



Church of God Sunday School

DAVID AND GOLIATH

1 Samuel 17:1-53

Once again, the Philistines "gathered together their armies to battle" against Israel's army. This was just one more example of how Israel was at "war against the Philistines all the days of Saul" (1 Samuel 14:52). The Israelite army, led by King Saul, came to where the Philistines had camped, and there was a valley between them.

The Philistines had a champion in their army. He was a mighty, powerful man, a giant named Goliath. He was "six cubits and a span"—probably nine to ten feet tall, at least! He was taller than any of the Israelite men, including Saul! This enormous man wore a "helmet of brass" and "a coat of mail" (coat of armor). He had a big spear and a sword and a man went before him, carrying a shield.

Goliath had been going out to the Israelite army—twice a day, for forty days—with a challenge. Daily he called out: "Choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us."

But in the whole army of Israel there was not one man brave enough to fight Goliath!

Meanwhile, David (who had been sent back to his family in Bethlehem) was watching his father's sheep. His three oldest brothers had left home to fight in Saul's army. One day David's father (Jesse) asked David to go to the Israelite camp to see how his brothers were and to take them food: some parched corn and ten loaves of bread. (He was also to take ten cheeses to their captain.)

David arrived at the army camp to see his brothers. As he talked to them, Goliath came out and made another

challenge to the Israelites. "And all the men of Israel . . . were sore afraid." David learned that the one who killed Goliath would receive great riches and the king would give his daughter to be that man's wife and would make his father's house free from taxes and service.

David asked, "What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel?" David was stirred that Goliath was defying "the armies of the living God."

Eliab (*ee-LIE-ab*), one of David's brothers, was angry when he heard what David had said. He accused David of being proud, but David said: "What have I now done? Is there not a cause?"

When Saul heard what David said, he sent for him. David told Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Saul did not believe what he had heard! David would fight Goliath? Why, David was only a young man!

Then David told Saul about a lion and a bear that he had killed while he was a shepherd. David said that because the giant had come against Israel, he would be able to kill him too, because God would help him, as He had helped him kill the lion and the bear.

Saul thought about that. Then he said, "Go, and the LORD be with thee." Saul did not offer to go with David. Instead, Saul gave David his armor to fight with, but David said, "I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them [not tried them or used them]." So David took just his own shepherd's staff and his sling. He chose "five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag." These were David's weapons against the giant with the armor, the spear, the sword, and a shield!

When Goliath saw David coming to meet him on the battlefield, he was in-



sulted. The enemy was sending a youth (young man) to fight him—and with nothing more than a staff and a sling! Goliath cursed David by his gods. He laughed at him and made fun of him! He told David that he would give him to the birds and the animals to eat!

But David was very bold. He said to the giant: "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD . . . whom thou hast defied.

"This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the . . . host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts . . . that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands."

When the Philistine giant started for David, David hurried toward him, no doubt, praying as he ran. He took a stone from his bag, put it into his sling, and

threw it at Goliath. The stone hit Goliath in the forehead. There was no armor there. The stone went straight to its mark! It buried itself in Goliath's forehead, causing the giant to fall to the ground on his face! "So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone . . . but there was no sword in the hand of David."

David quickly ran to Goliath. He climbed up on him and, taking Goliath's sword, he cut off the giant's head.

When the Philistines saw that Goliath was dead, they began to run away. The Israelites chased after them! God helped David and the Israelites win the battle that day.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD . . ."*  
—1 Samuel 17:45  
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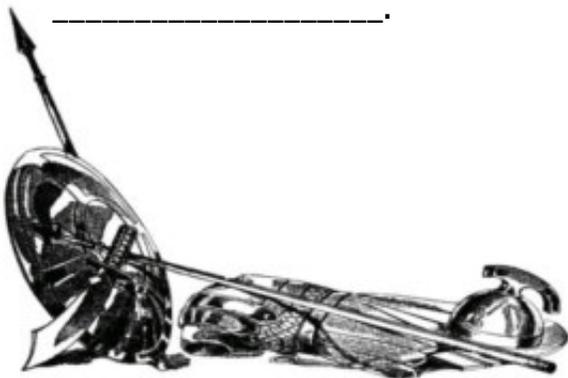
Fill in the Blanks From the Story



David was watching his father's _____



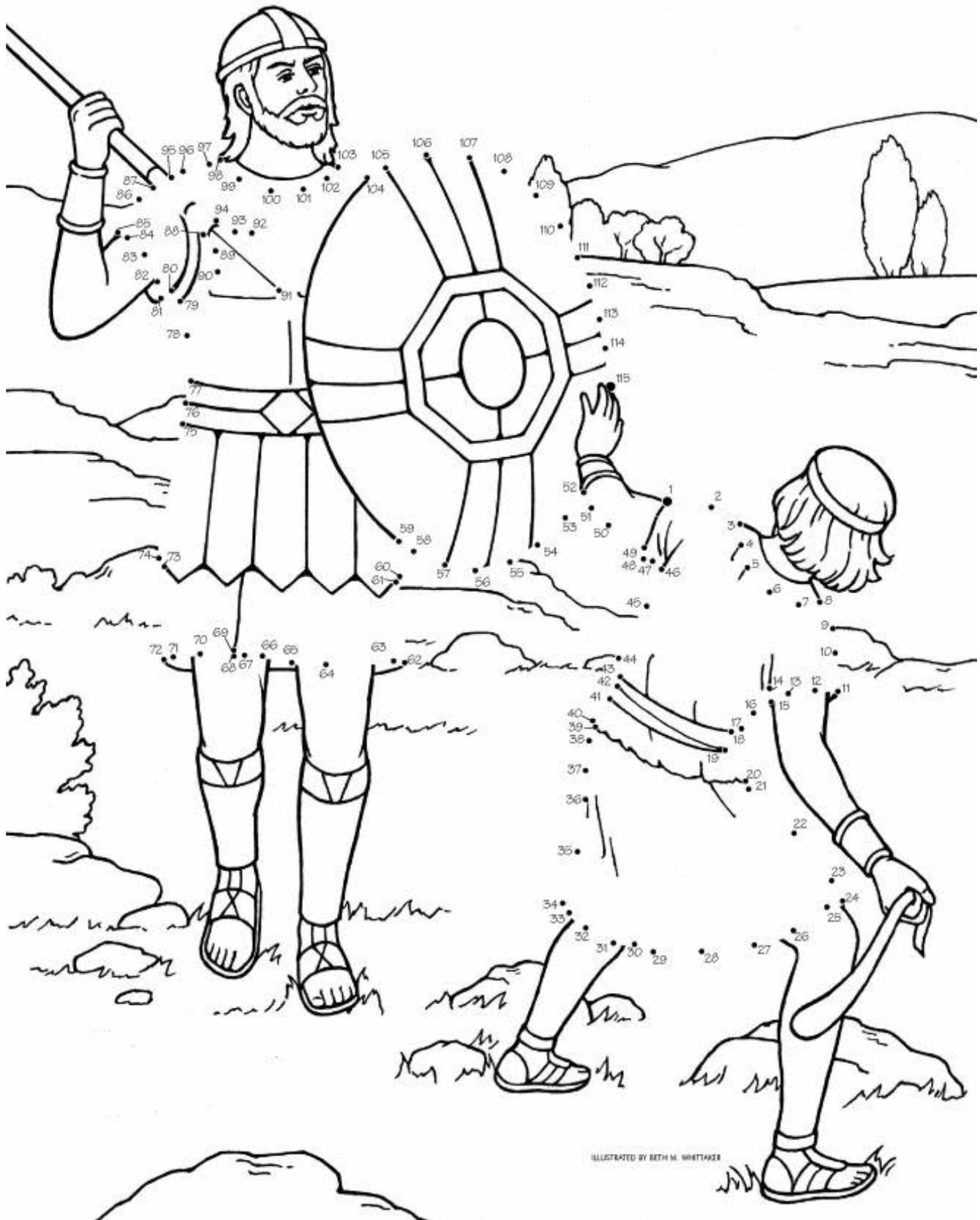
_____ challenges the Israelites.



David could not use Saul's _____.



_____ goes to fight Goliath.



ILLUSTRATED BY BETH M. WHITTAKER



David and Goliath