

## Our Battle Cry

Deuteronomy 30:11-15

“For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ <sup>13</sup> Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ <sup>14</sup> But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. <sup>15</sup> “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.”

**As we continue our series on Deliverance, today, we are going to look at another very familiar Old Testament event.** Remember, 1 Corinthians 10:11 reminds us, “These things happened to them (the children of Israel) as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.” God is simply trying to get us to learn from Israel’s past mistakes!

**The Philistine army had gathered on one mountain range, and the armies of King Saul on another.** Between them lay a great valley. Every morning for forty days, Goliath, the champion of the Philistines, had come out onto the plain and stood there defiantly, shouting a challenge to Saul and his mighty men, "Send out a man so we can fight together. If he wins, we will be your servants. But if I win, you will be our servants."

**Day after day the challenge came.** But the story in 1 Samuel 17 tells us that Saul and his men had become dismayed and afraid. Fear was reigning in the camp, not faith. **Gloom filled the atmosphere, not joy.** The Israelites believed their enemy would win, and that belief was at the root of their fear.

**There stood Goliath, six cubits and a span tall - about nine feet nine inches!** He was dressed for battle. His helmet was brass. **His coat of armor, or "breastplate," weighed 157 pounds.** In addition, he was wearing brass leggings' and an extra piece of brass across his chest.

The point of his huge spear was made of nearly nineteen pounds of iron. He was an awesome *fighting machine* - in the natural.

Each day as Goliath bellowed out his challenge, "Send me someone to fight," his voice echoed out across the plain and up into the mountains. There the great soldiers of Saul quaked in their boots, scuffed the ground in front of them and said, "Not me, please."

Now a man named Jesse had three boys in that army, and since his sons had been away for over a month, Jesse got a bit worried about how they were doing and whether they had enough to eat. So he called his youngest son, David, in from the fields where he had been taking care of the family's sheep. He told the boy, "Son, take your brothers some of this dried corn and some loaves of bread and these hunks of cheese, and see how they're doing up there in Shochoh (Sho-ko)."

Then David found someone to take care of the sheep for him and he set out. Meanwhile, Saul had positioned his armies for battle and the Philistines had positioned themselves as well. So you can just imagine David as he came riding up right into the midst of this battleground, unaware of what was going on. I can see him as he got down from his donkey, found his brothers and said, "Hi, brothers. What's happening?"

Just at that time, Goliath, that massive henchman of the Philistines, came out from among the armies and stood there in all of his armor, shouting, "Send me a man!" And when this giant of a man stepped forward, everybody in the Israelite army took a giant step backward. So David asked, "Well, why aren't you guys doing something about this guy?" They answered, "Who are you with your bright ideas? You're just a smart-mouthed kid straight from the farm who wants to see somebody go out there and get butchered." David said, "This is a cause worth fighting for; why don't you fight?" He stirred up conviction and trouble. (They often go together.)

**Eventually word about David got around to King Saul, so he called for the boy.** When David walked into the king's tent he said, "King Saul, I don't understand this. This guy's not worth anybody getting scared over. I'll go fight him. "

**King Saul must have smiled.** Here was an inexperienced kid from the farm who had never been a soldier and was not even full-grown yet. So the king said, "You're not able to go out there. You're not even a man yet. And this guy has been a trained soldier from the time he was a boy."

David said, "Well, maybe I'm not trained as a soldier. But I'm a pretty good shot with a sling. And I've already killed a lion and a bear with my bare hands as they tried to steal our sheep. Surely the same God who delivered me from a roaring lion and a powerful bear can deliver me from this guy who's defying God's people." So Saul said, "All right, if that's the case, maybe you are our man, take my suit of armor." **And King Saul tried to suit up David in man-made armor.**

**But that was a mistake.** Goliath was suited up in man-made armor and King Saul tried to send David out in man-made armor. But the battle was really a *spiritual battle*.

I believe it took David about sixty seconds of wearing that manmade pile of sheet metal before he said, "This won't work. I don't know how to wear this suit or use this sword."

**So he took off that man made armor, took up his staff, chose five smooth stones from the river bed put them in his little shepherd's bag.** Then he took up his sling and said, "I'll just go like this, thank you." He set out down the mountainside, and all along the way, he was putting on his *spiritual armor*. I can just hear David as he went down that mountainside, "God I've got on the breastplate of Your righteousness. I've got on Your helmet. I've got Your protection on my loins. I've got on Your shoes. I've got Your sword and Your shield. I'm a soldier of God. I've got on God's armor. I'm wearing the Lord from head to toe."

When he got there on the plain and came toward Goliath, the giant looked down at him – from way up there nine feet above the earth – and his eyes took in this light-weight teenager who didn't even have a beard yet. He roared with laughter and swore at him, saying, "What an insult to have then send someone like you! You're about to be fed to the buzzards!"

Now that moment was a make-or-break point for David. David could have run away and no one would have thought much about it. His brothers and their friends up in the mountains would probably have said, "See, we told you so," and had a good laugh; but deep down inside, they wouldn't have held it against David because they were afraid themselves.

But if he had turned back, something would have happened inside David. He would have known that he had failed God.

Instead, something took hold inside David in that moment. A warrior mentality rose in him; pressing toward-the-mark faith began to mount up. David said, "Look here, Philistine. You're coming at me with all your man-made weapons - your sword and, spear and shield. But I've got on the armor of God. I'm coming to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand. I'll kill you, Goliath, and cutoff your head. Not only that, all those 'armies behind you will be defeated and left to rot out here in the plain to feed the vultures and wild animals. The whole world will know that the Lord saves not with the sword or spear, but by His power. This battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

Can't you hear that echo as it rolled back through the hills of Israel and through the camp of the Philistines on the other side of the valley?\_"The battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

I believe as that shout of victory echoed, faith took root in the hearts of those soldiers of Israel, driving out their fear. I believe they

stood a little bit taller in that moment. **Something happened.** It may not have been *visible*, but in the *spiritual realm*, the tide was turning at that very moment.

**At that same time, I believe, a seed of doubt and fear took root in the heart of Goliath.** He considered for just an instant, "Maybe this kid is right."

**Now the Bible says that David "ran" toward Goliath.** He didn't inch his way into the situation; he didn't stick one toe into the water to test it first; he didn't back into the battle. He went running flat out toward this foe of God almighty.

**As he, was running, he got a stone out of his bag, put it into his sling and started to whirl it around his head.** In those few seconds with David coming at him full speed, his slingshot whirling, Goliath must have had a split-second of knowing, "This isn't what I had in mind."

Can't you just see David running toward Goliath, his arm whirling that sling and shouting at the top of his lungs, "The battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hand!" **This was do or die!** This was putting it all on the line!

**So David let that stone fly straight at Goliath's forehead, and the stone sank in, stunning the giant so that he fell with a great thud to the ground.** Since David had no sword, he ran up to Goliath, took the man's sword and used it to whack off the giant's head.

**When the Philistines saw what had happened, they turned tail and ran for all they were worth.** The soldiers of Saul gave a mighty *victory shout* and came running down from the hills. They had become electrified by what David had done and they pursued the Philistines all the way to the gates of the nearest city, killing and wounding thousands of them as they went. **When the battle was won, they went back and cleaned up the spoil from the Philistine tents.** The battle was won in a day, ending a war that had been at a stalemate for weeks.

**Does David's story sound anything like your own?** Of course, you may not be facing an **armored giant** and an enemy host in the **natural sense**. In your case, it may be that the **bills are piled up, the doctor's diagnosis isn't hopeful, or the problems with your child or spouse seem never-ending**. Perhaps day after day the devil and all his hosts call out to you, "So you want to fight? Well, come on out. If I defeat you, you'll stay my slave. You'll be forever held in bondage to this situation of poverty, sickness and despair."

**No matter who you are, I doubt that everything is perfect in your life, your family, your church, and your workplace.** In some area of your life, you're bound to face trouble, **because there is a war going on**.

**The sides are divided up: God's people are on one side; the devil and his host of demons are on the other.** The enemy is sending trouble out on the plain to shout at you in defiance, "Come on out and fight, you scaredy-cat! I dare you. I double-dare you. You call yourself a Christian and yet you won't even lift a finger to come out here and fight!"

**Meanwhile, most of us Christians are hiding up in the hills of our lives, too scared to move.** We don't have a **fighting mentality**. We don't have the **mind-set of a warrior**. We're saying to ourselves, "If I just lay low, this will pass. Don't ask me to go out on that plain and confront this trouble."

**But, what are we to do?** The answer is seen in Revelation 12:11, which tells us "they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."

**Revelation 12:11 is a good commentary on Deuteronomy 30:11-15.** In Deuteronomy 30 God says that the ability to experience victory is "not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it? Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we

may hear it and do it? But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it."

**What is it that we have the ability to determine by what is in our mouths and in our hearts? *Life* and *good*, or *death* and *evil*** (verse 15). A few verses later in that same chapter God says to His people, "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life."

**What is your word, your confession, your declaration about Who God is to you and about what God will do in your situation?**  
What are you saying to the devil in the midst of your *struggle*?

**Child of God, the Word of God is very clear right here.** Your spoken word has great power!! *God has given us the answer; He has given us the victory* - "We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

**The Word of God is clear - Choose life!** Believe God for *life*. Believe for *blessing*. **Believe for good.** Speak out for *life*. Speak out for *blessing*. Speak out for *good*.

**What is your Goliath today?** What problem is calling to you from the valley of your life? And what is your battle cry in response? **What is the word of your testimony?** We say it every Sunday! Say it with me – "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

**Let it be strong for the Lord.** Shout it loudly and clearly today. The time has come to engage in combat.

If you have never been saved, why not today?

**Stand for prayer.**

Father,

Your Word is true. I confess I am a "Victor" and not a "Victim." In Jesus' name. Amen.

