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David and Goliath
First Samuel 17: 1-58



The Bible commonly teaches issues of faith and righteousness by using contrasts. And of all these contrasts, none is more powerful than that between **Sha'ul** and **David**. The battle between **David** and **Goliath** in **Chapter 17** begins in earnest a contest between **David** and **Sha'ul** that will take up the remainder of **First Samuel**. Here, in **David's** first public appearance, **Sha'ul** and **David** are contrasted in **their** response to the Philistine giant's challenge: **Give me a man, that we may fight each other (17:10 NET)!**

The account of **David** slaying the giant **Goliath** is a classic tale, having the ingredients of drama and excitement, anticipation and the satisfaction of "the good guy" defeating "the bad guy" against all odds. "**David** and **Goliath**" has become a stock phrase for any "little guy" who takes on and defeats a bigger, stronger foe, whether in war, sports, business or politics. The prominence of the story is not accidental. This is the longest of all the accounts in **Samuel**, including more quotations than any other and featuring the longest and most vivid speech from one of **Isra'el's** enemies. Careful attention is paid to small details, such as the number of cheeses brought by **David**, the pieces and weight of **Goliath's** armor, the number of small stones picked up by **David**, and so on.

As we approach this great chapter, we should realize that **David's** victory does not primarily foretell triumphs that we will personally achieve by faith, but rather, the victory of **Messiah** for our salvation. **David** as a hero and king presents a

foreshadowing portrait, a type if you will, of **his greater descendant, Yeshua Messiah**. Furthermore, while we may recognize **David's** faith, character, experience from shepherding, and application of biblical principles as having played a role in **his** success. **David** triumphed primarily because **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** indwelt **him**, having **rushed upon him** at **his** anointing **(16:13)**. Therefore, **David's** actions remind us that faith, godliness, and courage should always result from a **Spirit**-filled life, and that **ADONAI** will often use these qualities to aide us as we walk with **Him** daily.[350]