

Sermon Text Discussion 10/21/2018

David and Goliath: How God Rescues His People Through His Courageous, Spirit-Anointed, Serpent-Crushing Warrior-King I Samuel 17 by Drew Hunter

Overview

The account of David's defeat of Goliath is one of the most stirring stories in the scriptures. Under attack from the Philistines, the Israelites cower in the face of a frightening challenge from their massive warrior, Goliath. David, proclaims to Goliath that the young shepherd comes "...in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand."

1. Strong Warrior (v. 1-11) The formidable Philistine warrior Goliath challenged the Israelite army to supply one soldier for a duel. Even though Israel had a tall warrior, King Saul, all Israel was afraid.
2. Weak Shepherd (v. 12-40) David was not on the battlefield. Being the youngest brother he was home with his aging father and tending sheep. Running an errand to the battlefield he hears Goliath's taunts and tells King Saul that he will fight and defeat Goliath.
3. The Victorious God (v. 41-58) In telling the story of Goliath's defeat and death, there are four contrasts highlighted: weak vs. strong; faith vs. arrogance; the living God vs. idols; and God's anointed king vs. the enemy of God's people.

Quotations

"The victory of Christians... consists of entering into the victory of Christ and enjoying its benefits"

John Stott, The Cross of Christ

Understanding & Application

- 1) What are the shortcomings in understanding and application if you read this story and move from the text to yourself rather than move from the text to Jesus and then to yourself? In other words, what is missing if your main application is, "Be like David".
- 2) When the reader asks, "Who am I in this story?", the answer is the Israelites. If you are the Israelites, what lessons are there for you in this account?
- 3) What does I Samuel 17 have to do with the promise given in Genesis 3:15, that the serpent (Satan) will bruise the heel of Eve's offspring but he will bruise the serpent's head?
- 4) The Bible teaches that Jesus is the long-awaited true King, the promised conquering warrior. Where did Jesus achieve your victory and what did he win for you?
- 5) A dominant New Testament theme is confident joy in the face of sorrow, fear, and temptation. What is a most pressing need or challenge you are currently facing? As you address this situation, what would it mean for you to come join the victory of your King?

