### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 17

1Well after that, the Philistines once again gathered their army for war, and they set up camp near Socoh in Judea (between Socoh and AzeKah in EphesDamMin). 2So, Saul summoned the men of IsraEl and they set up their camp in the Valley of Pines, across from the Philistines.  
  
3The Philistines took up positions on one mountain, and IsraEl took up positions on the other, with the valley between them.  
  
4Then a mighty man came out from the Philistine camp who was known as GoliAth from Gath... He was more than 7 feet (2.1m) tall; 5he wore a bronze helmet; he had an iron and brass chain-link chest covering that weighed more than 150 pounds (68kg).  
  
6He also wore brass leg coverings, and he carried a large shield between his shoulders.  
  
7The shaft of the spear that he carried looked like a weaving loom and its iron tip weighed 18 pounds (8.2kg)!  
  
So, out he came in all his armor and weapons, 8and he just stood there and yelled to the battle lines of IsraEl:  
  
 ‘Why have you come to fight against us?  
  
 ‘Am I not a Philistine, and aren’t you the Hebrews of Saul?  
  
 ‘Choose [your best] man and have him come down here to fight me!  
  
 9‘If he can beat me and kill me, we’ll all be your servants... But if I beat and kill him, you’ll be our servants and you’ll serve us.’  
  
10Then the Philistine shouted:  
  
 ‘Look! Here I’m mocking the battle lines of IsraEl today…  
  
 ‘Send out a man and we’ll fight for both sides!’  
  
11Well, Saul and all IsraEl heard what the Philistine said, which startled and frightened them.  
  
  
[Editor note: The following section, up to and including verse 31, doesn’t appear in the oldest Greek Septuagint manuscripts. Indeed, it appears to be a later interpolation, perhaps taken from another book telling the story. A second false section appears below.]  
  
  
12Now, JesSe (an Ephrathite from BethLehem, who was very old) had sent [his son] David to Saul, 13because three of JesSe’s oldest sons (EliAb, AmiNadab, and ShamMah) had joined Saul to fight in the war. 14Since David was the youngest, these three older ones had been sent.  
  
15Meanwhile, because David had left Saul, he’d gone back to tending his father’s sheep in BethLehem.  
  
16Well, by the time he was ready to leave for the battle, the Philistine lines had already been facing IsraEl for some 40 days.  
  
17JesSe had instructed his son David to carry a bushel of toasted grain and 10 loaves of bread to his brothers that were in the camp [of Saul], 18along with 10 rounds of cheese for his brothers and for Saul’s generals. He also wanted him to check to see how they were getting along and if they were all well.  
  
19It was early in the morning when David left, and by this time, Saul and all the men of IsraEl were already down in the Valley of Pines ready to fight the Philistines.  
  
20David had left his sheep [in a safe place], and following JesSe’s instructions, he set out with the things he was carrying. But when he got to the battle lines, the war had already begun… 21The war cries had gone up and both IsraEl and the Philistines were confronting each other.  
  
22So David handed over the things he’d brought to the provisions officer, and then he ran down towards the battle to see how his brothers were doing.  
  
23And as he was speaking to them, {Look!} a man walked out [between the lines]… It was GoliAth the Philistine from Gath.  
  
He stood there in front of the Philistine lines and he shouted those words that David heard. 24However, all the men of IsraEl then moved back, because they were afraid of him.  
  
25Then one of the IsraElite soldiers said [to David]:  
  
 ‘Did you see that man who just stepped out? He just stepped forward to make fun of IsraEl!  
  
 ‘But if any man can beat him, the king promises to make him very rich, he’ll give him his daughter, and the house of his father [will never be taxed] in IsraEl.’  
  
26So David said to the men who were standing near him:  
  
 ‘Who will cut down that Philistine and remove his scorn from IsraEl?  
  
 ‘Just who is this uncircumcised Philistine who mocks the battle lines of the living God?’  
  
27And the men replied to him:  
  
 ‘Why don’t you go over and strike him down?’  
  
28Well, David’s older brother EliAb overheard him talking to those men, and he was furious with David.  
  
He shouted:  
  
 ‘Why did you come down here, and why did you leave the sheep alone in the desert?  
  
 ‘I know that it’s your pride and the evil in your heart that made you come down here to the battle!’  
  
29But David asked:  
  
 ‘What have I done now? Did I say something wrong?’  
  
 30Then he turned to the soldiers he’d been speaking to and asked the same thing, and they repeated their challenge to him. 31And when they heard David [accept the challenge], they went and told Saul.  
  
  
32So David went up to Saul and said:  
  
 ‘My lord,  
  
 ‘Don’t allow that man to upset you, for your servant will go out to fight this Philistine!’  
  
33And Saul said to David:  
  
 ‘There’s no way that you can fight that Philistine…  
  
 ‘You’re just a boy, and he’s been a mighty warrior since he was young!’  
  
34But David told Saul:  
  
 ‘Your servant was tending his father’s flock when first a lion and then a bear came to grab a sheep from the herd. 35But I ran after each one and I pulled the sheep from their mouths.  
  
 ‘Then when they turned against me, I grabbed them by the throat and beat them to death!  
  
 36‘So, if a lion and a bear can’t beat your servant, how can I be beaten by this uncircumcised Philistine who’s mocking the battle lines of the living God?’  
  
37And David added:  
  
 ‘It was Jehovah who rescued me from [the mouths] of the lion and the bear, and He’s the One who’ll rescue me from the hands of this uncircumcised Philistine!’  
  
So at that, Saul said to David:  
  
 ‘Then go, and may Jehovah be with you!’  
  
38Well thereafter, Saul put his own armor on David… He put the brass helmet on his head and the breast-plate on his chest, 39then David tied on his sword.  
  
However, he could hardly walk in the [armor], because he’d never worn such things before.  
  
So David said to Saul:  
  
 ‘There’s no way that I can use these, because I’ve never worn anything like this.’  
  
And at that, he took it all off.  
  
40So he picked up his walking stick and he went out and found 5 smooth rocks in the stream bed, which he put into his shepherd’s pouch. And with just his sling in his hand, he went out to meet the Philistine man!  
  
41Well, the Philistine walked out to meet David carrying his shield in front of him and his spear in his hand. [spurious text]  
  
42And when GoliAth the Philistine saw David, he was disgusted, because David was just a boy with a ruddy complexion and pretty eyes.  
  
43So he shouted at David:  
  
 ‘Am I a dog that you’re coming out to me with sticks and stones?’  
  
And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.  
  
44Then the Philistine said to David:  
  
 ‘Come over here, so I can feed your flesh to the flying creatures in the skies and the wild animals of the ground!’  
  
45And David said to the Philistine:  
  
 ‘You’re coming against me with a broadsword, a spear, and a shield; but I’m coming to you in the Name of Jehovah the God of armies!  
  
 ‘Yes, the God of the army of IsraEl, whom you’ve been mocking today... 46So may Jehovah give you into my hands and allow me to kill you!  
  
 ‘Then I’ll cut off your head and leave your body in the Philistine camp [where it’ll be eaten by] the flying creatures in the sky and the wild animals of the ground.  
  
 ‘And thereafter, [your people] will come to know that the whole earth belongs to the God of IsraEl, 47and these called ones will know that Jehovah doesn’t need their swords or spears to save them!  
  
 ‘For He’s a God of war, and He’s the One who’ll save them from you!’  
  
48Well at that, the Philistine came forward to meet David, and David ran right up to the Philistine battle lines... 49Then he reached into his pouch and grabbed a rock and slung it – hitting the Philistine in his forehead, which penetrated his head… And he dropped with his face to the ground!  
  
50So David went and stood over the Philistine with a sword, then he struck him with it and he killed him… And it wasn’t even David’s sword. [spurious text]  
  
51For when David ran up and stood over him, he grabbed [GoliAth’s] broadsword from its sheath and killed him with it by cutting off his head!  
  
Well, when the Philistines saw that their mighty one had been killed, they all turned and ran!  
  
52And at that, the men of IsraEl and Judah shouted and chased the Philistines all the way to the gates of Gath and EkRon, where they kept on killing the Philistines along the roads that led to the gates of [those cities].  
  
53And after the men of IsraEl finally stopped chasing the Philistines, they all went back and looted their camp.  
  
  
54Thereafter, David took the head of the Philistine and his weapons, and he brought them to JeruSalem and put them into his tent.  
  
  
[Editor note: This is the second large section which doesn’t appear in the oldest Greek Septuagint manuscripts. It’s probably a later addition from another book telling the story. It contradicts the Bible account, because it says that Saul didn’t know who David was, whereas the earlier chapters showed that David was already working for Saul as a musician in 1 Samuel 16:21-23, and 17:15 said that David had recently left Saul.]  
  
  
55Now, when Saul first saw David going out to meet the Philistine, he’d asked AbNer (his general):  
  
 ‘Whose son is this young man, AbNer?’  
  
And AbNer replied:  
  
 ‘May you live a long life, my lord the king; but I don’t know.’  
  
56So the king told him:  
  
 ‘Then, go find out who he is.’  
  
57Well, after David had returned from killing the Philistine, AbNer invited him in and took him before Saul (he was still carrying the head of the Philistine in his hand).  
  
58Then Saul asked him:  
  
 ‘Whose son are you, young man?’  
  
And David replied:  
  
 ‘I’m the son of your servant JesSe from BethLehem.’