

Three Levels of Understanding Old Testament Stories: (Abraham/Issac; David/Goliath; Jonah/Whale)

1. P _____ Story
2. National Story (Israel)
3. God's S _____ Story

A Caution in Old Testament Stories...

- We are prone to make all Old Testament stories about us.
- A **MAN**-centered view vs a **GOD**-centered view of David and Goliath
- Man-Centered View and Understanding of 1 Samuel 17:
 1. David is the hero of the story. All the focus is on David and ONLY David
 2. The Lord's purpose for Israel's victory is never considered.

Focuses: The "giants" in our life; the courage of David; having resilient faith in battles, etc.

- **God-Centered View and Understanding of 1 Samuel 17:**
 1. God is the hero of the story. David is the instrument the Lord chose to bring victory for His people against a daunting enemy
 2. God's plans for His chosen people Israel were much greater and broader than his plans for this one victory and David's life alone.

Focuses: God's plans to rise David to the throne; Establish line of David...promise of Messiah-Jesus

- **A Personal Story**
 - a. **The Setting:** Valley of Elah (vv.1-3)
 - Narrow ravine, more like a vast canyon; about a mile wide; streambed between the slopes where David found his stones
 - b. **Goliath-** the giant who taunts God's people(vv.4-11)
 - Physical Presence: somewhere near 9'9 inches tall...an enormous man
 - "Coat of Mail": heavy canvaslike undergarment interlaced with overlapping ringlets of bronze; from shoulder to knee covering and protecting enemy's weapons
 - Weighed between 175 and 200 pounds
 - Bronze helmet and bronze leggings to protect his shins, carried a bronze javelin/spear that weighed around 20 to 25 lbs.
 - Largest shield in battle, size of full grown man
 - Fear Tactics(**Read vv. 8-9**): Taunting and Mocking for 40 days straight (v.16)
 - c. **David:**
 - too young to fight in battle; back home watching sheep with Jesse; sent to battle to deliver goods to his brothers who were fighting
 - had never heard of Goliath or the challenges he was making when he shows up..day 41
 - d. **King Saul:** the most qualified physically to fight Goliath; king and leader of God's people BUT...
 - Cowardly King (**Read vv.26-27**): Saul has arranged rewards and benefits for the one who defeats Goliath but he himself won't do it. (Riches, Daughter's Hand in Marriage, Tax exemptions for life)
 - Read Verse 38-39: Saul dresses David; David says, "I can't wear all this"
 - e. **Eliab:** the older brother of David; the one Samuel thought was outwardly impressive to become king....attacks David's presence at the battle in multiple ways; (**Read verse 28**)

- Questions motive-“really come
- Humiliate publicly- “where’s the sheep?”
- Ugly- “you just wanted to see the battle”.....” Hebrew implies “you want to be seen...

David’s Response: Ignores the smaller distractions for the bigger battle

f. The 1 Samuel 16:7 P_____ Reaffirmed again in this victory

“You are not able to go out against this Phillistine and fight him; you are only a young man and has been a warrior from his youth.” -Saul to David in verse 33

“Do not look at his appearance or at the height o his stature, because I have rejected him.; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” God to Samuel in choosing the next king, 1 Sam 16:7

▪ **National Story**

- God’s Character: God of Israel will not be mocked by pagan enemies....God is j_____ for His name.
- God’s People: God intercedes on behalf of His people.
- God’s Plans: God’s raising David’s favor with victory in the eyes of His people
God is setting the stage for David to become king over Israel

▪ **God’s Salvation Story**

- God told His people that the Messiah would come from the house and line of David....if David isn’t preserved through battle and on the throne...God’s word is false.

A Few Applications . . .

- 1. God m_____ His name when we are weak, not strong. God chooses to honor faith, obedience, and trust.** (David’s words in verse 45-“in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.”)
- 2. Remembering the victories of the Lord in our past gives us strength, confidence, and boldness in the future battles to come.**
 - We recite failures in our lives in the past with far greater detail than our victories from the Lord in our past. (Verse 37)
 - David put weapons of Goliath in his tent...silent trophies of God’s faithfulness
- 3. Many times in the Christian life, we must yield battles into the hands of God alone. (David’s words in verse 47)**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think we are so prone to focus on past FAILURES far more often than the past VICTORIES of the Lord in our lives?
2. What are some other examples in the Bible where we see God magnifying His name through weakness, faith, trust, and obedience rather than man’s strength?
3. Share a battle you currently face in your life that you are learning to entrust to the Lord? Take time to pray for those who share.....to stand in the strength of the Lord in the midst of the battle.