

The Attackers: Principles from 1 Sam 17:32–37 & vv.43–47 Applied by David: Respect for Authority, Faith-Rest, Confidence in His Abilities while Confident in God's Power; David's Frontal Attack of Shock & Awe Kills Goliath, vv. 48–50; Proof of the Kill: Goliath's Head, v. 51 cf. v. 57

27. From this passage we see David apply a cluster of divine-viewpoint principles:
- (1) David showed complete respect for Saul. He referred of himself to Saul as “your servant.”
 - (2) In any organization, respect for duly appointed authority is imperative. Although Saul was a poor leader he was still king. He was “God’s anointed.”
 - (3) Until God removes him, he was to be revered as the divinely appointed leader of Israel, its people, and its army.
 - (4) David did not in any way challenge Saul’s authority, criticize his strategy and tactics, or accuse him of cowardice.
 - (5) What he did do was volunteer to take on the task of dealing with one man who had not only intimidated the army of Israel but the army of the living God.
 - (6) In doing so he is applying the principle of faith-rest: “God will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine” (1 Samuel 17:37).
 - (7) Saul even tried to get David to wear his armor which David refused. David’s armor was faith in God, confidence in his abilities to do battle, and courage to put his faith into action.
 - (8) Saul did not have the courage to go into battle against Goliath himself, but he was willing for a boy to do so.
 - (9) David, on the other hand, had a battle plan. He was extremely proficient with a sling. He knew the shape and weight of the rocks that were best to fire at his target.
 - (10) The *Wadi es-Sunt* was a rock-covered watercourse – similar to our western arroyos – that evacuated rain water and snow melt off the mountains of the Central Highlands. It is situated in the hill country called the Shephelah that separates the coastal plain from the Central Highlands.
 - (11) It was from this *wadi* that David selected his artillery: five smooth stones, none roughly textured that would alter the straight course of his aim.
 - (12) The insulting and threatening remarks made by the towering giant did not faze David. His self-confidence was emboldened by his unflinching faith in the power of God to protect him in battle.
 - (13) He was convinced that God would not allow a heathen, “uncircumcised” Philistine to have his way with the armies of Israel.
 - (14) This is the mental attitude of a true patriot: client nations will always be delivered by God in response to mature believers who trust in His divine protection and care.

- (15) These attitudes provided David's confidence and courage to inform the giant of his certain fate:
- (1) Weaponry is not the key to victory in battle but whether or not God is on your side (1 Samuel 17:45a).
 - (2) It is to the disadvantage of any enemy that does not take seriously the reality of the God of Israel (v. 45b).
 - (3) David rested on the doctrinal conclusion that God would deliver Goliath into his hands (v. 46a).
 - (4) God would also deliver the Philistine army into the hands of the Israelites (v. 46b).
 - (5) Goliath's death would inform both armies that the battle is not by sword or spear but the battle is the Lord's:

1 Samuel 17:47 - "... and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands."

v. 48 - Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly [מָהַר (*mahar*): **sprinted**] toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

v. 49 - And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground.

v. 50 - Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand. (NASB)

- (16) David's battlefield tactics must be described as shock and awe. When Goliath advanced on David, David immediately advanced on the giant in a rapid sprint.
- (17) David's appearance and talents are described in several passages: (1) "auburn-haired, beautiful eyes, and handsome" (1 Samuel 16:12), (2) "a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, and prudent in speech" (v. 18), and (3) swift of foot (17:48).
- (18) His speed made him a difficult target for Goliath's spear or javelin. As he ran he reached into his pouch of rocks, selected one, and began to fire. His first round struck the giant in the forehead so that he fell wounded, face-first, to the ground.
- (19) Proof of the kill was to present the head of the giant back at field headquarters:

1 Samuel 17:51 - Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

- (20) Seeing Goliath fall and the Philistine army withdraw caused the army of Israel to muster enough courage to pursue a defeated, fleeing enemy.

1 Samuel 17:52 - The men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted and pursued the Philistines as far as the valley, and to the gates of Ekron \ek'-ron\. And the slain Philistines lay along the way to Shaaraim \shā-a-rā'-im\, even to Gath and Ekron.

- (21) There was no 24/7 insertion of television reporters in the tenth century B.C. Proof of a deed could not be confirmed from electronic contrivances.
- (22) David told Goliath that he would kill him and then decapitate him: "I will strike you down and remove your head from you" (1 Samuel 17:46b).
- (23) Why decapitate him? Proof of the kill is to present the head to Saul, which he did in:

1 Samuel 17:57 - When David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner [**commander in chief of the Israeli army**] took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine's head in his hand.

v. 58 - Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "The son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."