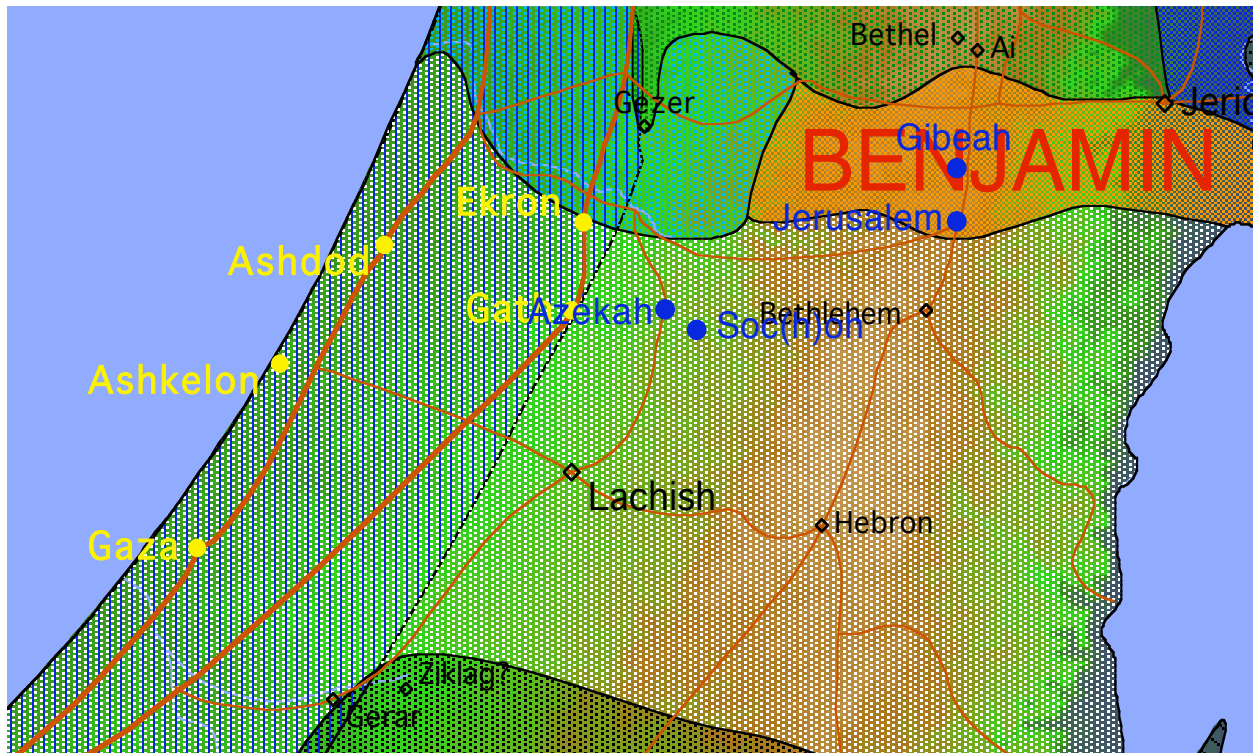


# ***The Enemy at the Gate***



**Passages:** 1 Samuel 17 – David & Goliath

## **1 Samuel 17:1-11 – “The” Enemy at the Gate**

17:1 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Socoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah. 17:2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. 17:3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

17:4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 17:7 His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

17:8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, *“Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. 17:9 If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.”* 17:10 Then the Philistine said, *“This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.”* 17:11 On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

## **1 Samuel 17:12-27 – Insignificant David Arrives With a Great Faith**

17:12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul’s time he was old and well advanced in years. 17:13

Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. 17:14 David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, 17:15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

17:16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

17:17 Now Jesse said to his son David, *"Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. 17:18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. 17:19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."*

17:20 Early in the morning David left the flock with a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. 17:21 Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. 17:22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and greeted his brothers. 17:23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. 17:24 When the Israelites saw the man, they all ran from him in great fear.

17:25 Now the Israelites had been saying, *"Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his father's family from taxes in Israel."*

17:26 David asked the men standing near him, *"What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"*

17:27 They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, *"This is what will be done for the man who kills him."*

### **1 Samuel 17:28-33 – David's Critics & Challenges From His Own Side**

17:28 When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, *"Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."*

17:29 *"Now what have I done?"* said David. *"Can't I even speak?"* 17:30 He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. 17:31 What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

17:32 David said to Saul, *"Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."*

17:33 Saul replied, *"You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth."*

### **1 Samuel 17:34-40 – A Shepherd Boy's Tested & Authentic Faith**

17:34 But David said to Saul, *"Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 17:35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.*

*17:36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 17:37 The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."*

17:37b Saul said to David, *“Go, and the LORD be with you.”*

17:38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 17:39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

17:39b *“I cannot go in these,”* he said to Saul, *“because I am not used to them.”* So he took them off. 17:40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

### **1 Samuel 17:41-47 – In Defense of God’s Honor**

17:41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 17:42 He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him. 17:43 He said to David, *“Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?”* And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 17:44 *“Come here,”* he said, *“and I’ll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!”*

17:45 David said to the Philistine, *“You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 17:46 This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 17:47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”*

### **1 Samuel 17:48-54 – David Runs to a Good ‘Ol Fashioned Stoning**

17:48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 17:49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

17:50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

17:51 David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

17:51b When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. 17:52 Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron. 17:53 When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp. 17:54 David took the Philistine’s head and brought it to Jerusalem, and he put the Philistine’s weapons in his own tent.

## Week 5

### *Sacred Story: The Life of David*

#### 1 Samuel 17

#### STORY SPECIFICS

1. Look back several verses. What happened just before this passage begins?

2. Who are the main characters in the passage? Name and, as much as possible, describe their immediate situation and state of mind and soul in this passage. What do you see about them that makes them “real people” to you?

#### *Focus Questions:*

a. Who were David’s enemies? How and from whom was his faith challenged?

b. How would you compare/contrast the faith of Israel’s warriors and in particular their King to that of David?

c. Why did David reject the offer of Saul’s armor?

3. What words or phrases do you see repeated in the passage?

4. What possible themes could this passage be addressing?

#### STORY INTERPRETATION

1. How does this story fit into the larger story of David and how God is working through him to establish His kingdom?

2. What do you understand of David from this passage that confirms him as a “man after God’s own heart?”

#### *Focus Questions:*

- a. What does David’s rejection of Saul’s armor say about his integrity and confidence in his faith?

b. What was the motivating factor and central focus of David's actions and speech in this longest recorded battle?

3. David is a flawed man. What flaw(s) do you see in this passage, and how does David respond in situations where his flaws are exposed?

#### FROM DAVID'S STORY TO OUR STORY

1. How does this passage help you see what God could be doing in your story to accomplish something for His story (His kingdom)?

*Focus Question:*

a. Where are you being asked to uphold God's honor in your daily life and unique challenges that it presents?

2. How does David's recognition of and response to his flaws compare with yours?

3. How might the Spirit be transforming you to look more like Christ?

What would be different about you?

How has the work of Christ provided what you need to be transformed?

How will you respond to Him?