



GOD OF THE FATHERLESS

The Story Of God
& Samuel



Yes, No & Maybe

1. I wish I was a little bit taller.
2. In school, I was harassed by a bully.
3. God brings dangerous challenges into your life.
4. God makes us look overly confident to people.
5. It's pretty easy to see the great challenges that we face today.

Dig Deeper

➤ READ 1 Samuel 17:1-51

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE:

➤ **17:4a The man of the between** - The word translated “champion” literally means “the man of the between,” a vivid way of describing “anyone who comes forward from the front line and becomes a ‘man between the battle lines’ and is thus a sort of ‘challenger’ or ‘champion.’”

• Have you ever had to face a “man of the between” in your literal or spiritual life (someone or something that became a “challenger” to you)? Looking back, would you change anything about the way you faced this challenge?

THE SPECTACLE:

➤ **17:4 His height was six cubits and a span.** - A cubit is about forty-five centimeters (eighteen inches). It is based of the distance from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger of an adult male. A span (the distance from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the little finger when a man’s hand is spread out) is nearly half a cubit, that is, about eight inches or about twenty-two centimeters. Goliath then would have been as tall as 9 feet 9 inches.

➤ **17:5 A coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels** - It weighed 126 pounds (or fifty-seven kilograms)!

➤ **17:6 Bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back** - Greaves were leg armor that was worn below the knees. The javelin could have been either a sharpened metal pole, or most likely a curved sword called a scimitar.

➤ **17:7 His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels.** - The reference to the weaver’s rod notes that the spear included loops of cord attached to it that helped to add distance and accuracy to the weapon. The iron tip weighed 15 pounds!

➤ **17:7 His shield bearer went ahead of him.** - Goliath had a shield so big that he had a servant to carry it for him. It was probably a large, rectangular, standing shield providing complete protection to the huge Philistine.

• The writer goes to great lengths to let you see all of the details that they could see. He then shows you the boy David who sheds every piece of armor and leaves behind the sword. It is the seemingly impenetrable towering fortress of Goliath versus the small soft, unshielded target of David. How would you have felt if you were one of the witnessing soldiers?

TALLEST + TALLEST + SMALLEST:

➤ **17:25 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 family from taxes in Israel.** - Goliath was the tallest of the Philistines. Saul was the tallest of the Israelites. And yet, Saul is terrified (v. 11), and tries to entice the bravery of someone else through financial and social status gain.

Dig Deeper... Continued

» **17:37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.** - God had built David's confidence before this face-off. If God provided him the ability to fight off and win the battles with a lion and a bear, God would also give him victory here against a giant.

- Does God typically bring smaller battles into your life to prepare you for the big ones?

» **17:43 "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?"** - The shepherd's staff was also used at times for correcting the sheep dogs and keeping them in subjection. In the Old Testament dogs were not seen as favorably as in certain cultures today. To refer to someone as a dog was a very serious insult. Goliath's question really means that he thinks David is insulting him. He thought that, when David came toward him with a stick in hand, he was not taking Goliath seriously. So he was deeply offended.

» **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."** - The Lord is named in thoroughly military terms: "the LORD of troops, the God of the battle lines of Israel" (literal translation). The name reminds us of the whole history of the Lord's battles for his people. Beginning with the overthrow of Pharaoh in the days of Moses, and most recently the destruction of the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15), the Lord had again and again delivered his wayward people by defeating their enemies. It was in the name of this God that David came.

- What does it say about God that one of His names is "the LORD of troops" or "the God of the battle lines"?

» **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."** - All towns and nations had at least a god, so the sense is most likely that Israel has a God who really does things for his people. To say that the battle belongs to someone means that that person will undoubtedly conquer his enemy, that is, that he will certainly win the battle. CEV says "The LORD always wins his battles." We now begin to see something of the effects of the Spirit who had "rushed upon David" some time previously in Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:13). The Spirit-filled man was seeing Goliath differently! Could we even say that he seems to have been seeing "as the Lord sees"?

- Was it David's confidence or God's Spirit that is speaking to Goliath here? What does that tell you about God?

» We, too, face threats. Insecurity is part of life in this world. We are generally most vividly aware of the threats that we can see.

- How are we to think about the threats that face us? Are the dangers we fear the greatest dangers that threaten us? What should we fear? Where and how are we to find security?

My Prayer...

1. What is the great challenge between me and the life God has planned for me?
2. How can I face the giants in my life with God's Spirit?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?

