

THE INCREDIBLE EXPLOITS OF DAVID

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with Pastor Dan Betzer

The New York's Madison Square Garden was packed that night in 1934 for the 15-round heavyweight championship fight between champion Primo Carnera and the contender Max Baer - considered just a playboy and no match for the huge champ. After all, Carnera had already knocked out more opponents than anyone in history up 'til then. Carnera was a giant compared to other fighters. You know the name Max Baer; he was the father of Max Baer, Jr., who played the TV role of Jethro Bodine for years on the Beverly Hillbillies.

Well, all pre-fight predictions went by the wayside quickly in the very first round as Baer knocked down the champion three times. By the 11th round, Baer had battered the champion, according to some reports, knocking him down 11 times before the referee stopped the fight.

I have watched the reruns of that fight. Prior to it, people said the much smaller Baer had no chance against the massive champ. But, Baer's punishing right hand made a mockery of those predictions. The little guy became the champ.

There is a similar story in the Bible:

1 Samuel 17:23-31

And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them. [24] And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. [25] And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel. [26] And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he

1 *should defy the armies of the living God? [27] And the people answered*
2 *him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that*
3 *killeth him.*

4
5 *[28] And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men;*
6 *and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest*
7 *thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the*
8 *wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for*
9 *thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. [29] And David*
10 *said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?*

11
12 *[30] And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same*
13 *manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.*

14 *[31] And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed*
15 *them before Saul: and he sent for him.*

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**THE FAMED VALLEY OF ELAH
WHERE DAVID SLEW THE GIANT GOLIATH**

1 The battle took place in the historic Valley of Elah, which I have visited
2 many times. In fact, I was there with our touring group just one year ago
3 this week; here is the **VIDEO** right from the spot where David
4 killed Goliath...

5 There are so many vital lessons from this true story:

6 First of all, the size of your enemy is not always relevant.

7 Goliath was about nine to ten feet tall. This alone made him a freak of
8 nature and not necessarily a powerful opponent. *A cubit is about 18 inches*
9 *and a span is the width of an ordinary hand.* These stats did not make
10 Goliath undefeatable. It made him a freak.

11 **HIS DEFENSE**

12 1 Samuel 17:4-7

13 *And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines,*
14 *named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. [5]*
15 *And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a*
16 *coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of*
17 *brass. [6] And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of*
18 *brass between his shoulders. [7] And the staff of his spear was like a*
19 *weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of*
20 *iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.*

21 All told, Goliath was weighed down by hundreds of pounds of armor. He
22 had a shield, but a helmet was virtually useless, for the Greeks had not yet
23 invented one that had a face shield. And he was facing an opponent armed
24 with a deadly sling.

25 **THE SLING OF DAVID**

26 Never think of David's sling as a sling shot. In Israeli history, the sling
27 had been a weapon for a very long time. It was the weapon of choice for
28 most shepherds such as David. The sling was one of the first long-ranged
29 weapons of its time. It was the weapon of choice for most shepherds
30 because of the power that it could deliver. Scriptures show that David had

1 already killed bears and lions (the mountain variety in Israel) with his
2 trusty sling. To kill a bear or lion, the sling would need to deliver a very
3 powerful blow to an animal's head. The shepherds would use this weapon
4 to defend their sheep or any marauder attacking the flock. No one knows
5 when exactly the sling was invented, but probably about the time of the
6 bow and arrow.

7 The earliest account of the sling is in the Book of Judges, which was
8 written about 2000 B.C. The sling was mainly used for combat and
9 fending off animals. The construction of a sling is fairly simple and
10 inexpensive. The ammunition was extremely ample in Israel - a small
11 rock. Slings are still used today in that part of the world.

12 Goliath could not get close enough to David to do much damage; but
13 David could kill the giant from quite a distance.

14 David had every confidence:

15 1 Samuel 17:32

16 *And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy*
17 *servant will go and fight with this Philistine.*

18 Very few people believed that David could win; but David believed it!

19 Hebrews 11:6

20 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to*
21 *God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that*
22 *diligently seek him.*

23 How many children of God die before ever doing something mighty for
24 Him because they don't believe they can?

25 Goliath's reaction to David was amazing:

26 1 Samuel 17:42-49

27 *And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him:*
28 *for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. [43] And*
29 *the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with*

1 *staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. [44] And the*
2 *Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the*
3 *fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. [45] Then said David to*
4 *the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and*
5 *with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the*
6 *God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. [46] This day will*
7 *the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take*
8 *thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the*
9 *Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of*
10 *the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. [47]*
11 *And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword*
12 *and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our*
13 *hands. [48] And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came*
14 *and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the*
15 *army to meet the Philistine. [49] And David put his hand in his bag, and*
16 *took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his*
17 *forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his*
18 *face to the earth.*

19 This would begin great enmity between Saul and young David. On several
20 occasions, Saul would actually attempt to murder him, but God always
21 brought His anointed through.

22 Today you might be facing giants. God is your source, your strength, your
23 victory. We find you today in your own personal Valley of Elah. Few give
24 you a chance at victory.

25 Romans 8:37

26 ***Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that***
27 ***loved us.***

28

29 Our victory does not originate with our might or brilliance, but is through
30 Christ Who strengthens us!

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