelief. Many face the giant of an unsaved and unsanctified family. What about the giant of lost children—children who are not only lost, but in open sin and rebellion against God, becoming a great heartbreak to their parents?

What about the giant of sickness and health? Would you not at times consider financial burdens a giant? Some are presently facing a giant in simply seeking to hold their marriage together or rebuild it. It seems an impossible task when one person wants to do that which is right and holy and the other person could care less.

The only point I am trying to make is that all of these things can be giants in our lives. They must be dealt with and faced in a biblical manner. We should consider anything gigantic if it is going to affect us spiritually, personally, and in our family lives. We have to learn to deal with giants quickly, effectively, and efficiently.

I want to point out some truths to you on killing giants based upon the Word of God. I am only going to cover one point today, and I want you to think about this because it is very, very important. The first point is this: God providentially allows us to face and to fight

giants. By “providentially,” I mean that God, for our good and His glory, allows us to face and fight giants.

God Providentially Allows Giants

David fought Goliath. Goliath was a champion warrior and a champion fighter. He was not just any soldier, nor even a regular soldier. Goliath was absolutely special. Remember, he had terrorized the entire army of Israel for forty days. He challenged them, mocked them, and ridiculed them.

In 1 Samuel 17:4, we read: “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.”

The Character of Goliath

“And he had a 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. And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. 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.”

“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. 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. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.”

The truth of the matter is, Goliath was special. You say, “How special was he?” Consider the fact that he was six cubits and a span tall. If the cubit—the length from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger—is about one and one-half feet, and the span was usually considered the distance from the thumb to the tip of the middle finger or from the thumb to the little finger, all spread out, then you are talking about an additional six inches. Goliath would be approximately nine feet and nine inches tall.

Compared to Og of Bashan, he was probably a little man. Look in Deuteronomy 3:11, where we read about Og, the king of Bashan: “For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants;

Deuteronomy 3:11 says, “behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man.” Og’s bed would have been twelve feet six inches long and six feet wide. That was a big bed, and it had to hold a very big man. So Goliath was nine feet nine inches tall.

He was not only huge; he was also strong. Verse 5 says that he had a helmet of brass upon his head and was armed with a coat of mail. The weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass, equivalent to 157 pounds. That did not include the greaves of brass on his shoulders or his helmet. I only roughly estimated this in my mind as I was studying.

I already knew that Goliath would be walking around with better than 200 pounds of armor on him. But when you consider that his spearhead was 600 shekels, the spearhead alone—not the spear—would be 18 pounds and 12 ounces. John Gill, in his commentary, says this concerning Goliath:

“It is conjectured that in proportion to the stature of Goliath, his spear must be 26 feet long, since Hector's in Homer was 11 cubits or 16 and a half feet long. The whole spear, that is Goliath's spear, the whole spear is supposed to weigh 37 pounds and a half, and the whole of this man's armor is thought to weigh 272 pounds 13 ounces.”

“And one bearing a shield went before him, which, when engaged in battle, he held in his own hand and his sword in the other. The former, the shield, was reckoned at 30 pounds and the sword at 4 pounds 1 ounce. Though one would think that he had no occasion for a shield being so well covered with armor all over, so that carrying of it before him might have been only a matter of form and of state.”

Here was a man 9 feet 9 inches tall, exceedingly strong, and carrying 200 to 300 pounds of armor. He was also proud, arrogant, and defiant. He believed himself absolutely undefeatable. His arrogance and superiority were apparent. He was begging for a fight:

“Send me a man to fight me.” Remember, he had a target of brass between his shoulders, a bullseye. What was he saying? “Hit me if you think you can. You can't kill me, you can't hit me.” He was absolutely assured that he could defeat any soldier of Saul.

Look in verse 8: “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 was insulting every soldier.

Goliath asks, “Who do you think you’re fighting? Who do you think you’ve come out against?” He is absolutely sure that no one wants to fight him and that, if someone does, that person is going to lose. He is certain that he will be the winner. Look in verse 10, which shows his arrogance: “And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.” Goliath had absolutely no respect for Saul’s soldiers. He defied them, mocked them, and ridiculed them, assuming that none of them was his equal.

The Consequence of Not Fighting

The truth is, most of them were really and truly afraid of him. They observed his size, his armament, and his arrogance. Saul’s soldiers probably thought, “This man is so sure of himself, and so sure that he cannot be defeated. Well, maybe he’s right.” And they were afraid. Verse 11 says, “When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.” Verse 24 says, “And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.” All of Saul’s soldiers were deathly afraid of Goliath. None of them lived up to his challenge.

Now notice something about King Saul. Hold 1 Samuel 17, but turn back to 1 Samuel 9:2: “And he,” that is Kish, “had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.” Saul was not a little man himself. He had to be six to seven feet tall; from the shoulders up, he was taller than any of the Israelites. And yet the Bible tells us that even Saul was afraid of Goliath.

Look back in your Bibles to 1 Samuel 17 and verse 9. Here is the kicker; here is where the rubber meets the road. Goliath said, "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."

Are you listening? Goliath not only had to be faced and fought; he had to be killed for Israel to be free. If Goliath was not killed, Israel would become servants to the Philistines by default. I want you to understand something. It is true that any of Saul's soldiers could have fought Goliath and lost. But at least we could have said they fought, or were willing to fight, and went down fighting. But if there is absolutely no attempt to bring Goliath down, then they—and we—lose automatically.

I want you to understand something about the giants in your life, and that is this: giving up is not an option. Doing nothing is not an option. Failing to fight is not an option. You will either have to kill the giants in your life, or they will kill you.

Now I want you to understand this principle. Look back at verse 9, and then turn to Romans chapter 6. I want you to see this principle very plainly and very clearly enunciated. The Apostle Paul makes it exceedingly clear. Look at Romans 6, verse 16: "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

Now let that sink down. To whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness. What Goliath was proposing was this: If you can fight with me and kill me, then we will all be your servants. But if you cannot, and I kill whoever you send, then you are going to be our servants.

The Apostle Paul makes it plain that you are the servant, the slave, to whomever you yield your life and your body. If you do not kill the giant of lust in your life, you will be the servant of lust. If you do not kill the giant of wastefulness, you will be its servant. If you do not kill the giant of covetousness, you will be its servant and slave. If you do not kill the giant of ignorance, you will remain its servant and slave.

If you do not kill the giant of bitterness, revenge, and anger, then you will be their servants. If you do not kill the giant of division and rebellion, you will never have a united family or a united church. Whatever giant you are facing, you must kill him, or you are going to be his servant and slave. That is true in everyone's life; it does not matter which giant you are facing.

Common Temptations and God's Faithfulness

He must die, just as Goliath had to die for Israel to be free. So let me ask you a question: Why is it that, in our lives, most often, we do not want to face or fight our giants? The answer is that we like to pity ourselves, wallow in despair, and think, "No one's ever going through what I'm going through. No one's ever suffered what I'm suffering. No one's ever had to face what I'm facing." Then we have a pity party and exempt ourselves from facing and fighting our giants because we think we are unique, special, and the only ones who have ever endured whatever we are enduring. We think we have to face it alone.

The truth is that we are not unique, and we are not alone. We all face common giants. Some face them, some fight them, and some conquer them, while others refuse to face and fight them and become servants to sin and unrighteousness.

First Corinthians 10:13 says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

I can pretty well tell you many of the battles Henry is facing without Henry ever telling me, and the battles Robert is facing without Robert ever telling me, because I face some of the same common battles. They are common to all of us. Each of us must face the giants in our lives. It is just that simple. God has said, "There's no temptation taking you, but such is common to man." And He has also said, "But God will not suffer or allow you to be tempted above that you're able." God is not going to put some giant on you that you cannot face, fight, conquer, and kill. He knows exactly the size and strength of the giants you can face, and He has promised that there

will always be a way of escape, that we may be able to bear it. So do not tell me that you cannot fight.

David's Righteous Anger and Faith

Do not tell me, "I'm not an experienced warrior. I'm not an experienced soldier. I'm not a martial artist." Neither was David. David was a shepherd and a young boy. He had no experience as a soldier or warrior, yet he was willing to face and fight Goliath. In 1 Samuel 17:14, we read, "And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul." David was the youngest of all his brothers. Verse 33 says, "And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

The word "youth" here is the Hebrew word "na'ar," which literally means a boy, a lad, or a youth. In verse 42, Goliath saw David and "disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance." Goliath was saying, "What? You're sending a kid? You're sending a boy out here to fight me?" In verse 56, Saul said to his men, "And the king said, Inquire thou whose son the stripling is." The word "stripling" again refers to a youth, a young boy, or a lad.

Now, I'll be honest with you. I do not really know how old David was when he faced Goliath. Everything that I have read says that his age was somewhere between thirteen and seventeen. Just stop and think. I would probably place him closer to sixteen or seventeen, but still, sixteen or seventeen is a kid. If David, a youth, a lad, a young man, was willing to face, fight, and defeat a giant, it should be much easier for an older, more experienced adult to face, fight, and defeat a giant. The problem is that we lack the faith, determination, and righteous anger David possessed.

Now, I want you to look back in 1 Samuel chapter 17. The truth is, I am going to show it to you. David was not fearful; he was righteously angered. Look in verse 26, 1 Samuel chapter 17. Look what David said: “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?” So Goliath’s challenge was answered by David because David was not

fearful, but righteously angered. Do you know what the Bible says in Ephesians 4 and verse 26? Listen to this.

"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath." Being angry and sinning not means that there is such a thing as righteous anger. Righteous anger is directed at sin and seeks to resolve the sin. Unrighteous anger explodes and tells somebody off, or internalizes the offense and lets it eat away at you. Righteous anger is directed at sin and seeks to resolve the problem in a biblical manner that will exalt God and honor His truth. Our Lord was angry. Anger in itself is not sin.

The Bible says in Mark 3:5, speaking of Christ, "And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand." Our Lord looked round about upon them with anger. When David heard this giant defying not only the armies of Israel but the living God Himself, he was righteously provoked.

Two things provoked David and raised his indignation against Goliath. First was Goliath's character—or, rather, his lack of character. David asked, "For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" Goliath was a Philistine, an uncircumcised and profane man who had no true religion. He was a stranger to the covenant and to the promises of Israel. Goliath stood for everything that David and all Israel should have stood against.

Second, Goliath was reproaching the armies of the living God. A reproach upon the armies of the living God is a reproach to the living God of the armies. David understood that the one true and living God was King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He could not endure the thought of God's host being reproached, or of God Himself being reproached by a wicked, profane person. David therefore had a zeal for God, His truth, and His righteousness. He wished to see God and God's army vindicated, and thus volunteered to fight Goliath. David was exercising faith. He believed not only that God would use him, but that God would absolutely give him victory over Goliath.

David understood that he served the one true and living God, while Goliath served dumb idols. The whole point is that it was God's

divine providence that brought David and Goliath together. David was at home, tending his father's sheep, and had no idea about Goliath or his challenge until his father sent him to check on his brothers.

God's Providence in Bringing David to the Battle

It is true that David had previously been with Saul, but he had returned home. First Samuel 17:15 says, "But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem." So had David previously been with Saul? The answer is yes. First Samuel 16:17 says, "And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me. Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him. Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep. And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul."

"And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him."

Thus David had been in Saul's presence as his harpist and armor bearer. The armor bearer was a young boy who carried the artillery, such as the bow or arrows—something like a bat boy in a baseball game, with no real significance beyond picking up dropped bats. David's main function was to play the harp and soothe Saul. Now he had left Saul and gone home to feed his father's sheep. The only reason David went back to Saul was that Jesse was concerned about his three eldest sons, who were in Saul's army.

In 1 Samuel 17:17, 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; And carry these ten cheeses

unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge." Jesse did not know what was happening. He knew that his sons were in the army and may have known that there was going to be a battle between the Philistines and the Israelites, but he certainly did not know about Goliath. He wanted David to see how his brothers were doing and to take their pledge—that is, to bring something back from them that would prove they were absolutely alive.

All David wanted to do was obey and honor his father. He was completely unaware of Goliath until he arrived at the battle site. It is amazing how innocent and simple desires and acts bring conflicts upon us and bring us into the arena of fighting. Jesse never intended for David to fight Goliath. Had he known about Goliath, he probably, as a father, would have kept him home: "I don't want my baby boy facing that big warrior." Jesse did not know what was happening, and David did not know what was happening.

It is important to understand that we do not need to plan to face and fight giants. In the providence of God, He brings those giants into our paths, and they may come innocently, by some innocuous little act: "Son, go check on your brothers." It is just that simple. God sovereignly and providentially brought David into the battle so that he could face and fight Goliath.

Humanly speaking, had this episode not happened, David would not have had the stature, character, and faith that he exhibited the rest of his life. In God's providence, God allowed David to face, fight, and kill Goliath for David's good and God's glory. The same is true concerning every giant that you face in your life.

Joseph's Example of Overcoming Rejection

God ordains it. God allows it. God brings it to pass for your good and for His glory. It does not matter how you come face to face with your giant. God providentially allows it to happen. Nothing happens by accident, fate, or fortune, and there is no such thing as luck or happenstance in a world ruled by God. Whatever the Lord brings into our life, we must learn to face and deal with it. Remember that Joseph's brethren hated him and sold him into slavery.

Can you imagine the emotional and physical pain when your family turns against you? Look in Genesis chapter 50 and see how Joseph handled the giant of familial rejection. After his father dies, his brothers fear that Joseph will avenge himself upon them. They think, “Daddy’s dead. He’s going to get us back for all that we’ve done to him.”

“And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying, So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him. And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants. And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.”

What a way to slay the giant of rejection. Joseph said, “You meant it for evil. You meant to harm me and hurt me. But God meant it for good.” He resolved the problem quickly, biblically, and efficiently. Joseph, like David, dealt with the giants God providentially brought into his life. Giants are brought into our lives so that we may learn to fight, kill, and conquer them. When God sends us giants, He does not intend for those giants to kill and conquer us; He intends for us to kill and conquer them. In that way, we mature in our faith and trust in Him.

Joshua and Caleb's Attitude Toward Giants

Our attitude should be the same as that of Joshua and Caleb. Moses sent spies into the land, and all the spies brought back an evil report except Joshua and Caleb. They gave the true report. In Numbers 14, beginning with verse 6, see what they said concerning the giants: “And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good

land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land."

These were the same people who, in chapter 13 and verse 33, had said, "We saw the sons of Anak there, the giants. And we were grasshoppers in our sight before them, and so were we in their sight." Yet look what they said about these giants. Verse 9 says, "Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not."

Did you hear what they said? "They're bread for us. They're our nourishment. They're our sustenance. That's what we're going to live on. We're going to take care of them." It is just that simple. We do not have to fear them because their defense is departed from them, and our Lord is with us. Whatever giants you are facing, you have to come to the realization: "It's bread for me. It's food for me. It's nourishment; it's sustenance."

Two Applications

Applications: Faith Over Fear and Trust in Sovereignty

God has sent it my way for my good and His glory, because the Lord is on the side of His people.

Here are two applications. First: How do you face giants—with faith or fear? Are you like the majority of the Israelites, who wished to turn back and go into Egypt when they saw the giants? Or are you like Joshua, Caleb, and David, who said, "They're bread for us. They're ours. We own them. We'll conquer them"?

Second, if you believe that God is absolutely sovereign and that nothing happens by accident in a world ruled by God, then understand that God sovereignly and providentially brings giants into our lives for our good and His glory. That should be sufficient to make us cease complaining, whining, and grumbling, and simply get to work killing the giants before us.

Each giant that falls brings us further onto the path of maturity, trust, and greater dependence upon God's power. With Almighty God Himself enabling and empowering us, we will learn what David learned: The bigger they come, the harder they fall. But if we do not kill the giants in our lives, we will be their servants and slaves.

It's a matter of life and death. You either kill your giants or they'll kill you.

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we bow to Thee. We thank You for Your providence. We thank You, Father, for bringing to pass the things in our lives, for our good and for Your glory. And help us, Lord, to cease complaining, cease whining and grumbling, and just get on with the job of fighting and killing giants. Help us to bring our lives in greater conformity unto Thee. And may we glorify Thee and honor Thee. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHAPTER 2

Killing Giants

Part Two of Two

SCRIPTURE READING - 1 Samuel 17:1-11 (KJV)

Introduction and Review

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. 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. 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. 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.

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. And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. 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.
>
> 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. 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. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

"Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem-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. 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. And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul. But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days. 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; And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge."

Giants do indeed exist. They may not necessarily be the giants you think of when you think of Goliath. Men like that were indeed giants, and yet we face various troubles, trials, and tribulations that are gigantic to us; certainly, they are giants in our lives. There is giant despair. In Pilgrim's Progress, giant despair threw Pilgrim and Faithful into Doubting Castle.

There is also a host of other giants: the giant of health problems, the giant of economic problems, and the giant of marital problems. All kinds of problems and all kinds of giants exist. According to Scripture, we must learn to kill the giants in our lives, for they fully

intend on killing us. It is literally a matter of self-defense, a matter of life and death.

You cannot walk around a giant. You cannot walk away from a giant. You must either slay him or he is going to slay you. It is that simple.

Remember what we have learned about Goliath. The man was nine feet, nine inches tall. Just his armor, according to Dr. John Gill, weighed approximately 270 pounds. His spear was about 37 pounds, and the staff would have been about 26 feet long. Here was a huge man. Notice his intent in 1 Samuel 17:41: "And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?" He was insulted. He said, "Am I a dog that thou comest to me with staves?"

"And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases 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. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands."

Goliath not only disdained David; he was insulted that such a young man would come out against him. He believed he merited a full-grown man, someone trained in the art of war. But Goliath also purposefully and deliberately pushed the fight. When he saw David, he told him explicitly what he was going to do to him. Notice this: when David came to Goliath, he did not quake. He did not fear. He did not tremble. He did not cower.

He did not try to hide, run away, mope, groan, cry, or complain. He did not sit around twiddling his thumbs, wallowing in a pity party, saying, “Woe is me, look at this giant that I've got to face.” No. When he went out to face Goliath, he simply did that which needed to be done. He took care of the problem.

He did not try a compromise. He did not endeavor for a negotiation. He did not even solicit a peace referendum. When David went to meet Goliath, he had one thing on his mind: “I'm going to kill him. I'm going to slay him. I will take care of this giant.”

Whatever problems we have, whatever troubles and trials we face, whatever giant comes our way, it does us no good to sit around moaning, complaining, griping, and weeping among ourselves. What we have to do is just like David: get up, get on with it, and take care of what needs to be done.

When David went out to face Goliath, he fully intended on killing Goliath. You say, “Brother Weaver, I don't think that's right.” Would you consider the alternative? If David did not kill Goliath, then Goliath was going to kill David. You cannot run away from the giants in your life. You're either going to serve them or they're going to be dead and out of your way.

The Bible says, “...to whomsoever ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are...” God providentially allows us to face and fight giants. He allows it for our good and His glory. Jesse had no idea what was going on in the battle. All he wanted to do was check on his three sons. David had no idea that Goliath was coming there confronting the people, because David was with the sheep. It was God in His sovereign providence that brought David and Goliath together, and He did so for David's good and for His glory. And so it is today. Whatever God allows to come our way, whether it's ill health, economic problems, or whatever problem it is, it always comes in God's divine providence and is for our good and His glory.

God Prepares Us for Battle

God Providentially Prepares Us to Face Giants

You do not have to plan on fighting and killing giants. They just come our way; you have to deal with them when they come.

God providentially prepares us to face our battles and the giants that we must face. I am glad that God does not simply throw us into a den of giants and say, “There they are, boys, go get them.” No, He prepares us to face them and to fight them. How does God prepare us to fight a giant? He prepares us the same way that He prepared David to fight a giant. Those little, or smaller, battles always prepare us for the larger battles. God does not require us to fight a giant without some experience.

He does not dump heavy fighting upon us until we have already engaged in a number of smaller skirmishes and understand what fighting is all about. We learn to face and fight smaller troubles and problems before we ever engage the big ones. David volunteered to fight Goliath, but he had already been in previous battles—not necessarily as a soldier, and not necessarily with a giant. Yet he had already proven himself and had proven the Lord in battle.

For instance, in 1 Samuel 17, beginning with verse 31: “And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.” Whenever someone was willing to fight that giant, they hurried to tell Saul. So Saul sent for David. “And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.”

“Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, The LORD

that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee."

"Go, and the LORD be with you." I will not be with you, but perhaps the LORD will be with you. None of the other soldiers will be with you, but the LORD will be with you.

David killed a lion and a bear in combat. I will be absolutely honest: I do not object to killing either a lion or a bear with a .30-06 from a safe distance. But I do not want to fight a bear or a lion the way David had to—with a sword, spear, staff, or knife. David's fighting the bear and the lion happened up close and personal. Not only could David probably smell the animals; he could smell their breath. He was that close. Remember what he said: "I took the lamb out of his mouth." He was up close and personal.

Both lions and bears are dangerous. However, they are not nearly as dangerous as a giant soldier trained in fighting and in the art of war from his youth. What was God doing? God was preparing David to fight Goliath when He allowed him to fight the bear and the lion.

I want you to understand something else, especially the younger people who will be listening to this. David did not go out looking for excitement and adventure, doing stupid things such as fighting a wild beast with his bare hands simply for the sake of fighting one. When David fought the bear and the lion, those battles came in the line of his duty. He was a shepherd with a duty and responsibility to protect his father's sheep; therefore, it was a work-related hazard. He did not go out saying, "I think I'll have some fun. I think I'll wrestle a bear or a lion." God sovereignly brought the bear and the lion in the line of duty.

Lessons David Learned from Smaller Battles

Since God providentially prepares us to fight giants, what did David learn in fighting the lion and the bear? First and foremost, this is an absolutely fundamental and simple truth: David learned to fight when it was necessary to fight. Go back to verse 34: "And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock."

“And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.” He understood when it was necessary to fight. Whenever life is involved, whenever life is at stake, it is absolutely necessary to fight. David had a duty and responsibility to protect his father's possessions and preserve the lives of his flock.

Some people like to fight even when it is not necessary. I have known people like that, and I still know some. It appears that they cannot be happy unless they are fighting or quarreling with someone all the time. I am sure certain people come to your minds. Most of the time, their fighting and quarreling concerns trivial and worthless issues, not even worth fighting over. In all probability, when it truly comes time to fight, they probably will not. Their excuse will be, “Well, I'm tired of fighting. I've been fighting all my life.” Well, yes, you have.

Why would you waste your time, money, energy, and emotions fighting when it is not necessary to fight? David, when he did not have to fight, did not fight. It was only when it was absolutely necessary. We need to learn to fight when it is absolutely necessary to fight. We need to learn when it is time to fight. When it is time and necessary to fight, then we must absolutely fight. We cannot walk away. David could not have walked away and allowed those lambs to perish. When fighting is necessary, there is no alternative.

The very first thing David learned was to fight when it was necessary to fight. The second thing he learned was that, in reference to God and His power, all enemies are conquerable. No one or nothing can stand against the name and power of the Lord. Look in verse 36 at what David said: “Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.” David was saying, I do not care whether I am fighting a bear, a lion, or this giant. All are conquerable in the name of the Lord. It does not matter what problem we are facing or how difficult the situation is. Everything is conquerable through our Lord Jesus Christ.

What did the Apostle Paul say in Romans chapter 8? He hath made us more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord.

David learned, secondly, that every enemy is conquerable through Jesus Christ. Thirdly, David learned to trust the Lord in his smaller battles, and that encouraged him to trust Him in the greater battle. Look in verse 37: “Moreover, the LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.” He trusted God when he fought the bear, and God saved him. He trusted Him when he fought the lion, and God saved him. If he trusted Him then and He saved him, why could he not trust Him now? If God is trustworthy in the smaller battles, is He not also trustworthy in the greater battles?

The answer is yes. If God has been faithful in the smaller things, He is certainly going to be faithful in the greater things as well. David understood this because his smaller battles had prepared him for larger battles.

It is important to work out every small problem in a biblical manner. Number one, you gain experience. Number two, if you do not work it out, that small problem will snowball and become more complicated and more complex, and it will be more difficult to resolve. That is why the Scripture says, “Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.” In other words, take care of problems on a daily basis. Resolve them. You gain the experience and the trust.

Here is the fourth thing David learned: he could not conquer Goliath in unproven ways. The wisdom, means, and methods of this world will never succeed in spiritual battles. One cannot expect to honor the Lord and win a battle by using worldly means and methods. I would recommend that you read Pilgrim’s Progress and refresh yourself with Mr. Worldly Wise Man, who gave Pilgrim all this worldly advice. It sounds good; it simply will not work. The Bible says in 1 Timothy chapter 2 and verse 5, “And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.” If we are going to please God, honor Him, resolve problems, and win the battle, we must strive lawfully.

The Apostle Paul understood this, which is why he told Timothy that simple truth. David’s response was, “I do not care where worldly wisdom originates or what its source may be—even from a king. I am not going to use the means and methods of the world.” Look in verses 38–39: “And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put

an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him."

David was unaccustomed to the armor. Remember, David was a shepherd, not a soldier. The heavy armor was undoubtedly an encumbrance to him and would not allow him any speed or agility. He had never used it before. It was unproven and untrustworthy to him. Why would he take that armor at such a critical stage, when his life depended upon knowing whether it was any good? He had already depended upon the Lord and had already proven Him. He knew the Lord was faithful and omnipotent, but he had not depended upon this armor before.

Here is a truth that many Christians never learn: worldly wisdom is contrary to God and His Word, and it will never work in a spiritual setting. In 1 Corinthians 1, the Apostle Paul says, "For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise. I will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Look at the question God asks: "Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."

God says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise," and asks, "Where is the wisdom of this world?" He will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. In other words, the wisdom the world produces is absolutely contrary to the Word of God.

I can tell you exactly how to build a big church and how to fill the congregation with young people: get a good rock band, a lot of entertainment, go modern and cool, preach nothing that upsets anybody, and make everybody feel good, comfortable, and hunky-dory. People will flock to things like that. They love it.

If you have a church building full of 5,000 unsaved people professing to be Christians, what do you have? When you read 1 Corinthians chapter 3 and understand that everything built out of wood, hay, and stubble will be burned, it is a waste of time. Worldly wisdom may succeed as far as man is concerned, but it will never succeed as far as God is concerned.

Why did David put off Saul's armor? Stop and think about this. If David had gone to battle in Saul's armor and killed Goliath, the praise, honor, and glory would have gone to the armor and to the man who gave him the armor. It would not have gone to God. It would have been an accomplishment of man rather than God's miracle. So David stripped himself of Saul's armor to face Goliath, and he faced him only with his faith and a sling. He said, "That's sufficient. I don't need anything that man provides. I'll just take that which God gives."

God providentially prepared David to face Goliath by letting him face the bear and the lion and teaching him these valuable lessons. God also providentially prepares us for the critics we must face in confronting our giants. Amazingly, not everyone will appreciate the fact that we are facing and fighting giants.

God Providentially Prepares Us for Critics

In 1 Samuel 17:26, David said to the men standing by him, "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?" The people answered, "So shall it be done to the man that killeth him." Eliab, David's eldest brother, heard him, and his anger was kindled against David. He said, "Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle." And David said, "What have I now done? Is there not a cause?"

We must pay particular attention to the fact that the first major criticism of David came from a family member, his older brother. Look in verse 28: “And Eliab his eldest brother…” Unsaved and unspiritual family members never understand an act of faith, nor do

they understand why we do not follow them in their advice and actions.

Notice what Eliab did. His very first act was to criticize David's motives. He asked, "Why camest thou down hither?" The implication was that David was acting on his own accord. Eliab knew that his father had sent him with food and wanted a pledge that Eliab and his two brothers were alive. Yet Eliab accused him of acting on his own and questioned his motives: "I know. You just came down to see the battle. That's it."

Probably David had slipped away from his father, who did not even know he was there. The second thing Eliab did was belittle David. He asked, "With whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness?" You are a child, a sheep herder, and not a very big one at that. The implication was, "Go back where you belong. You are a child. You do not belong here. This is for men, for soldiers. Get out of here."

This is his eldest brother. The third thing that Eliab does is accuse David of being a bad boy. What does he say? In the latter part of verse 28, "I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart." Daddy probably never even sees you. You just slipped away. You are here because you want to see a battle. You want to see someone fight. You want to see someone get killed. That is the only reason you are here.

Why would Eliab attack his own brother in such a manner? Why do your family members attack you? Consider this first: David's willingness and volunteering to fight Goliath happened to be a reproach upon Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, his three older brothers, and all the other soldiers. Look in verse 11, 1 Samuel 17, verse 11: "When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid." Now skip down to verse 31: "And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him. And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine." In other words, do not be afraid. I will take care.

It has to be embarrassing and disconcerting that the youngest family member is willing to fight a giant when the older, more

experienced, mature family members are dismayed and afraid. None of David's older brothers volunteered to fight Goliath. No other Israelite soldier volunteered to fight Goliath. David was the only one. Simply by virtue of doing something right, needed, and necessary, he was an embarrassment to them because they had not done it and did not have the courage, strength, or faith to do it. So it was exposing them.

Secondly, undoubtedly envy played a role. What if David did succeed? He would gain prominence and superiority over his brethren. Look at verse 13, because it is very important that you understand the Bible says, "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 were the three older brothers. Did David succeed? Yes. Did David gain superiority? Yes. They knew that if he succeeded, David would be elevated, and they would be going down.

One Giant at a Time

Not all of our family or all of our friends will understand our battles. They just will not understand. Look what David said to Eliab in verse 29, after Eliab criticized him: "What have I now done? Is there not a cause?" Yes, there is a reason and a cause for why we fight, why we exercise faith, and why we do what we do. The family may not understand, but there is a cause.

God Allows Us to Face One Giant at a Time

The fourth thing I want you to see is this: God providentially allows us to face and to fight one giant at a time. Undoubtedly, there were other giants. Some of them may have been present in the army of the Philistines, yet Goliath was their champion. He was the best, the strongest, the most experienced, and the only giant David had to face at that time.

Look in verse 40: "And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine." Many say that Goliath had

four brothers. Thus, David chose five stones—one for Goliath and one for each of his brothers. One thing is sure: Goliath did have brothers. Some of them are named. He also had sons, and some of them are named. He also had a father.

Whether they were present in this battle, I do not know. They may have been. The Bible does not say. But the only giant David had to face was Goliath.

Here is the lesson each of us needs to learn: We do not have to kill all the giants, just the one we are facing. We do not have to be concerned about the giants lurking in a multitude of other places, or about the giants who may or may not appear in the future. We have to be concerned with the giant in front of us at the present time.

And God tells us to slay him, to conquer him, to kill him, to get him out of the way, and all will be well. Your giants give you no alternative, as I said in the introduction. You must either kill them or they will kill you. But God only allows us to face one giant at a time. I do not know about you, but I am thankful for that.

God Gives Help with the Rest of the Giants

Fifthly, listen carefully. God providentially gives us help with the rest, residue, and remainder of the giants when we deal with the one that is facing us. That is legal terminology. We do not have to kill all the giants, just the one that we are facing. Did you know that David only killed Goliath?

In 2 Samuel chapter 21, beginning with verse 18, we read: “And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob: then Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Saph, which was of the sons of the giant. And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, a Bethlehemite, slew the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. And there was yet a battle in Gath, where was a man of great stature, and had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, four and twenty in number; and he also was born to the giant. And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimeah the brother of David slew him. These four were

born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants."

When you read 1 Chronicles 20 and verse 8, the Bible says: "These were born unto the giant in Gath; and they fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants." So David only had to kill Goliath. His servants took care of the other giants.

I hope you understand what this means. It is the grace and mercy of God that we do not have to face giants alone. If Ed and Kerry kill the giant facing them, Ron and Linda kill the giant facing them, and Julian and Brantley kill the giant facing them, pretty soon all the giants will be dead. What does that mean? If I begin going through a problem that is gigantic to me, weighing me down so that I cannot handle it, someone who has faced that problem can tell me how they conquered and how God gave them dominion. Others can say, "We have been through that. Let me tell you what God did for us."

If we deal with the giant facing us, whatever that giant is, God will help us with the rest, residue, and remainder of the giants. We will not have to face them alone. We will understand that God will bring them down by their individuals.

Applications and Conclusion

Now let me make some applications and tie everything together. God will never place more upon us than we are able to bear. Whatever God brings to pass in your life, He brings it to pass for your good and His glory. Whatever giant you are facing is for your good and His glory. When you understand that God is sovereign and providentially allows it, you can take this attitude: "Suck it up, buttercup; it is for your good. Get on with killing this giant and get it over with."

God has said, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). If we understand that God sovereignly and providentially brings giants into our path for our good and His glory, we can face them with that assurance.

We just need to suck it up, get on with killing the giant, and get on with our lives.

The second application is this: by the grace of God, you can face and fight each and every giant in your life. You simply need to trust and obey. Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:12, “Fight the good fight of faith.” Do you realize Christianity is a fight? You have to fight to keep your mind pure, your heart right, to keep praying and studying, and to be faithful in coming to church.

Isn’t it amazing how your flesh just wants to lie out, lie around, quit, and do nothing? You have to fight. When the Apostle Paul was ready to be offered, he said in 2 Timothy 4:7, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” I have finished my course. I have fought a good fight. I have kept the faith. I am now ready to be offered, and my departure is nigh.

The question you have to ask yourself is this: Are you really facing a giant? Secondly, are you really fighting that giant? If you retreat and turn back from him, you are not fighting him. No one has ever defeated a giant by running away from him. The only way you can defeat a giant is to face forward, with the same attitude David had: “I’ll give your flesh to the fowls of the air and your flesh to the beasts of the field. You come on, big boy. You’ll find out what the power of God can do.”

The third application is this: size, strength, military accoutrements, or weapons matter not when the battle is the Lord’s. That is where you learn truly that the bigger they are, the harder they fall. You know what Job said in Job 14:12? He tells us what God is able to do: “He looketh on every one that is proud, and bringeth him low; and treadeth down the wicked in their place.”

David went out to face Goliath with only a sling. When that rock sunk into the giant’s forehead, I do not know whether it killed him. It may have. The Bible does not say, but it certainly took him out of the fight. But you know what else David did? He cut off the giant’s head.

How could he do that? He only had a sling. He took the giant's own sword and cut his head off. As one student said, how embarrassing that must have been—to get your head cut off with your own sword. But you know what? David was saying, “I'll not face

him again. He will be dead." Size, strength, military equipments, weaponry—none of those things matter when God is in control and in power. God is able to look down on everyone that is proud, and bring him low and to tread down the wicked in their place. You can face and fight and kill giants.

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we bow to thee this day. We are thankful for your love, for your grace, for your mercy. We're thankful for the truth, Lord, that you've given us in the life of David. We do pray, Lord, that you'll undertake for us and help us to face and fight and to slay our giants, that we might not only mature as Christians, but mature in our faith and bring honoring glory unto your great and holy name. In thy name we pray, amen.

Source Notes

Chapter 1: Killing Giants - Part 1 of 2
JW01394 | YouTube

Chapter 2: Killing Giants - Part 2 of 2
JW01395 | YouTube

Topical Index

Chapter titles and section headings are listed with the pages on which they begin.

A

Applications and Conclusion p. 34

Applications: Faith Over Fear and Trust in Sovereignty p. 19

C

Common Temptations and God's Faithfulness p. 13

D

David's Righteous Anger and Faith p. 14

G

God Allows Us to Face One Giant at a Time p. 32

God Gives Help with the Rest of the Giants p. 33

God Prepares Us for Battle p. 25

God Providentially Allows Giants p. 9

God Providentially Prepares Us for Critics p. 30

God Providentially Prepares Us to Face Giants p. 25

God's Providence in Bringing David to the Battle p. 16

I

Introduction and Review p. 21

Introduction: The Reality of Giants p. 5

J

Joseph's Example of Overcoming Rejection p. 17

Joshua and Caleb's Attitude Toward Giants p. 18

K

Killing Giants p. 5

Killing Giants - Part 1 of 2 p. 5

Killing Giants - Part 2 of 2 p. 21

L

Lessons David Learned from Smaller Battles p. 26

O

One Giant at a Time p. 32

S

Spiritual Giants in Our Lives p. 7

T

The Character of Goliath p. 9

The Consequence of Not Fighting p. 11

Two Applications p. 19

Scripture Index

Scripture references identified in chapter readings, headings, and manuscript text are listed with their page locations.

Numbers

Numbers 13:33 p. 7

Numbers 14 p. 18, p. 19

Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy 3:11 p. 10

1 Samuel

1 Samuel 9:2 p. 11

1 Samuel 16:17 p. 16

1 Samuel 17 p. 11, p. 12, p. 25, p. 31

1 Samuel 17:1-11 p. 21

1 Samuel 17:1-16 p. 5

1 Samuel 17:14 p. 14

1 Samuel 17:15 p. 16

1 Samuel 17:17 p. 16, p. 17

1 Samuel 17:26 p. 30

1 Samuel 17:4 p. 9

1 Samuel 17:41 p. 23

1 Chronicles

1 Chronicles 20 p. 34

Job

Job 14:12 p. 35

Mark

Mark 3:5 p. 15

Romans

Romans 6 p. 12

1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1 p. 29

1 Corinthians 10:13 p. 13, p. 34

Ephesians

Ephesians 4 p. 14, p. 15

1 Timothy

1 Timothy 6:12 p. 35

2 Timothy

2 Timothy 4:7 p. 35

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