

# David and Goliath



## 1 Samuel 17:1-53 (NKJV)

- 17:1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered at Sochoh, which *belongs* to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim.
- 17:2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines.
- 17:3 The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.
- 17:4 And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height *was* six cubits and a span.
- 17:5 *He had* a bronze helmet on his head, and he *was* armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat *was* five thousand shekels of bronze.

## 1 Samuel 17:1-53 (NKJV)

- 17:6 And *he had* bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders.
- 17:7 Now the staff of his spear *was* like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead *weighed* six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.
- 17:8 Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? *Am* I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me.
- 17:9 "If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."

## 1 Samuel 17:1-53 (NKJV)

17:10 And the Philistine said, “I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.”

17:11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

17:12 to 17:15 Now David ....

17:16 And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.

# Sermon Structure

(1) Fear – why is Saul (the anointed king of Israel) so fearful?

(2) Faith – why is David (a shepherd boy) so bold, brave and fearless?

(3) Personal application / ministry time

- facing any Giants (fears) in your life?
- spiritual audit check



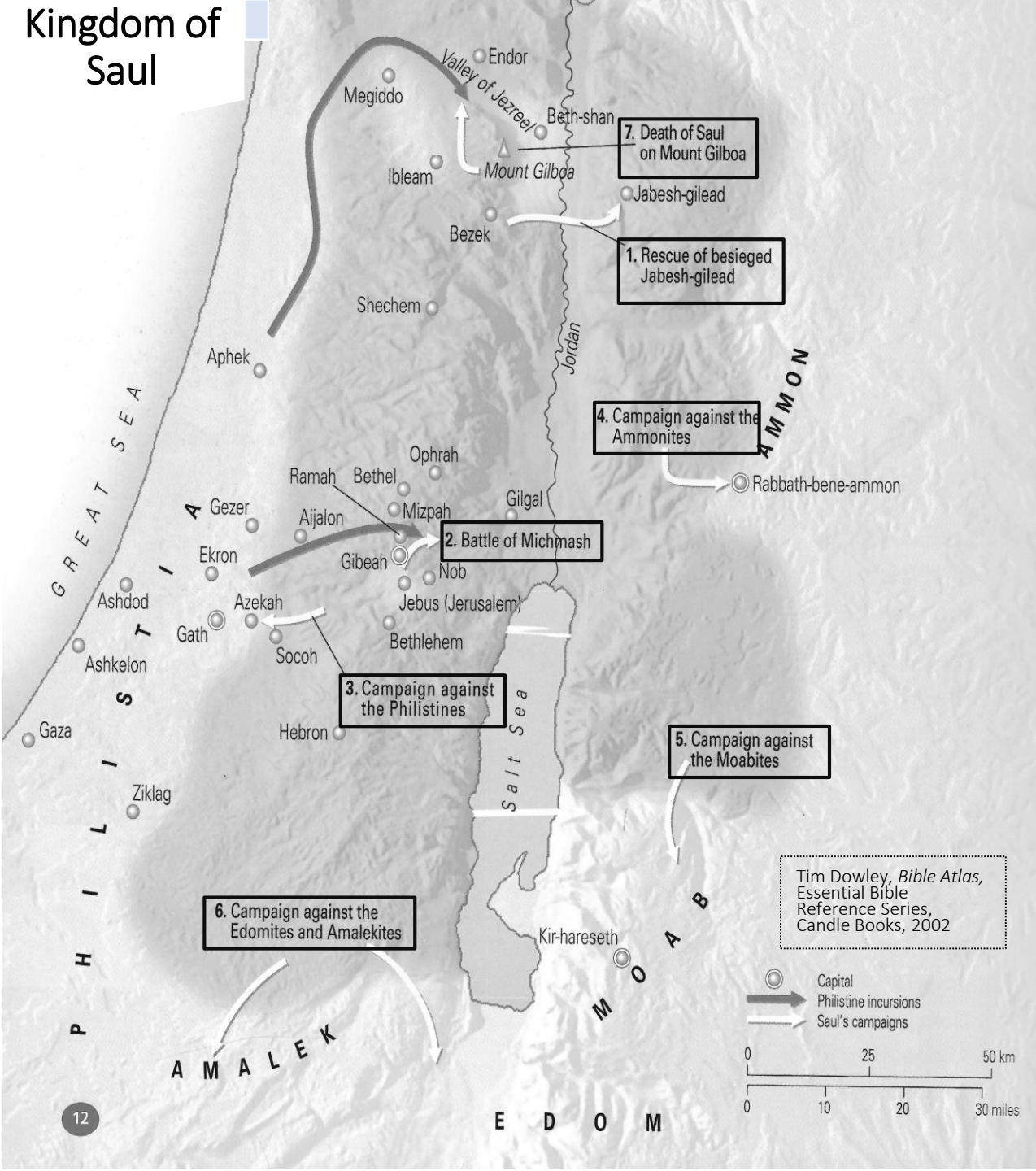
## 1 Samuel 17:11

When Saul and all  
Israel heard these  
words of the Philistine,  
they were dismayed  
and greatly afraid.

Why was Saul so fearful?

Did Saul not  
remember his  
own battle  
record?

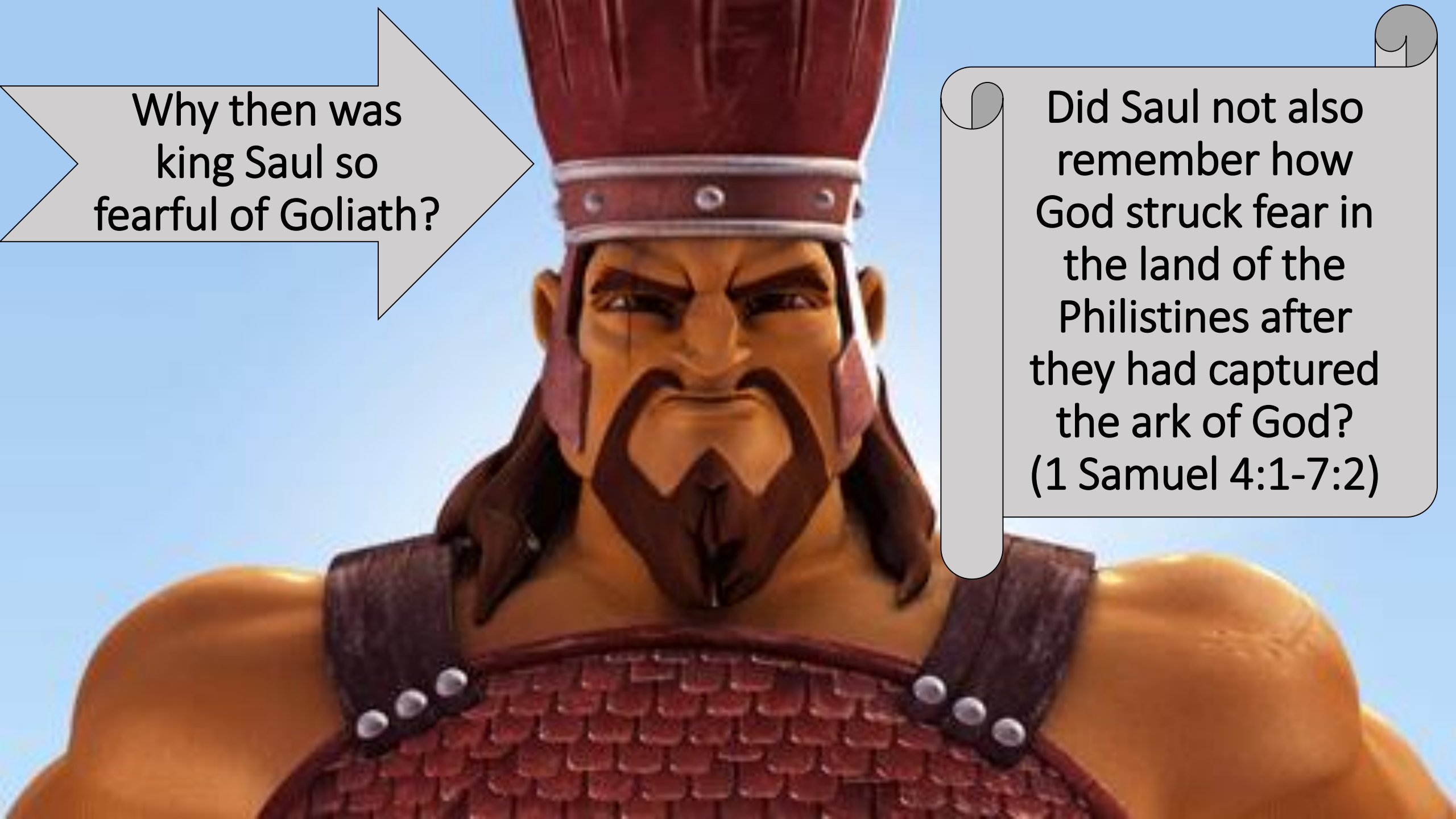




Saul's Battle record (to-date)

1 Samuel	Enemy	Location	Victor
11:1-13	Ammonites	Jabesh Gilead	Saul
13:1-14:46	Philistines	Michmash	Saul
14:47	Moab, Ammon, Edom, kings of Zobah, Philistines	Various	Saul
14:48	Amalekites	-	Saul
15:1-35	Amalekites	Valley near a city of Amalek	Saul



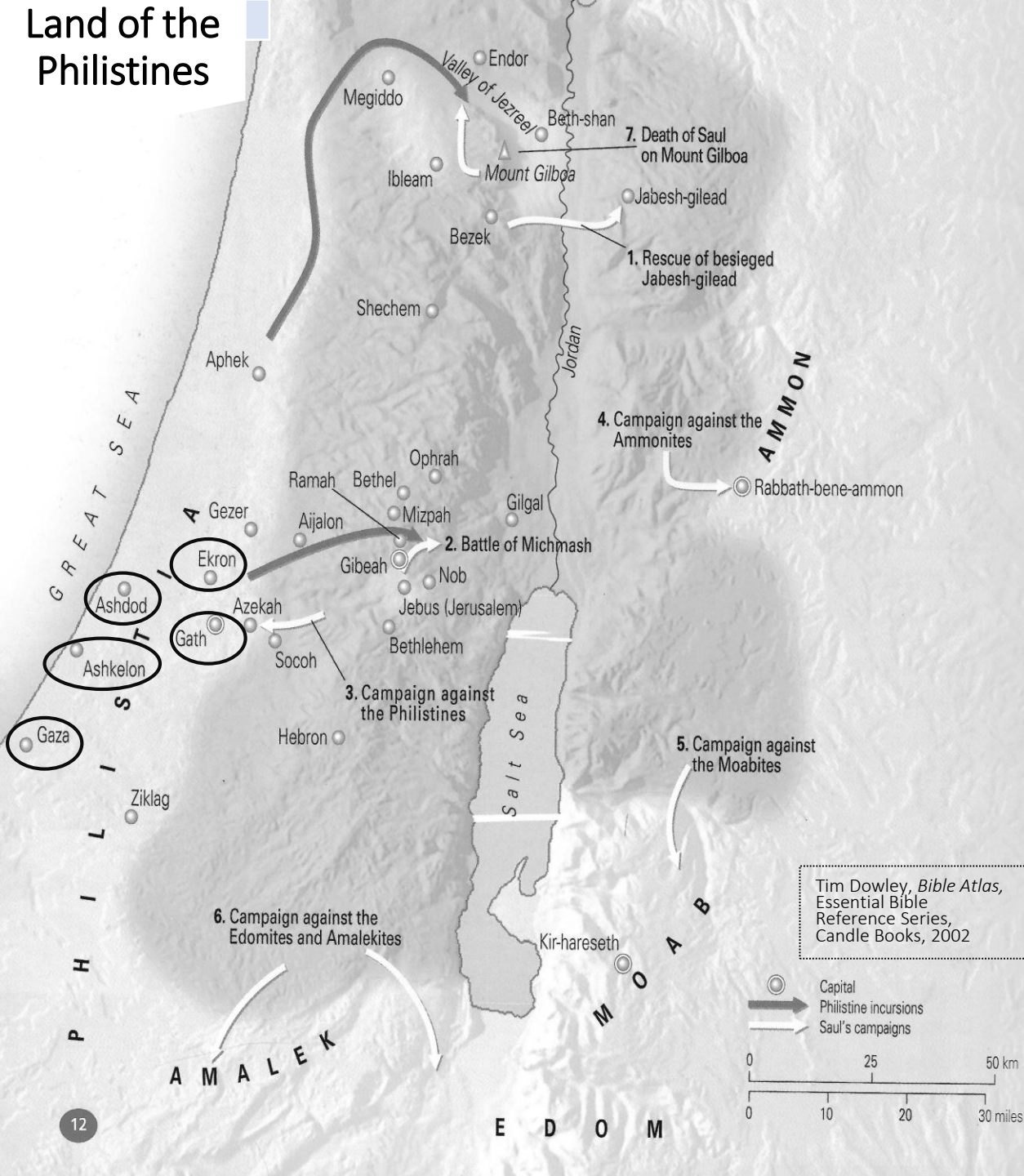


Why then was  
king Saul so  
fearful of Goliath?

Did Saul not also  
remember how  
God struck fear in  
the land of the  
Philistines after  
they had captured  
the ark of God?  
(1 Samuel 4:1-7:2)



Land of the Philistines



God strikes fear in land of Philistines

1 Samuel	Enemy	Location	Victor
4:1-3	Philistines	Ebenezer	Philistines
4:4-18	Philistines	Ebenezer	Philistines (ark of God captured)
5:1-7	Philistines (gods)	Ashdod (Dagon)	hand of God
5:8-9	-"-	Gath	-"-
5:10-12	-"-	Ekron	-"-
6:4-5, 6:16-18	Philistines	3+ Gaza, Ashkelon	Ark sent back
7:1-17	Philistines	Mizpah	God (in days of Samuel)

# Why was Saul so fearful?

Did he not remember God's covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

- Exodus 6:2-4 (2) And God spoke to Moses and said to him:  
    *"I am* the LORD.  
(3) *"I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob,*  
    *as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not*  
    *known to them.*  
(4) *"I have also established My covenant with them,*  
    *to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their*  
    *pilgrimage, in which they were strangers.*

## Why was Saul so fearful?

Did he not remember God's charge to Joshua?

- Joshua 1:9      "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid, nor be dismayed ..."

Why then was Saul so afraid, and so dismayed? (1 Samuel 17:11)

Did he not remember the keys for success?

- Joshua 1:8      "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

## Did Saul not remember that ...

- The same God who executed judgement against:
  - the false gods of Egypt, and plagued and killed the Egyptians
  - until Pharaoh agreed to 'let God's people go' (Exodus 12:12; 15:13).
- Is the same God who struck down:
  - the idolatrous image of the false god Dagon, and
  - plagued and killed the people of Ashdod, Ekron, Gath, Gaza and Ashkelon
  - until the five lords of the Philistines – in fear of their lives – commanded that the Ark of God be sent back to Israel? (1 Samuel 4:10-11; 5:1-12; 6:1-18).
- Saul's battle record so far had been good (1 Samuel 11 to 15)
  - four major battles, four victories and a number of successful skirmishes
  - he had through success on the battlefield established his sovereignty over Israel (1 Samuel 14:47).
- Why then was Saul so fearful of Goliath, the Philistine?



## Why was Saul so fearful?

- Why had Saul dithered and delayed for 40 days? (1 Samuel 17:16)
- Why had he allowed:
  - the voice of Goliath to go unchallenged for 40 consecutive days?
  - Goliath's voice to strike fear into the hearts of the men of Israel?
- Why had Saul not taken up the challenge to fight Goliath himself?
  - he was God's anointed king (1 Samuel 9:15-17; 10:1-27; 11:1-15)
  - he was the tallest man in Israel (1 Samuel 9:2; 10:23)
  - he had his own armour (1 Samuel 17:38-39; cf. 17:4-7)
- At Saul's first battle: (1 Samuel 11:1-13)
  - the battle to save Jabesh Gilead from the hands of the Ammonites
  - the Spirit of God had come upon Saul and stirred him to action, and
  - it was his bold, brave and courageous leadership that led to victory

## Why was Saul so fearful?

- So, where was Saul's bold, brave and courageous leadership now?
- Where was his faith in the power of the LORD God Almighty in the face of Goliath's defiance and challenge?
- At his first battle (1 Samuel 11:1-13)
  - Saul had been inspired and empowered by the Spirit of God (11:6)
  - and with the prophet Samuel by his side, he praised God for accomplishing 'salvation in Israel' (11:12-13)
  - but now where was his great faith? where was his inspirational leadership?
  - what had happened?

### Two key turning-points in the life of Saul

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| (1) Saul's unlawful sacrifice at Gilgal        | (1 Samuel 13:1-15) |
| (2) Saul's failure to fully obey God at Amalek | (1 Samuel 15:1-35) |

## First key turning-point – 1 Samuel 13:1-15

- People of Israel distressed and flee from a huge Philistine army
  - encamped at Michmash (1 Samuel 13:5-7)
- Saul was in Gilgal – told to wait seven days – but he ‘felt compelled’
  - to offer a sacrifice to God before Samuel’s arrival (1 Samuel 13:8-12)
  - Samuel was not impressed
    - Saul had acted ‘foolishly’
    - he had disobeyed God (1 Samuel 13:13).
- God had been prepared to
  - establish Saul’s ‘kingdom over Israel forever’ (1 Samuel 13:13)
  - but now his ‘kingdom shall not continue’ (1 Samuel 13:14)
- God would raise up instead ‘a man after his own heart’
  - to be ‘commander over His people’ because
  - Saul had ‘not kept what the Lord commanded’ him (1 Samuel 13:14).

# 1 Samuel 13:1-15

- The battle against the Philistines was won
  - but that was thanks to the faith, boldness and bravery of Saul's eldest son (Jonathan) and the intervention of the LORD (1 Samuel 13:16-14:23)
- After Saul's unlawful sacrifice (1 Samuel 13:7-15)
  - the prophet Samuel disappeared from the scene (1 Samuel 13:15)
- And despite the promise that Saul's
  - 'kingdom shall not continue', and that (1 Samuel 13:14)
  - 'the LORD has sought for himself a man after His own heart' - “ -
  - he clearly is still king – for now – for we read that he established his sovereignty over all Israel, and then (1 Samuel 14:47)
  - the prophet Samuel reappears with a word from the LORD for Saul (1 Samuel 15:1)



## Second key turning-point – 1 Samuel 15:1-35

- Samuel tells Saul, as the anointed king, to heed God's voice for the LORD had commanded him to
  - 'go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them ...' for what he did to Israel (1 Samuel 15:1-3)
- What had Amalek done to offend God?
  - they had ambushed Israel when they came up from Egypt with Moses
  - the LORD had sworn that He 'will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven' (Exodus 17:8-16)
  - and God had told Israel not to forget (Deut.25:17-19)
  - and now – about 500 years later (cf. Acts 13:16-21)
    - it was time to deal with Amalek, and
    - God chose king Saul to go and execute His judgement

## 1 Samuel 15:1-35

- So Saul went and ‘utterly destroyed all the people’ but he spared the king of Amalek (Agag) and the best of the livestock (1 Samuel 15:8-9)
- Saul’s failure to kill the king and all the livestock was not simply an oversight.
  - it was a deliberate act of rebellion and stubbornness (1 Samuel 15:22-3)
  - Saul had rejected the word of the LORD, and now (1 Samuel 15:26)
  - the LORD had rejected him from being king over Israel (15:26)
  - Saul’s act of disobedience was rooted in fear, a fear of man (15:24)
    - he preferred to obey the voice of the people
    - rather than the voice of God
  - And now the kingdom would be torn from Saul’s hand (15:28)
  - Samuel executed king Agag and parted ways from Saul (15:34-35).

## Summary – Why was Saul so fearful of Goliath?

- Saul's decision to
  - commit an unlawful sacrifice at Gilgal (1 Samuel 13:1-15)
  - and his failure to fully obey God at Amalek (1 Samuel 15:1-35)
- were rooted in fear – a deep seated fear of man:
  - a fear of the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:11-12)
  - a fear of the people (army) of Israel at Amalek (1 Samuel 15:24)
- He had forgotten that immediately after his first success in battle (Jabesh Gilead) and the public commissioning that followed (Gilgal), the prophet Samuel said to him and all the people of Israel:
  - 'Do not fear' ... 'serve the LORD with all your heart' (1 Samuel 12:20)
  - 'Only fear the LORD' – 'and serve Him in truth and with all your heart..' (1 Samuel 12:24)

## Summary – Why was Saul so fearful of Goliath?

- Saul's actions revealed that he had chosen not to 'fear the LORD'
  - and by disobeying the clear commands of God, and by
  - allowing 'fear' to drive his decision-making at Gilgal and Amalek,
  - it reveals that he had also chosen not to serve the LORD with all his 'heart'
- He had allowed the 'fear of man' to grip his 'heart' and control his thinking, and it cost him the kingdom (1 Samuel 15:1-35)
- What may come as a surprise is that 'fear' became the controlling influence in king Saul's life at Gilgal and Amalek
- Despite the fact that the Spirit of God had come upon him two years before the unlawful sacrifice at Gilgal (1 Samuel 11:6-7; cf. 13:1)



## Summary – Why was Saul so fearful of Goliath?

- And now after rebelling against God
  - and rejecting ‘the word of the LORD’ (1 Samuel 15:22-6)
  - the Spirit of God left Saul, and
  - he was now troubled by a ‘distressing spirit ...’ (1 Samuel 16:14)
- By allowing the ‘fear of man’ to rule and reign in his heart
  - Saul had opened himself up to a paralysis of thought and indecision
  - and we see this at work in face of the challenge posed by Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-11, 16)
- For 40 days, Saul allowed the voice of Goliath to go unchallenged
  - he had allowed Goliath to spread fear and intimidation
  - but now God had had enough and
    - was about to act through a young shepherd boy



## A young shepherd boy ...

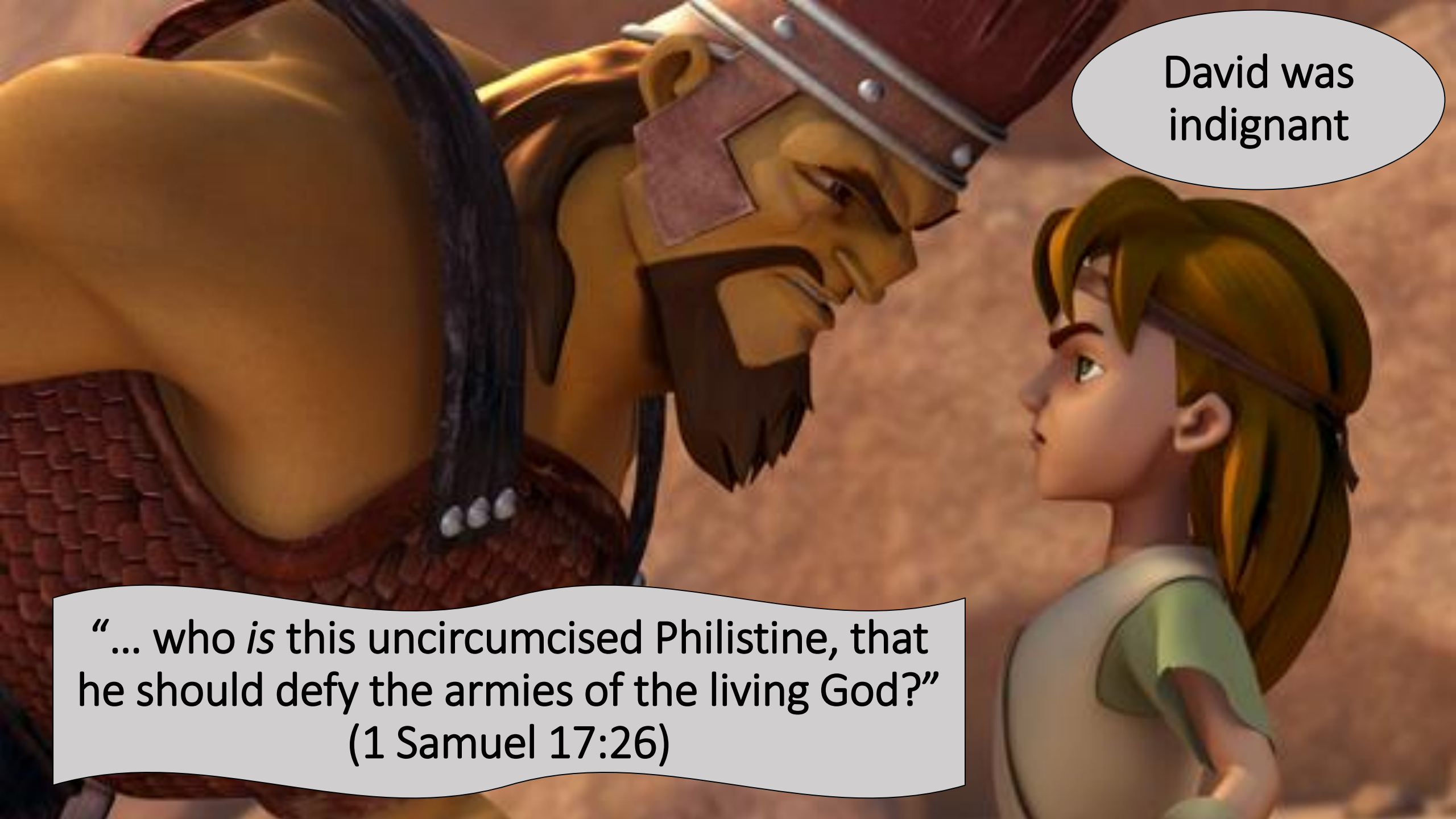
- Not intimidated by a giant of a man
- There was an excitement in his heart
- He knew his identity
  - he was in a covenant relationship with God Almighty (Exodus 6:1-8)
  - he had great faith in the LORD to deliver him from his enemies
- And he knew that after Samuel had
  - anointed him with oil at Bethlehem
  - that God Almighty had chosen him for a special task
  - his name was 'David' and
  - the Spirit of the LORD was upon him

(1 Samuel 16:1-13)

King Saul and the  
men of Israel might  
be afraid of Goliath  
(1 Samuel 17:11,24)  
but not David







David was  
indignant

“... who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that  
he should defy the armies of the living God?”  
(1 Samuel 17:26)



There was no fear in David's heart

He had his own successful battle record  
(1 Samuel 17:31-36)

He had killed  
both lion and  
bear



Who was Goliath in  
comparison to the fierceness  
of a lion and bear?





David's boldness and  
confident faith in  
God was infectious



And it rubbed off on  
Saul. His thinking was  
liberated from fear

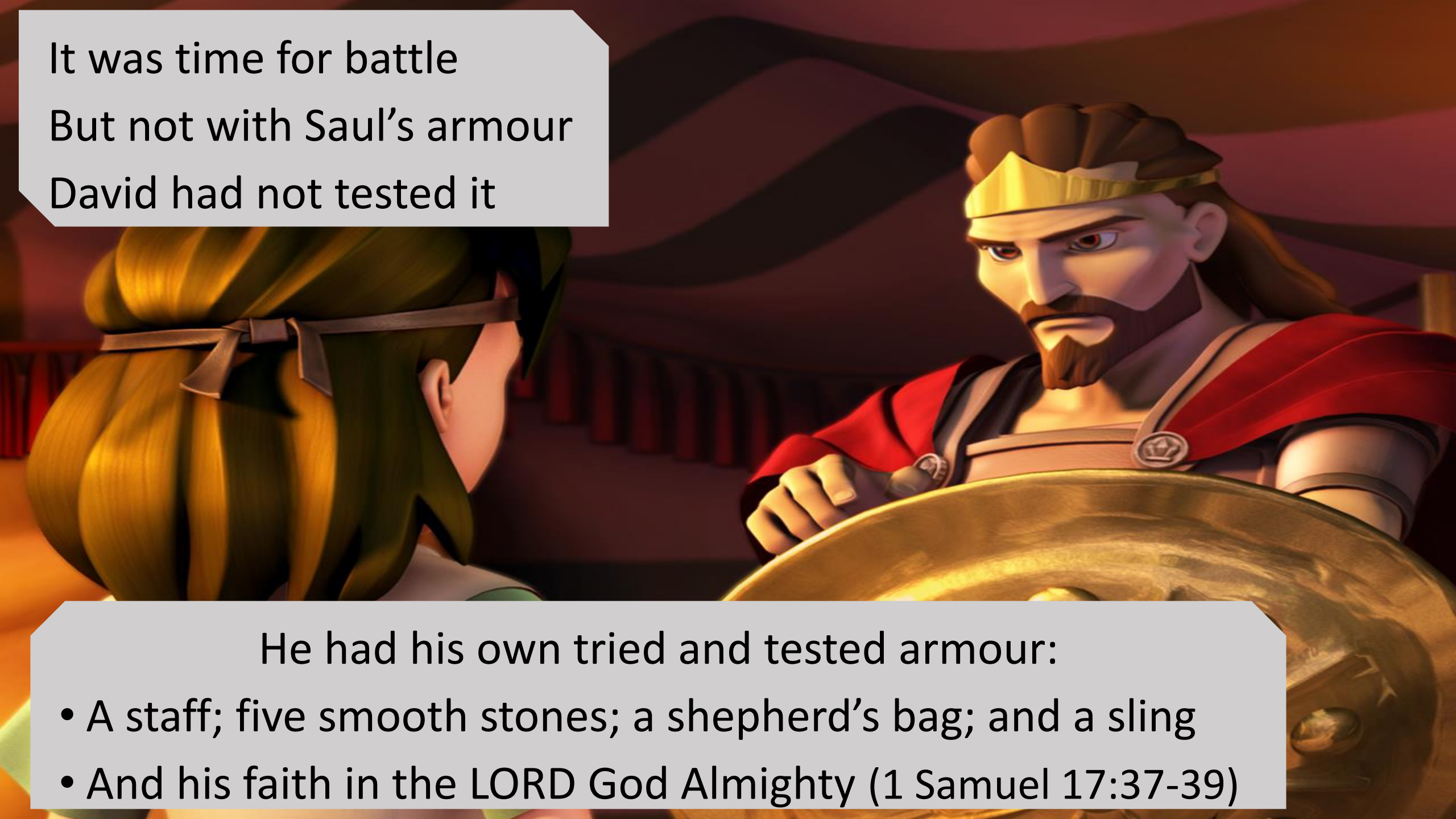
“Go, and the  
LORD be with  
you”  
(1 Samuel 17:37)



It was time for battle  
But not with Saul's armour  
David had not tested it

He had his own tried and tested armour:

- A staff; five smooth stones; a shepherd's bag; and a sling
- And his faith in the LORD God Almighty (1 Samuel 17:37-39)





The Philistine  
distained David and  
cursed him by his gods  
(1 Samuel 17:41-43)

But David  
was not  
intimidated



David was  
bold, brave  
and fearless

“You come to me with a sword, 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.”  
(1 Samuel 17:45)





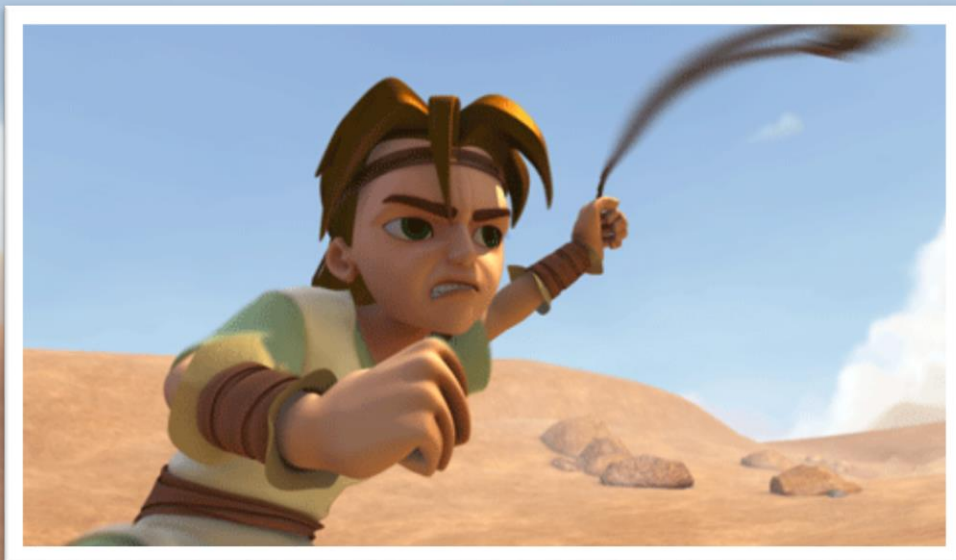
This day the LORD  
will deliver you into  
my hand ... that all  
the earth may know  
that there is a God  
in Israel  
(1 Samuel 17:46)



Then all this  
assembly shall  
know that the  
LORD does not  
save with sword  
and spear; for  
the battle is the  
LORD's, and He  
will give you into  
my hands  
(1 Samuel 17:47)











‘Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine ... and killed him ... And the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines ...’  
(1 Samuel 17:48-52)

the battle is [indeed] the LORD’s  
(1 Samuel 17:47)



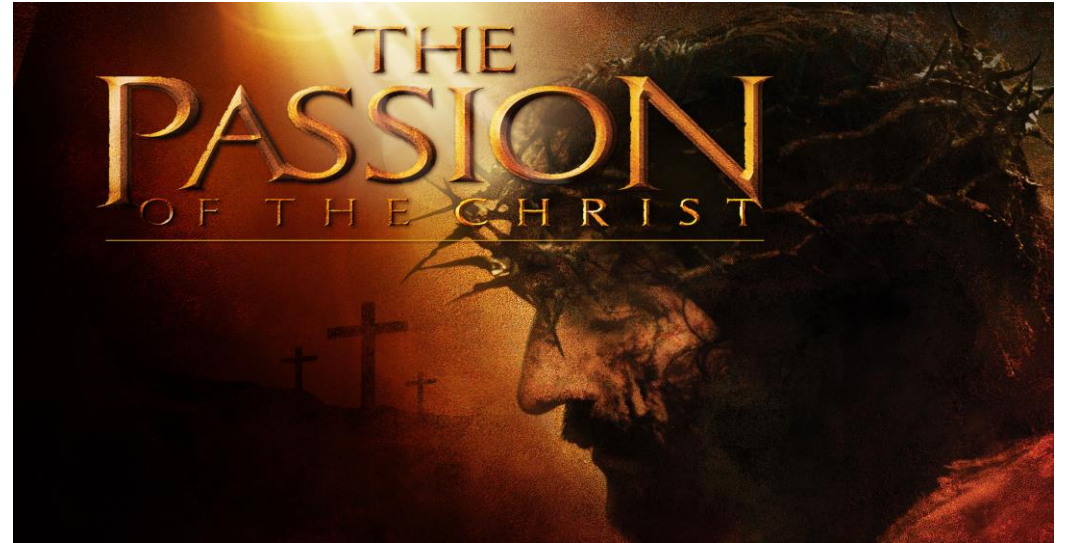
Facing any Giants (fears) in your life?





# If you are not a Christian

- There is a battle raging for your soul
- In Mark 8:36 Jesus said:  
"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"
- If you are not a Christian
- If you do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God
- Or if you are unsure what to believe about Jesus Christ
- Then you are in danger of losing 'the battle for your soul'
- The good news is that Jesus has already won the battle
- He has defeated the biggest Giant (fear) in our lives – the fear of death
  - there are two deaths in the Bible – second death (Rev.2:11; 20:11-15; 21:8)
- Jesus offers all the gift of eternal life but we must respond (John 3:1-21)



# Are you facing (struggling with) any Giants (fears)?

- Salvation and the work of the Holy Spirit (a brief reminder)
  - At point of salvation, we born [again] of the Spirit (John 3:1-8)
  - The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:16)
  - The Spirit helps in our weaknesses – makes intercession for us according to the will of God (Romans 8:26)
  - The Holy Spirit gives us peace, hope and joy (Romans 14:17; 15:13)
  - We are sanctified (set apart, made holy) by the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:16)
- But the apostle Paul has warned us that ‘fear’ is an ever present danger
  - We might be saved but we need to be on guard against fear creeping into our lives
  - Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."
  - 2 Timothy 1:7: For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.
  - John 8:31-32 Jesus said: if we abide in His word we shall know the truth and the truth shall set make us free