

# THE GOSPEL PROJECT – CHRONOLOGICAL

## A KINGDOM *established*

### GOD THE KING

### *The King Who Fights for His People*

In many ways David is a ‘go to’ character of the Bible. We think of him as a *man after God’s own heart* and he comes to our thoughts as a man who committed great sin and still pleaded: *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10* Today’s lesson covers two events of David’s life – his anointing as king and his famous battle with the giant Goliath. In David’s battle with Goliath we see a picture of the conflict of the ages. It is the story of the battle that began when Satan rebelled against God – the conflict between good and evil – the conflict between God and His enemies. God’s King does not line up with worldly expectations.

**Read 1 Samuel 16:1-4 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> *The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”* <sup>2</sup> *And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’* <sup>3</sup> *And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.”* <sup>4</sup> *Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”*

Samuel was mourning over the spiritual and moral downfall of a gifted leader. This reminds us to be sorrowful when we witness the downfall of others. Samuel had taken a personal interest in Saul. Samuel’s heart was grieved to see King Saul squandering his opportunity to be a servant of God. However, grief has its limits. God was through using Saul, but that did not mean that Samuel’s work for the LORD was finished. He was called to anoint the next king of Israel. Obeying God’s call to anoint another king would amount to treason in Saul’s eyes, and Samuel naturally had concerns for his own life. Though fearful at first, Samuel was obedient to God’s command. He was able to take the advice he had given to Saul – remembering himself that obedience is better than sacrifice.

In case you are wondering, the LORD was not telling Samuel to use deception to carry out the anointing. It was God’s plan for Samuel to make the anointing through his regular priestly sacrifice. The LORD communicated with Samuel on a need to know basis. God did specifically tell Samuel to invite Jesse to the sacrifice, but Samuel had no clue which of Jesse’s sons was to be the anointed. We all have our own ideas regarding how to accomplish our work. Samuel was no different but he remained open to the LORD’s voice.

**Read 1 Samuel 16:5-10 (ESV)** <sup>5</sup> *... he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.* <sup>6</sup> *When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is before him.”* <sup>7</sup> *But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected*

*him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>10</sup> And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.”*

When Samuel saw Jesse’ first son, Eliab, he was impressed with his appearance – most likely, Eliab ‘appeared kingly.’ Samuel almost jumped to the conclusion that Eliab was to be God’s choice. Just because something comes to our attention first does not necessarily mean that it is from the LORD. Samuel had learned as a child to acknowledge the Presence of God and as an old man he still took the time to listen to his heart and hear God speaking – “Do not look on his appearance..., the LORD looks on the heart.” The best way for us to hear and recognize the voice of the LORD today is to store His Word in our hearts.

**Read 1 Samuel 16:11-13 (ESV)**<sup>11</sup> *Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.”<sup>12</sup> And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.”<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.*

When God closes a door, a wise person leaves that door closed but leaving a door closed does not mean “giving up.” The door was closed seven times in one day for Samuel! So, did Samuel say, “Well, God, I’m just going to get on my donkey and ride home – nothing is turning out right.” No! Samuel persisted in his work for God and his persistence was rewarded. David came in from the shepherd’s field and God spoke!

We like to speculate about David’s looks – was he red-headed? Was he shorter than most? Listen to what the LORD saw in David. **Psalm 89:20-21 (ESV)**<sup>20</sup> *I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him,<sup>21</sup> so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.* The LORD saw the heart of a servant!

The horn of oil represents the Spirit of God. It is believed that the Spirit of God came upon David much like the Holy Spirit comes upon believers today. David would be physically anointed two other times – once at Hebron when he became the king over his tribe of Judah and later when he would become the king over all of Israel. Samuel anointed David to be king and then departed from Bethlehem. How could a shepherd boy get from the fields to the throne? That was not Samuel’s responsibility. The LORD would handle that!

I mentioned that David’s battle with Goliath is a picture of the conflict of the ages – good vs. evil. Most of us know the story of David and Goliath well. David’s slaying of the giant is not a fairy tale. It is not an allegory. It is an actual historical event. As we think of the courage of David, we sometimes forget the real hero of the story – the LORD ALMIGHTY who empowered His servant David to do the LORD’s work.

Although the people of Israel did not yet know of the anointing, David their anointed king would fight on behalf of his people. David, God's servant points us to Jesus, the Son of Mary and the Son of God, who was anointed by Jehovah to fight on our behalf. We have just read how the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David at his anointing. Now let's read of the anointing of King Jesus who fights our battles for us!

Read **Matthew 3:16-17 (ESV)** <sup>16</sup> *And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;* <sup>17</sup> *and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

Just like King David who battled Goliath on behalf of the people of Israel before he reigned on the throne, King Jesus battled sin and death before His reign on God's throne. **Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)** <sup>2</sup> *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.* God's King trusts in the LORD's deliverance.

**Read 1 Samuel 17:20-26 (ESV)** <sup>20</sup> *And David rose early...And he came to the encampment as the host was going out to the battle line, shouting the war cry.* <sup>21</sup> *And Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle....* <sup>22</sup> *And David... went and greeted his brothers.* <sup>23</sup> *As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.* <sup>24</sup> *All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid.* <sup>25</sup> *And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel."* <sup>26</sup> *And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"*

The Philistines were camped on opposite sides of a valley with steep walls. Whoever would rush down the valley and up the steep cliffs would be at a disadvantage at the beginning of the battle and probably suffer great casualties. King Saul and his army hesitated for 40 days without attacking the Philistines. This was not the first time Israel had hesitated when facing giants. Remember their hesitation when they first spied out the inhabitants of the land of Canaan. **Numbers 13:32 (ESV)** <sup>32</sup> *... all the people that we saw in it are of great height.* Like their ancestors, the Israelites were intimidated by their enemies forgetting that they belonged to the God of heavenly armies!

In the ancient world battles were sometimes decided in head-to-head combat between two champions. The Philistine 'champion' Goliath was somewhere between eight and ten feet tall and might have weighed up to 400 pounds. To the 'ordinary eye' David would be no match against him.

**Read 1 Samuel 17:33-37 (ESV)** <sup>33</sup> *And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth."* <sup>34</sup> *But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock,* <sup>35</sup> *I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I*

*caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” <sup>37</sup> And David said, “The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you!”*

Whenever we step out by faith to fight the enemy, there's always somebody around to discourage us, and surprisingly they may even be in your home or your own church. It was not in our focal passage but David's oldest brother, Eliab, became angry when he heard that David was inquiring about Saul's offer and he ridiculed him. And at first, King Saul saw him only as an inept boy. When we walk by sight, we calculate everything from the human perspective, and this always leads to discouragement; but God's servant David was walking by faith.

Warren Wiersbe comments: “It's unfortunate that this dramatic account is considered primarily a children's story or the basis for an allegory about defeating the "giants" in our lives. While there are many applications of a Bible passage, there is only one basic interpretation, and the interpretation here is that David did what he did for the glory of God...Goliath had ridiculed Israel's God and blasphemed His name, but David was about to set the record straight. David saw this as a contest between the true God of Israel and the false gods of the Philistines and David knew the King of Heaven was on his side.” God's King accomplishes a decisive victory for His people.

**Read 1 Samuel 17:45-47 (ESV)** <sup>45</sup> *Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, <sup>47</sup> and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand.”*

You know the rest of the story – David struck down the giant with one of five stones and then cut off the giant's head with his own sword. The Philistines began to scurry away and the Israelites encouraged by David secured victory over the Philistines.

Yes, David would be a mighty leader in the LORD's army. As we consider the King whose name David lifted up that day, listen to David's words in **Psalms 24:7-10 (ESV)** <sup>7</sup> *Lift up your heads ..., that the King of glory may come in. <sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! <sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, ... <sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!...* David had a personal relationship with the King of Glory and we can too when we accept Jesus as Savior and His Holy Spirit rushes upon us! Don't delay. The King is coming! **Luke 21:28 (KJV)** <sup>28</sup> *... look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*