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With this study we begin a unit on King David in ancient Israel, in the Smyth-Helwys Formation series. The four studies pick episodes out of David's life at different ages from youth to "senior citizen." Hopefully, these character studies will provide spiritual insight into living today, as well as how life functioned in ancient Israel. This first episode comes from David as a young person while still living at home in his father's household. One of the best known episodes in this period of David's life is with the giant Goliath. We first learned about it as children in Sunday School and/or Vacation Bible School. Songs still exist celebrating David's victory. The heroic underdog theme attracts us, especially as Americans. The victorious underdog image has much greater appeal than elsewhere in the world because of our cultural roots.

I. **Context**

In the Deuteronomic history material, that covers Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, and 1-2 Kings, both the historical setting and the distinctive literary style of story telling become especially important for clear and accurate understanding of the scriptural text. Some attention to this needs to be given before approaching this fifty eight verse long episode.

a. **Historical**

The **external history** has to do with the compositional history of 1 Samuel. Much of this is closely connected to the discussion below under *literary genre*. Let me give some attention of the name of the document, 1 Samuel, as a way to highlight some important aspects of the compositional history. Ralph Klein (*WBC*, v. 10) has a helpful introduction:

The designation of a portion of the Hebrew Bible as 1 Samuel is neither old nor particularly helpful. A more traditional unit might simply be Samuel, that is, what we today call 1 Sam 1 to 2 Sam 24. Apparently because of



the great length of “Samuel,” the LXX divided this material into two books, called 1 and 2 Kingdoms or 1 and 2 Reigns (what we call 1 and 2 Kgs is 3 and 4 Kingdoms/Reigns in LXX). This division between 1 and 2 Samuel was introduced into the Hebrew Bible with the First Rabbinic Bible of 1517. Subsequent to its use in the Second Rabbinic Bible of 1524/1525 the division into two books has become standard.

The division after 1 Sam 31 makes a certain amount of sense since this chapter reports the death of Saul. Yet the present division seems to split in two the story of David’s rise to power that begins in 1 Sam 16 and reaches its climax in 2 Sam 5. While 1 Samuel opens with the marvelous birth of Samuel, who is to play an important role in the book up to chap. 25 (or even to chap. 28 if one includes the incident with the Witch at Endor), some argue that the Samuel of chaps. 1–7 really carries on the tradition of the judges, and that the book divisions might better be placed between the end of the era of the judges and the rise of the monarchy in chaps. 8ff.

Even the name Samuel is not altogether appropriate for the material of 1 and 2 Samuel since the prophet dies in 1 Sam 25, leaving the rest of 1 Samuel and the whole of 2 Samuel to go on without him. Samuel’s prominent role in the early chapters may have led to the association of his name with the book. At least as early as the Talmud, however, Samuel was also considered to be the author, especially of those chapters preceding his death. Subsequent chapters were attributed to Nathan and Gad. This theory of authorship seems to be based on 1 Chr 29:29 (“the Chronicles of Samuel the seer, and the Chronicles of Nathan the prophet, and the Chronicles of Gad the seer”). Critical scholarship, however, has a quite different understanding of the significance of this verse and of the question of the authorship of 1 Samuel.

The **internal history** will seek to identify time/place indicators inside the passage as a way of understanding when and where this episode took place. Locating where this episode took place is largely a matter of identifying the geographical names contained inside the story. Verses 1-3 indicate the Philistines were camped at Ephes-dammim located between Socoh and Azekah. The Israelites were on the other side of the valley called Elah. Goliath came from Gath (v. 4) and David’s father lived in Bethlehem (in Judah) according to verse twelve. David was sent by his father from Bethlehem to Elah to take provisions to his brothers (vv. 19-22).

The question becomes then: where is this valley? Three references to the valley of Elah surface in the Old Testament: 1 Sam. 17:2, 19; 21:9 and all three are referencing David’s battle with Goliath. T.J. Jenney (Eerdmans Bible Dictionary) describes the location as

The valley where the drama between David and Goliath was played out before Philistine forces and Saul’s militia (1 Sam. 17:2–3, 19; cf. 21:9 [MT 10]). The valley (Heb. *meq h lâ*, “valley of the terebinth”) is identified with the fertile Wadi es-Sant\ (“Valley of Acacia”), 14–15 km. (8–9 mi.) WSW of Bethlehem, and provides an entrance into the Judean hill country. The fortress Azekah (*Tell ez-Zakarîyeh*) stood guard at the passage to the valley.

The Philistine forces positioned themselves on the western slopes near Azekah, and Saul and his forces camped in the strategic high country on the eastern side of the valley toward Socoh. The valley thus formed the battle line as the two military forces encamped on opposite sides.

The above map gives an approximate location of Gath, and Elah is most likely located a ways north of Gath toward the Philistine town of Ekron. But the exact location of Gath is still not certain from archaeological investigation. The tendency is to identify it with the modern [Tel es-Safi](#) since the work of a team of 70 archeologists began work there several years ago. [Gath](#) was, however, one of the five major cities of the Philistines: Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gaza, Gath, and Ekron. Mentioned also are Socoh and Azekah. All of these towns are mentioned in [Joshua 15:45-48](#) as having been given by Joshua to the tribe of Judah for conquest. By the time of our episode several hundred years later, it is apparent that this work of conquest had not been completed and thus the Israelites were caught up in warfare over possession of the territory.



b. Literary

Regarding the **literary genre** of this material, chapter seventeen is a part of what is labeled *Deuteronomistic History*. This literary form provides a sense of unity and cohesive thought flow to these seven documents of the Old Testament. The themes first emphasized in Deuteronomy serve generally as a conceptual foundation for the remaining documents. Technical issues of the time and location of the emergence of Deuteronomistic history will not be treated in detail here. Two views have typically been held. The deuteronomists wrote in the Babylonian Exile as a way to warn the Israelites to never follow the path that led to exile again. Increasingly, the process is seen as at least a two stage pattern. During the reforms of Josiah the first edition of this material emerged, and later was revised to make it more relevant to the exilic situation. Most importantly is the way history was understood. Modern definitions of history differ enormously from the views found in the ancient world. And the Deuteronomistic view of history also sets it apart from many other ancient views.

Deuteronomistic history is the recounting of God's relationship with his covenant people Israel. Other groups of people come into the picture only as they interact with the Israelites. Central to this is the vertical relationship of God-Israel. That relationship is measured in terms of Israel's obedience/disobedience. At points, especially in 1-2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings, a cycle of obedience/disobedience becomes the grid by which Israel's faithfulness is measured. This cycle revolves around (1) Israel's sin, (2) God's punishment, (3) Israel's repentance, (4) God's forgiveness and restoration.

History since the 1400s in western culture has been defined solely on a horizontal plane as interaction between people. Critical, objective concerns of modern history try to avoid evaluative judgments about the morality/immorality of those interactions. Scientific history is concerned only with identifying factually based significant events etc. of the past and seeking cause/effect ways of linking these events together in a progression of time. Since vertical dimensions (deity/humanity) lie beyond the boundaries of scientific history, no attempt is made to explore these, and certainly no evaluative assessments of them are attempted. The divine comes into the historical picture only as religious tradition has shaped the thinking of humans and thus gives tone to the nature of their interaction.

This huge difference between views of history often raises barriers against our attempts to make detailed sense out of these books of the Old Testament. To some degree we must shed our modern view of history, and also we must understand the deuteronomistic approach, if we're going to understand clearly what these scripture texts are trying to communicate.

The **literary setting** of 1 Samuel 17 must be cast against the larger context of the story line of the deuteronomist in telling the story of Israelite history. That picture is painted with very broad strokes. Next comes the more detailed strokes of the story of David as a part of that broader picture. Along the way the Chronicler's picture of David will have to enter in, since his approach to history is somewhat different than that of the deuteronomist.

The deuteronomistic history begins with the occupation of Canaan by the Israelites under Joshua and closes with the exile of the upper class survivors of the southern kingdom to Babylon in 583 BCE after about 500 years of occupation of Canaan. The David story stands as a part of the section on the rise of the monarchy after the period of the judges. The David story is contained in both 1 and 2 Samuel, as well as 1 Chronicles 11 - 29. The setting of chapter seventeen of First Samuel is the transitional period from Saul to David as the reigning monarch. It comes after Samuel has secretly anointed David to be Saul's successor (16:1-13) and after David had come into the royal court as a musician to the king (16:14-23). This latter text creates some curiosity since in our



passage, chap. 17, King Saul doesn't know the young boy David. Following the Goliath episode in chap. 17, the narrative continues with the friendship bond between David and Jonathan, Saul's son (18:1-9), the initial efforts of Saul to kill David (18:10-16) and David marrying Saul's daughter, Michal (18:17-30). The Chronicler skips over this material to narrate the death of Saul (1 Chron. 10 which comes in 1 Sam. 31) followed immediately by the formal anointing of David as king (1 Chron. 11:1-3, which is picked up in 2 Sam. 2). Thus the Goliath episode is found only in 1 Samuel and is not paralleled in Chronicles.

II. Message

In a summary of the episode Ralph Klein (*WBC*, v. 10) gives us a synopsis of the unfolding of the story:

The account opens with Saul's army lined up against the Philistines, with a valley in between (vv 1-3). A Philistine representative fighter stepped forward, whose armor and weapons are described in considerable detail (vv 4-7). He challenged the Israelites to select a man to meet him in single combat, with the results of this battle to determine the victor of the war itself, the losers becoming slaves of the winners. His challenge left Israel in great fear (vv 8-11). After David, his father and three of his brothers are introduced, his father sent him from Bethlehem to carry foodstuffs to his brothers who were encamped with Saul in the valley of the Terebinth (vv 12-19). Just as David arrived at camp, Goliath came forth to challenge Israel as before, and David heard the king's promise to reward anyone who would take up this challenge (vv 20-25). David scorned the Philistine who had reproached the living God and asked repeatedly what rewards would come to the one who fought with the Philistine. While Eliab questioned David's character and motivation, Saul heard about David and summoned him (vv 26-31). David offered to fight the Philistine, citing his success in delivering his flock from wild animals, and Yahweh's help in these cases, as credentials for the task. Saul accepted his offer and gave him a blessing (vv 32-37). After trying on garments offered by the king, David declined them and chose instead a stick and a shepherd's sling as weapons (vv 38-40). The Philistine taunted David for his lack of weapons and threatened to expose his body as carrion. David responded, calling on the protection of Yahweh, and threatened both the giant and the Philistine army with exposure as carrion (vv 41-47). After knocking the Philistine down with a slingstone, David cut off the Philistine's head with his own sword. In an ensuing battle the Israelites routed the Philistines and pillaged their camps. David put the Philistine's head in Jerusalem and his armor in his tent (vv 48-54). After the battle David was brought by Abner to Saul. With his foe's head in his hands, David told the king he was Jesse's son (vv 55-58). Jonathan loved David, and the two made a covenant with each other. Jonathan even dressed David in his own garments. Saul decided to keep David with him and put him in charge of the troops. This was a popular decision, and David proved successful in his military tasks (18:1-5).

In dividing out the various "scenes" of the episode, the following unfold in a more natural sequence: (1) Goliath's challenge (vv. 1-11); Jesse's instructions to David (vv. 12-18); David's experience on the battlefield (vv. 19-58).

a. Goliath's Challenge, vv. 1-11

NASB

1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 2 Saul and the men of Israel were gathered and camped in the valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array to encounter the Philistines. 3 The Philistines stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them. 4 Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines

NRSV

1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 2 Saul and the Israelites gathered and encamped in the valley of Elah, and formed ranks against the Philistines. 3 The Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. 4 And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath,

NLT

1 The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. 2 Saul countered by gathering his troops near the valley of Elah. 3 So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them. 4 Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was a giant of a man, measuring over nine feet tall! 5 He wore a bronze helmet and a coat of mail that weighed 125 pounds.

named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 *He had* a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 *He also had* bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin *slung* between his shoulders. 7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron; his shield-carrier also walked before him. 8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them, "Why do you come out to draw up in battle array? Am I not the Philistine and you servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. 9 "If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us." 10 Again the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together." 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

Notes:

Once the scene is set in verses 1-3 that identifies the location in southwestern Judah about 14 miles west of Bethlehem, then Goliath steps front-center to offer his challenge to the Israelites, vv. 4-12. This segment begins with a rather detailed description of the giant (vv. 4-7), then moves to describe his verbal challenge to the Israelites.

Since we have already explored the location in the [Internal History](#) section, the focus will be on the second and third segments.

First, the description (vv. 4-7): "4 And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. 7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him." Ralph Klein (*WBC*, v. 10) describes in detail the exploration of the particulars here. In sum, Goliath stood 9 ft 9 in tall (Heb. MT text), although in the LXX text he is 6 ft 9 in. in height. In most calculations of the Hebrew number for weight of his armor, it would weigh about 126 pounds. The comparison to a weaver's beam most likely emphasized not just size and weight, but the wrappings around it would have created a rifling motion giving it much greater accuracy. The description closely resembles a typical Aegean javelin. The iron tip weighed between 15 and 16 pounds. Interestingly, this description overlaps a description of a different Goliath in [2 Sam. 21:15-22](#) at

whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. 7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him. 8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. 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." 10 And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

6 He also wore bronze leggings, and he slung a bronze javelin over his back. 7 The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed fifteen pounds. An armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a huge shield. 8 Goliath stood and shouted across to the Israelites, "Do you need a whole army to settle this? Choose someone to fight for you, and I will represent the Philistines. We will settle this dispute in single combat! 9 If your man is able to kill me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! 10 I defy the armies of Israel! Send me a man who will fight with me!" 11 When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.



several points. Most likely, the detailed description here is intended to heighten the accomplishment of David in killing Goliath. This has also been the point of emphasis down through the centuries of interpretation of this episode, as is reflected even today in the children's song about David killing the giant.

The third segment, vv. 8-11, contains Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army: "8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, 'Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. 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.' 10 And the Philistine said, 'Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together.' 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid." He challenged Saul to send out a representative to fight him and the victor would take all. At first this sounds intriguing. Two men in combat rather than two armies. Several ancient sources suggest this was not all that uncommon a practice. Five somewhat similar situations are described in [2 Samuel 21](#), where Goliath the Gittite is mentioned. The problem with the challenge was its reliability. The subsequent narrative indicates that after David's victory, the Israelites attacked the Philistine army and killed most of them. In many of these other ancient narratives, the same situation prevailed. The two men fighting one another didn't prevent the two armies from engaging in battle afterwards.

The bragging tone of Goliath is emphasized about as much as the details of his dare. Goliath sounded much like the Hollywood ape beating on his chest and strutting around to emphasize his prowess and superior strength. It, however, worked subverse 11 stresses the fearful reaction of Saul and his army. In our narrative this serves again to heighten the level of David's victory over the giant.

What can we learn here that is relevant to our world? One thing is the reminder that warriors are not that different today than thousands of years ago. Men still strut around pounding their chests claiming superiority over opponents. The sensational entrances of professional wrestlers in the [WWF](#) on TV epitomizes this in our culture.

Beyond this, what comes through from verses 1-11 is that this posture and style stands on the opposite side of where God is. Arrogant and brash boasting of one's own superiority have no place in the life of a follower of Jesus. Such is certain to be defeated ultimately by God's help. [1 Sam. 2:9](#) makes that point clearly: "He [God] will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail."

b. Jesse's Instructions, vv. 12-18

NASB

12 Now David was the son of the Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, whose name was Jesse, and he had eight sons. And Jesse was old in the days of Saul, advanced *in years* among men. 13 The three older sons of Jesse had gone after Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and the second to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 David was the youngest. Now the three oldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's flock at Bethlehem. 16 The Philistine came forward morning and evening for forty days and took his

NRSV

12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years. 13 The three eldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle; the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 David was the youngest; the three eldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. 16 For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening. 17 Jesse said to his son

NLT

12 Now David was the son of a man named Jesse, an Ephrathite from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. Jesse was an old man at that time, and he had eight sons in all. 13 Jesse's three oldest sons – Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah – had already joined Saul's army to fight the Philistines. 14 David was the youngest of Jesse's sons. Since David's three oldest brothers were in the army, they stayed with Saul's forces all the time. 15 But David went back and forth between working for Saul and helping his father with the sheep in Bethlehem. 16 For forty days, twice a day, morning and evening, the Philistine giant

stand. 17 Then Jesse said to David his son, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this roasted grain and these ten loaves and run to the camp to your brothers. 18 "Bring also these ten cuts of cheese to the commander of *their* thousand, and look into the welfare of your brothers, and bring back news of them.

David, "Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers; 18 also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See how your brothers fare, and bring some token from them."

strutted in front of the Israelite army. 17 One day Jesse said to David, "Take this half-bushel of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread to your brothers. 18 And give these ten cuts of cheese to their captain. See how your brothers are getting along, and bring me back a letter from them. "

Notes:

At this point (vv. 12-18), the scene shifts to David and takes us back to a prior time when David is still at home with his father in Bethlehem. In verses 12-16 we are introduced to David's family as a backdrop to verses 17 and 18. Jesse is an Ephrathite in Bethlehem. This links this episode back to 16:1 where God instructs Samuel by saying, "I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." The Ephrathites were a subdivision of the Calebites from the Bethlehem region according to Ruth 1:2, 4:11; 1 Chron. 2:19, 24, 50 etc. Interestingly, in the Deuteronomic tradition David was the eighth son of Jesse (1 Sam. 17:12), while he is depicted as the seventh son of Jesse in 1 Chron. 2:15.

Verses 12b - 15 make the point that Jesse was too old to go to battle and David was too young. Thus, the three oldest sons, Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah, were sent to represent Jesse's contribution to Saul's army to help fight off the Philistines. David as the youngest was in charge of herding his father's flocks at Bethlehem. Also he served as a messenger boy between home and the battlefield in order to keep his father informed about his three oldest sons. This took place over a 40 day period while Goliath repeated his challenge to Saul daily (v. 16).

Verses 17-18 shift to Jesse's instructions to David. This sets up the battle between the boy and the giant: "17 Jesse said to his son David, 'Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers; 18 also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See how your brothers fare, and bring some token from them.'" Ralph Klein (WBC, v. 10) provides a helpful summary here:

By chance—though surely the narrator thinks nothing of this was accidental—Jesse sent David at this time of crisis with an ephah (about a half bushel) of roasted or parched grain to his sons in the army camp. Parched grain (cf. 1 Sam 25:18; 2 Sam 17:28; Lev 23:14; Ruth 2:14) and loaves of bread were favorite food for simple people (Krinetzki). Every detail is meant to underscore the human insignificance of David and his family! Ten slices of cheese were sent along for their commanding officer (v 18). Is he the same as the commander of the host, Abner (v 55), who later introduced David to Saul (cf. also 8:12)? David was instructed to ask how his brothers were doing and to pick up their "pledge." This probably does not mean he was to take their pay back home to Jesse. Rather, the pledge is some token that would confirm the safe delivery of the goods and their own well-being (Hertzberg; Ackroyd, The First Book of Samuel).

In seeking some relevant connections of these verses to our lives, one aspect that emerges is the importance of family connections. Our culture still has to send off our sons -- and now our daughters as well -- into combat in military service just as Jesse had to do here. That was and is an anxious time for the family. We see in these verses the importance of staying in touch with those who have gone off to war. Fortunately, in our technology oriented world this is now much, much easier to achieve.

Also emerging is the emphasis upon David as a boy (most likely in late teens or early 20s) whom God was going to use in a spectacular manner to achieve victory over Israel's enemies. David was a poor shepherd's son but would become a great king through God's leadership. The previous story (chap. 16) of his anointing by Samuel set the stage for this. Thus, the point is that no human or physical traits of strength etc. were needed by God; just a willing heart to follow God into a dangerous situation. That's again a challenge to most all of us today. Our first reaction to a challenge from God is to do what Moses did: try to excuse our way out of responsibility because of our deficiencies. David reflects an almost opposite trait, as will surface in the third segment (vv. 19-58).

c. David's battlefield Experience, vv. 19-58

Notes:

Because of the unusual length of this section I will forgo the initial listing of the verses before making comments. Instead, smaller segments will be listed as comments are made on each. The best division of these verses is not all that clear. In narrative critical approaches, one usually looks for indications of scene shifts coming mainly through space and time references.

The first segment seems to be vv. 19-23, which gets us, the readers, caught up with v. 11 before the shift over to David in vv. 12-19.

NASB

19 "For Saul and they and all the men of Israel are in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines." 20 So David arose early in the morning and left the flock with a keeper and took *the supplies* and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the circle of the camp while the army was going out in battle array shouting the war cry. 21 Israel and the Philistines drew up in battle array, army against army. 22 Then David left his baggage in the care of the baggage keeper, and ran to the battle line and entered in order to greet his brothers. 23 As he was talking with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine from Gath named Goliath, was coming up from the army of the Philistines, and he spoke these same words; and David heard *them*.

NRSV

19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. 20 David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. 21 Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. 22 David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. 23 As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

NLT

19 David's brothers were with Saul and the Israelite army at the valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines. 20 So David left the sheep with another shepherd and set out early the next morning with the gifts. He arrived at the outskirts of the camp just as the Israelite army was leaving for the battlefield with shouts and battle cries. 21 Soon the Israelite and Philistine forces stood facing each other, army against army. 22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies and hurried out to the ranks to greet his brothers. 23 As he was talking with them, he saw Goliath, the champion from Gath, come out from the Philistine ranks, shouting his challenge to the army of Israel.

Verse 19 stands as a transition into this third segment and also links vv. 19-58 back to vv. 1-3 which introduce the entire episode. David carried out his father's instructions to go to the battlefield, arriving there as the Israelite army was moving out of camp to the battlefield for the daily positioning in case a battle between the two armies broke loose. He dropped off his supplies etc. with the quartermaster at the camp and rushed on to the battlefield to greet his brothers. This occasioned the first encounter with Goliath who came out to make his daily harangue of the Israelite army.

NASB

24 When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were greatly afraid. 25 The men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to defy Israel. And it will be that the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel." 26 Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he

NRSV

24 All the Israelites, when they saw the man, fled from him and were very much afraid. 25 The Israelites said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. The king will greatly enrich the man who kills him, and will give him his daughter and make his family free in Israel." 26 David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine, and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living

NLT

24 As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright. 25 "Have you seen the giant?" the men were asking. "He comes out each day to challenge Israel. And have you heard about the huge reward the king has offered to anyone who kills him? The king will give him one of his daughters for a wife, and his whole family will be exempted from paying taxes!" 26 David talked to some others standing there to verify the report. "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and putting an end to his abuse of Israel?" he asked them.

should taunt the armies of the living God?" 27 The people answered him in accord with this word, saying, "Thus it will be done for the man who kills him." 28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger burned against David and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle." 29 But David said, "What have I done now? Was it not just a question?" 30 Then he turned away from him to another and said the same thing; and the people answered the same thing as before.

God?" 27 The people answered him in the same way, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him." 28 His eldest brother Eliab heard him talking to the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David. He said, "Why have you come down? With whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart; for you have come down just to see the battle." 29 David said, "What have I done now? It was only a question." 30 He turned away from him toward another and spoke in the same way; and the people answered him again as before.

"Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?" 27 And David received the same reply as before: "What you have been hearing is true. That is the reward for killing the giant." 28 But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway?" he demanded. "What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and dishonesty. You just want to see the battle!" 29 "What have I done now?" David replied. "I was only asking a question!" 30 He walked over to some others and asked them the same thing and received the same answer.

Verse 24 captures the reaction of the Israelite army when they heard Goliath's words along with David and sets the stage for the next. They ran from the battlefield in fear. We get our first glimpse of David's courage in vv. 25-27 when David asked about what kind of reward was Saul going to pay for killing Goliath. The religious aspect is also introduced here. David saw Goliath as insulting God by reproaching the Israelites.

The narrative shifts in vv. 28-30 to a conversation between David and Eliab, his oldest brother. The brother assumes in David a reckless curiosity about seeing war and turns on him in anger. One gets the feeling this heated confrontation between oldest and youngest brothers has happened before. David defends himself and then turns to other Israelites to continue asking about what Saul would do for the one getting rid of Goliath.

NASB

31 When the words which David spoke were heard, they told *them* to Saul, and he sent for him. 32 David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 33 Then Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are *but* a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued *it* from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized *him* by his beard and struck him and killed him. 36 "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God." 37 And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand

NRSV

31 When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul; and he sent for him. 32 David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 33 Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. 36 Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 David said, "The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go,

NLT

31 Then David's question was reported to King Saul, and the king sent for him. 32 "Don't worry about a thing," David told Saul. "I'll go fight this Philistine!" 33 "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There is no way you can go against this Philistine. You are only a boy, and he has been in the army since he was a boy!" 34 But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, 35 I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. 36 I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! 37 The LORD who saved me from the claws of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!" Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the LORD be with you!" 38 Then Saul gave David his own armor — a bronze helmet and a coat of

of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you." 38 Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor. 39 David girded his sword over his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested *them*. So David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested [them.]" And David took them off. 40 He took his stick in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in *his* pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine.

and may the Lord be with you!" 38 Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. 39 David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

mail. 39 David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before. "I can't go in these," he protested. "I'm not used to them." So he took them off again. 40 He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them in his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across to fight Goliath.

This scene, vv. 31-40, moves to the conversation of David with King Saul. Through the exchanges back and forth, David shines as the heroic figure who is confident of God's leadership and of victory, while Saul comes across as focused on the human side of David's youth and inexperience in battle. Saul relents to allow David to fight Goliath but insists that David be outfitted as a soldier. David, unaccustomed to wearing these, reverts back to his shepherd boy's clothes and prepares to meet Goliath just as he did in protecting his father's sheep from bears etc. The irony of this scene is a young boy admonishing a powerful king. Just another heightening of emphasis upon the heroic qualities of David that would make the victory more significant.

NASB

1 Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him. 42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance. 43 The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field." 45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and 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 taunted. 46 "This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for

NRSV

41 The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. 42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. 43 The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." 45 But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and 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. 46 This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's

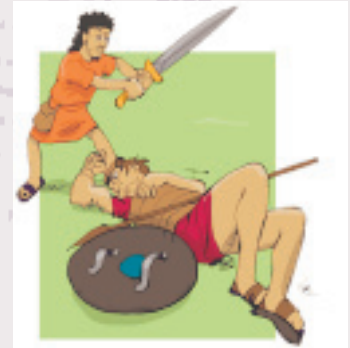
NLT

41 Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, 42 sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. 43 "Am I a dog," he roared at David, "that you come at me with a stick?" And he cursed David by the names of his gods. 44 "Come over here, and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!" Goliath yelled. 45 David shouted in reply, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD Almighty – the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! 47 And everyone will know that the LORD does not need weapons to rescue his people. It is his battle, not ours. The LORD will give you to us!" 48 As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. 49 Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it from his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone

the battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hands." 48 Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. 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. 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. 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.

and he will give you into our hand." 48 When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. 49 David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, striking down the Philistine and killing him; there was no sword in David's hand. 51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine; he grasped his sword, drew it out of its sheath, and killed him; then he cut off his head with it.

sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face downward to the ground. 50 So David triumphed over the Philistine giant with only a stone and sling. And since he had no sword, 51 he ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill the giant and cut off his head.



This scene, vv. 41-51a, describes the actual battle between David and Goliath. It begins with a hostile exchange of words between the two, vv. 41-48. Goliath, in typical military fashion, attempts to “psychologize” David with caustic, insulting blasts. David replies, vv. 45-48, with a declaration of his faith in God to grant victory and thus resort honor both to His name and to the Israelites.

NASB

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. 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. And the slain Philistines lay along the way to Shaaraim, even to Gath and Ekron. 53 The sons of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines and plundered their camps. 54 Then David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his weapons in his tent. 55 Now when Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this young man?" And Abner said, "By your life, O king, I do not know." 56 The king said, "You inquire whose son the youth is." 57 So when David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine's head in his hand. 58 Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "I *am* the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

NRSV

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. 52 The troops of Israel and Judah rose up with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron. 53 The Israelites came back from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. 54 David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armor in his tent. 55 When Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this young man?" Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know." 56 The king said, "Inquire whose son the stripling is." 57 On David's return from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

NLT

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran. 52 Then the Israelites gave a great shout of triumph and rushed after the Philistines, chasing them as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron. The bodies of the dead and wounded Philistines were strewn all along the road from Shaaraim, as far as Gath and Ekron. 53 Then the Israelite army returned and plundered the deserted Philistine camp. 54 (David took Goliath's head to Jerusalem, but he stored the Philistine's armor in his own tent.) 55 As Saul watched David go out to fight Goliath, he asked Abner, the general of his army, "Abner, whose son is he?" "I really don't know," Abner said. 56 "Well, find out!" the king told him. 57 After David had killed Goliath, Abner brought him to Saul with the Philistine's head still in his hand. 58 "Tell me about your father, my boy," Saul said. And David replied, "His name is Jesse, and we live in Bethlehem."

The victory scene, vv. 51b-58, has irony. At Goliath's death and beheading, the Israelite army plunders the Philistines and pursue them as far as Goliath's home, Gath, and Ekron. David will carry Goliath's head back to Jerusalem eventually, since at that time Jerusalem was still a Jebusite city (2 Sam. 5:6-9). Saul is left in the dark about David's identity until his general, Abner, brings David before the king to identify himself. This will be the beginning of the end for Saul as 1 Sam. 18 relates.

וַיֹּאסֹפוּ פְּלִשְׁתִּים אֶת־מַחְנֵיהֶם לְמַלְחָמָה WTT 1 Samuel 17:1

וַיֹּאסֹפוּ שָׂכָה אֲשֶׁר לַיהוּדָה וַיַּחֲנוּ בֵּין־שׁוּכָה וּבֵין־עֶזְקָה
בְּאֶפֶס דָּמִים

וְשֹׁאוֹל וְאִישׁ־יִשְׂרָאֵל נֹאסְפוּ וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּעֵמֶק הָאֵלָה וַיַּעֲרְכוּ
מַלְחָמָה לְקִרְאֵת פְּלִשְׁתִּים

וּפְלִשְׁתִּים עֹמְדִים אֶל־הָהָר מִזֶּה וְיִשְׂרָאֵל עֹמְדִים אֶל־הָהָר
מִזֶּה וְהָגִיא בֵּינֵיהֶם

וַיֵּצֵא אִישׁ־הַבָּנִים מִמַּחֲנוֹת פְּלִשְׁתִּים גִּלְיָת שָׂמוֹ מִגֶּת גִּבְהוֹ
יָשׁ אֲמוֹת וּזְרָת

וְכֹבֵעַ נַחֲשֵׁת עַל־רָאשׁוֹ וְשִׁרְיוֹן קֶשֶׁשִׁים הוּא לְבוּשׁ
וּמִשְׁקַל הַשִּׁרְיוֹן חֲמִשָּׁת־אַלְפִים שְׁקָלִים נַחֲשֵׁת

וּמִצָּחַת נַחֲשֵׁת עַל־רִגְלָיו וְכִידוֹן נַחֲשֵׁת בֵּין כַּתְּפָיו

(וְחֵץ) וְנֶעֱץ חֲנִיתוֹ כַּמָּנֹר אֲרָגִים וְלַהֲבַת חֲנִיתוֹ שֵׁשׁ־מֵאוֹת

שְׁקָלִים בְּרִזָּל וְנִשְׂא הַצֶּנֶה הַלֵּךְ לִפְנֵיו

וַיַּעֲמֹד וַיִּקְרָא אֶל־מַעֲרֻכַת יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם לָמָּה

תֵּצְאוּ לַעֲרֹךְ מַלְחָמָה הַלּוֹא אֲנֹכִי הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וְאַתֶּם עֲבָדִים

לְשֹׁאוֹל בְּרוּ־לָכֶם אִישׁ וַיֵּרֶד אֵלָי

אִם־יוּכַל לְהִלָּחֵם אִתִּי וְהִפְנִי וְהָיִינוּ לָכֶם לַעֲבָדִים

וְאִם־אֲנִי אוֹכַל־לוֹ וְהִפִּיתִיו וְהָיִיתֶם לָנוּ לַעֲבָדִים וַעֲבַדְתֶּם

אֹתִנוּ

וַיֹּאמֶר הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי אֲנִי חֲרַפְתִּי אֶת־מַעֲרֻכֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל הַיּוֹם

הַזֶּה תִּנּוּלִי אִישׁ וְנִלְחַמָּה יַחַד

וַיִּשְׁמַע שֹׁאוֹל וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־דִּבְרֵי הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי הָאֵלָה

וַיַּחֲתּוּ וַיִּירָאוּ מְאֹד פ

וְדָוִד בֶּן־אִישׁ אֶפְרַתִּי הַזֶּה מִבֵּית לָחֶם יְהוּדָה וְשָׁמוֹ יָשָׁא

וְלוֹ שְׁמֹנֶה בָנִים וְהָאִישׁ בִּימֵי שֹׁאוֹל זָקֵן בָּא בְּאֲנָשִׁים

וַיֵּלֶכְוּ שְׁלֹשֶׁת בְּנֵי־יִשָּׁא הַגְּדֹלִים הָלְכוּ אַחֲרֵי־שֹׁאוֹל

לְמַלְחָמָה וְשֵׁם שְׁלֹשֶׁת בָּנָיו אֲשֶׁר הָלְכוּ בְּמַלְחָמָה אֱלִיאָב

הַבְּכוֹר וּמִשְׁנֵהוּ אַבְיָנָדָב וְהַשְּׁלִישִׁי שָׁמָה

14 וְדֹדָךְ הוּא הַקָּטָן וְשִׁלְשָׁה הַגְּדֹלִים הִלְכוּ אַחֲרָי שְׂאוֹל ס

15 וְדֹדָךְ הִלָּךְ וּשְׁבַ מַעַל שְׂאוֹל לַרְעוֹת אֶת־צֶאֱן אָבִיו
בֵּית־לָחֶם

16 וַיָּגֶשׁ הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי הַשָּׂכָם וְהָעָרֶב וַיִּתְּצוּ אַרְבַּעִים יוֹם פ

17 וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂי לְדֹדָךְ בְּנוֹ קַח־נָא לְאַחִידִי אִיפֹת הַקְּלִיא הַזֶּה
וַעֲשֵׂהָ לֶחֶם הַזֶּה וְהָרֵץ הַמַּחֲנֶה לְאַחִידִי

18 וְאֵת עֲשֶׂרֶת חֲרָצֵי הַחֶלֶב הָאֵלֶּה תָּבִיא לְשֶׁר־הָאֱלֹף
וְאֶת־אַחִידִי תַּפְקֹד לְשָׁלוֹם וְאֶת־עַרְבָתָם תִּקַּח

19 וּשְׂאוֹל וְהָמָה וְכָל־אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּעֶמֶק הָאֵלֶּה נִלְחָמִים
עַם־פְּלִשְׁתִּים

20 וַיִּשְׂכֶּם דָּוִד בַּבֶּקֶר וַיִּטֵּשׁ אֶת־הַצֹּאֵן עַל־שֹׁמֵר וַיֵּשֶׂא וַיִּלָּךְ
כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוְּהוּ יִשְׂי וַיָּבֹא הַמַּעֲגָלָה וְהַחִיל הַיָּצֵא אֶל־הַמַּעֲרֹכָה
וְהָרָעוּ בַּמִּלְחָמָה

21 וַתַּעֲרֹךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל וּפְלִשְׁתִּים מַעֲרֹכָה לַקְּרָאת מַעֲרֹכָה

22 וַיִּטֵּשׁ דָּוִד אֶת־הַפָּלִים מֵעַלְיוֹ עַל־יַד שׁוֹמֵר הַפָּלִים וַיִּרֶץ
הַמַּעֲרֹכָה וַיָּבֹא וַיִּשְׂאֵל לְאַחִיו לְשָׁלוֹם

23 וַהּוּא מְדַבֵּר עִמָּם וְהִנֵּה אִישׁ הַבָּנִים עוֹלָה גְלִית

הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי שָׁמוֹ מִגַּת (מַמַּעְרוֹת) [מַמַּעְרֻכּוֹת] פְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיִּדְבֹּר
כְּדֹבְרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיִּשְׁמַע דָּוִד

24 וְכָל־אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל בִּרְאוֹתָם אֶת־הָאִישׁ וַיִּנָּסוּ מִפָּנָיו וַיִּירָאוּ
כָּאֵד

25 וַיֹּאמֶר אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל הִרְאִיתָם הָאִישׁ הָעֹלָה הַזֶּה כִּי

לְחַרֵּף אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל עָלָה וְהִיָּה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־יִכְנוּ יַעֲשֶׂהְנוּ

הַמִּלָּךְ עֹשֶׂה גְדוֹל וְאֶת־בָּתוֹ יִתֵּן־לוֹ וְאֵת בֵּית אָבִיו יַעֲשֶׂה
חֶפְשִׁי בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל

26 וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־הָאֲנָשִׁים הָעֹמְדִים עִמּוֹ לֵאמֹר מַה־יַּעֲשֶׂה

לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר יִכֶּה אֶת־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי הַלֵּז וְהַסִּיר חֲרָפָה מֵעַל

יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי מִי הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי הָעֵרֵל הַזֶּה כִּי חָרַף מַעֲרֻכּוֹת

אֱלֹהִים חַיִּים

27 וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הָעָם כְּדֹבֵר הַזֶּה לֵאמֹר כֹּה יַעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר

יִכְנוּ

28 וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלִיאֵב אֶת־יוֹדָן הַגָּדוֹל בְּדַבְּרוֹ אֶל־הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיַּחֲרֹאֲף
אֱלִיאֵב בְּדוֹד וַיֹּאמֶר לְמַה־זֶּה יִרְדָּתָּ וְעַל־מִי נִטְשָׁתָּ מִעַם
הַצָּאן הַזֶּה בְּמִדְבָּר אֲנִי יֹדְעִתִּי אֶת־זִדְדָּךְ וְאַתָּה רַע לְבַבְךָ
כִּי לְמַעַן רְאוֹת הַמַּלְחָמָה יִרְדָּתָּ
29 וַיֹּאמֶר דּוֹד מַה עָשִׂיתִי עִתָּה הֲלוֹא דִבַּרְתָּ הוּא
30 וַיֹּסֶב מֵאֲצִלוֹ אֶל־מוֹל אַחֵר וַיֹּאמֶר כַּדְבָּר הַזֶּה וַיִּשְׁבְּהוּ
הָעָם דִּבַּר כַּדְבָּר הָרָאשׁוֹן
31 וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּר דּוֹד וַיִּגְדּוּ לִפְנֵי־שְׂאוּל
וַיִּקְחֻהוּ
32 וַיֹּאמֶר דּוֹד אֶל־שְׂאוּל אֶל־יִפְלֹ לִב־אֲדָם עָלָיו עֲבֹדָה יִלְךְ
וְנִלְחַם עִם־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי הַזֶּה
33 וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂאוּל אֶל־דּוֹד לֹא תוּכַל לָלֶכֶת אֶל־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי
הַזֶּה לְהִלָּחֵם עִמּוֹ כִּי־נָעַר אַתָּה וְהוּא אִישׁ מַלְחָמָה מִנְּעָרָיו
ס
34 וַיֹּאמֶר דּוֹד אֶל־שְׂאוּל רַעְיָה הִיא עֲבֹדָה לְאָבִיו בַּצָּאן וּבָא
הָאָרִי וְאַתָּה־הַדּוֹב וְנִשָּׂא שָׁה מִהָעֵדֶר
35 וַיִּצְאֵתִי אַחֲרָיו וְהִכְתִּיו וְהִצַּלְתִּי מִפְּנֵי וַיָּקָם עָלַי וְהִחֲזִיקָתִי
בְּזִקְנוֹ וְהִכְתִּיו וְהִמִּיתָו
36 גַּם אֶת־הָאָרִי גַם־הַדּוֹב הִכָּה עֲבֹדָה וְהָיָה הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי הָעֵרֶל
הַזֶּה כְּאַחֵר מֵהֶם כִּי חָרַף מַעֲרֻכַת אֱלֹהִים חַיִּים ס
37 וַיֹּאמֶר דּוֹד יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר הִצַּלְנִי מִיַּד הָאָרִי וּמִיַּד הַדּוֹב
הוּא יִצִּילֵנִי מִיַּד הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי הַזֶּה ס וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂאוּל אֶל־דּוֹד
לֵךְ וַיְהוֶה יְהוָה עִמָּךְ
38 וַיִּלְבֹּשׁ שְׂאוּל אֶת־דּוֹד מַדְיוֹ וַנִּתֵּן קֹבַע נְחֹשֶׁת עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ
וַיִּלְבֹּשׁ אֹתוֹ שְׂרִיּוֹן
39 וַיַּחַגֵּר דּוֹד אֶת־חֶרְבּוֹ מֵעַל לְמַדְיוֹ וַיֵּאֵל לָלֶכֶת כִּי
לֹא־נִסָּה וַיֹּאמֶר דּוֹד אֶל־שְׂאוּל לֹא אוּכַל לָלֶכֶת בְּאַלָּה כִּי
לֹא נִסִּיתִי וַיִּסְרָם דּוֹד מֵעָלָיו
40 וַיִּקַּח מִקְלּוֹ בִידּוֹ וַיִּבְחַר־לּוֹ חֲמֹשֶׁה חֲלָקִי־אֲבָנִים
מִן־הַנֶּחֱל וַיִּשֶׂם אֹתָם בְּכָלִי הָרַעִים אֲשֶׁר־לּוֹ וּבִילָקוּט
וּקְלָעוֹ בִידּוֹ וַיִּגֵּשׁ אֶל־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי

41 וַיִּלֶךְ הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי הַלֵּךְ וַקְרַב אֶל־דָּוִד וְהָאִישׁ נָשָׂא הַצֵּנָה לְפָיו

42 וַיִּבֹט הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וַיִּרְאֶה אֶת־דָּוִד וַיִּבְזְהוּ כִּי־הִיָּה נָעַר וַאֲדַמְנִי עַם־יִפֶּה מֵרֹאֶה

43 וַיֹּאמֶר הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי אֶל־דָּוִד הַכֶּלֶב אֲנֹכִי כִי־אַתָּה בָּא־אֵלַי בַּמִּקְלֹת וּבַקֶּלֶל הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי אֶת־דָּוִד בְּאַלְהָיו

44 וַיֹּאמֶר הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי אֶל־דָּוִד לֵכָה אֵלַי וְאַתָּנָה אֶת־בִּשְׂרָף לְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וּלְבַהֲמַת הַשָּׂדֶה ס

45 וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי אַתָּה בָּא אֵלַי בַּחֶרֶב וּבַחֲנִית וּבְכִידוֹן וְאֲנֹכִי בָא־אֵלֶיךָ בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת אֱלֹהֵי מַעֲרֻכֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר חָרַפְתָּ

46 הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה יִסְגְּרֶךָ יְהוָה בְּיָדִי וְהַפִּיתֶךָ וְהִסְרֹתִי אֶת־רֹאשְׁךָ מֵעַלֶיךָ וְנָתַתִּי פָגֶר מַחֲנֶה פְּלִשְׁתִּים הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה לְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם

וּלְחַיַּת הָאָרֶץ וַיֵּדְעוּ כָּל־הָאָרֶץ כִּי יֵשׁ אֱלֹהִים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֵּדְעוּ כָּל־הַקָּהָל הַזֶּה כִּי־לֹא בַחֶרֶב וּבַחֲנִית יְהוֹשִׁיעַ

יְהוָה כִּי לַיהוָה הַמִּלְחָמָה וְנָתַן אֶתְכֶם בְּיָדוֹ

48 וְהָיָה כִּי־קָם הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וַיִּלֶךְ וַיִּקְרַב לִקְרַאת דָּוִד וַיִּמָּהַר דָּוִד וַיֵּרֶץ הַמַּעֲרֻכָה לִקְרַאת הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי

49 וַיִּשְׁלַח דָּוִד אֶת־יָדוֹ אֶל־הַפָּלִי וַיִּקַּח מִשָּׁם אֶבֶן וַיִּקְלַע וַיַּךְ אֶת־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי אֶל־מִצְחוֹ וַתִּטְבַּע הָאֶבֶן בַּמִּצְחוֹ וַיִּפֹּל עַל־פָּנָיו אֶרְצָה

50 וַיַּחֲזֹק דָּוִד מִן־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי בַקֶּלַע וּבָאֶבֶן וַיַּךְ אֶת־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וַיִּמָּיתֵהוּ וַחֲרַב אֵין בְּיַד־דָּוִד

51 וַיֵּרֶץ דָּוִד וַיַּעֲמֹד אֶל־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וַיִּקַּח אֶת־חַרְבּוֹ וַיִּשְׁלֹפֶה מִתַּעֲרָה וַיִּמָּתְתֵהוּ וַיִּכְרֹת־בָּהּ אֶת־רֹאשׁוֹ וַיִּרְאוּ הַפְּלִשְׁתִּים כִּי־מָת גִּבּוֹרָם וַיִּנָּסוּ

52 וַיִּקְבְּמוּ אַנְשֵׁי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיהוּדָה וַיִּרְדְּפוּ אֶת־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּים עַד־בּוֹאֶךָ גֵּיא וְעַד שַׁעֲרֵי עֶקְרוֹן וַיִּפְּלוּ חֲלָלִי פְּלִשְׁתִּים בְּדֶרֶךְ שַׁעֲרִים וְעַד־גֵּת וְעַד־עֶקְרוֹן

53 וַיָּשְׁבוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִדֶּלֶק אַחֲרֵי פְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיִּשְׁסּוּ אֶת־מַחֲנֵיהֶם

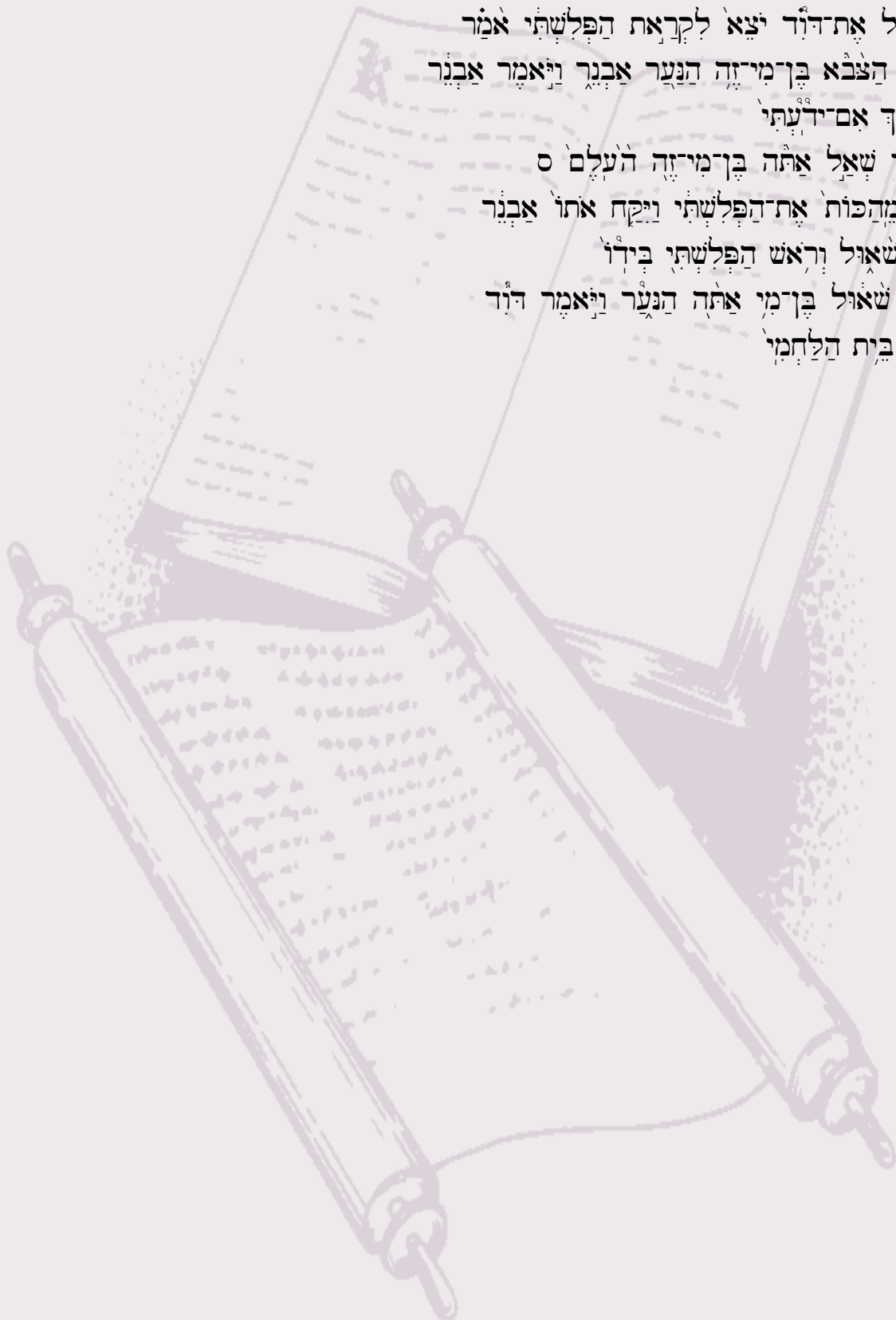
⁵⁴ וַיִּקַּח דָּוִד אֶת־רֹאשׁ הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וַיָּבֵאֵהוּ יְרוּשָׁלַם וְאֶת־פְּלִי
שָׁם בְּאַהֲלוֹ ס

⁵⁵ וַיְכַרְאוּת שְׂאוֹל אֶת־דָּוִד יֵצֵא לְקִרְיַת הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי אָמַר
אֶל־אַבְנֵר שֶׁר הַצָּבָא בֶן־מִיזָה הַנָּעַר אַבְנֵר וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְנֵר
חַי־נַפְשֶׁךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ אִם־יִדְּעֵתִי

⁵⁶ וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ שְׂאֵל אֶתָּה בֶן־מִיזָה הָעֵלֶם ס

⁵⁷ וַיָּשׁוּב דָּוִד מִהַכּוֹת אֶת־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וַיִּקַּח אֹתוֹ אַבְנֵר
וַיָּבֵאֵהוּ לִפְנֵי שְׂאוֹל וְרֹאשׁ הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי בְיָדוֹ

⁵⁸ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו שְׂאוֹל בֶּן־נִי אֶתָּה הַנָּעַר וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד
בֶּן־עֲבֹדָךְ יֵשׁ בֵּית הַלְחָמִי



1 Samuel 17:1 καὶ συνάγουσιν ἀλλόφυλοι τὰς παρεμβολὰς αὐτῶν εἰς πόλεμον καὶ συνάγονται εἰς Σοκχωθ τῆς Ιουδαίας καὶ παρεβάλλουσιν ἀνὰ μέσον Σοκχωθ καὶ ἀνὰ μέσον Αζηκα ἐν Εφερμεμ

² καὶ Σαουλ καὶ οἱ ἄνδρες Ισραηλ συνάγονται καὶ παρεβάλλουσιν ἐν τῇ κοιλάδι αὐτοῖ παρατάσσονται εἰς πόλεμον ἐξ ἐναντίας ἀλλοφύλων

³ καὶ ἀλλόφυλοι ἵστανται ἐπὶ τοῦ ὄρους ἐνταῦθα καὶ Ισραηλ ἵσταται ἐπὶ τοῦ ὄρους ἐνταῦθα καὶ ὁ αὐλὼν ἀνὰ μέσον αὐτῶν

⁴ καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ἀνὴρ δυνατὸς ἐκ τῆς παρατάξεως τῶν ἀλλοφύλων Γολιαθ ὄνομα αὐτῷ ἐκ Γεθ ὕψος αὐτοῦ τεσσάρων πήχεων καὶ σπιθαμῆς

⁵ καὶ περικεφαλαία ἐπὶ τῆς κεφαλῆς αὐτοῦ καὶ θώρακα ἀπλυσιδωτὸν αὐτὸς ἐνδεδυκώς καὶ ὁ σταθμὸς τοῦ θώρακος αὐτοῦ πέντε χιλιάδες σίκλων χαλκοῦ καὶ σιδήρου

⁶ καὶ κνημίδες χαλκαὶ ἐπάνω τῶν σκελῶν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀσπίς χαλκῇ ἀνὰ μέσον τῶν ὤμων αὐτοῦ

⁷ καὶ ὁ κοντὸς τοῦ δόρατος αὐτοῦ ὥσει μέσακλον ὑφαινόντων καὶ ἡ λόγχη αὐτοῦ ἐξακοσίων σίκλων σιδήρου καὶ ὁ αἶρων τὰ ὅπλα αὐτοῦ προεπορεύετο αὐτοῦ

⁸ καὶ ἔστη καὶ ἀνεβόησεν εἰς τὴν παράταξιν Ισραηλ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς τί ἐκπορεύεσθε παρατάξασθαι πολέμῳ ἐξ ἐναντίας ἡμῶν οὐκ ἐγὼ εἰμι ἀλλόφυλος καὶ ὑμεῖς Εβραῖοι τοῦ Σαουλ ἐκλέξασθε ἑαυτοῖς ἄνδρα καὶ καταβήτω πρὸς με

⁹ καὶ ἐὰν δυνηθῇ πρὸς ἐμέ πολεμῆσαι καὶ ἐὰν πατάξῃ με καὶ ἐσόμεθα ὑμῖν εἰς δούλους ἐὰν δὲ ἐγὼ δυνηθῶ καὶ πατάξω αὐτόν ἔσεσθε ἡμῖν εἰς δούλους καὶ δουλεύσετε ἡμῖν

¹⁰ καὶ εἶπεν ὁ ἀλλόφυλος ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ὠνείδισα τὴν παράταξιν Ισραηλ σήμερον ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ταύτῃ ὅτε μοι ἄνδρα καὶ μονομαχήσομεν ἀμφοτέρω

¹¹ καὶ ἤκουσεν Σαουλ καὶ πᾶς Ισραηλ τὰ ῥήματα τοῦ ἀλλοφύλου ταῦτα καὶ ἐξέστησαν καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν σφόδρα

LXX text doesn't contain these verses

³² καὶ εἶπεν Δαυιδ πρὸς Σαουλ μὴ δὴ συμπεσέτω ἡ καρδιά τοῦ κυρίου μου ἐπ' αὐτόν ὁ δοῦλός σου πορεύσεται καὶ πολεμήσει μετὰ τοῦ ἀλλοφύλου τούτου

³³ καὶ εἶπεν Σαουλ πρὸς Δαυιδ οὐ μὴ δυνηθῇ πορευθῆναι πρὸς τὸν ἀλλόφυλον τοῦ πολεμῆναι μετ' αὐτοῦ ὅτι παιδάριον εἶ σύ καὶ αὐτὸς ἀνὴρ πολεμιστῆς ἐκ νεότητος αὐτοῦ

³⁴ καὶ εἶπεν Δαυιδ πρὸς Σαουλ ποιμαίνων ἦν ὁ δοῦλός σου τῷ πατρὶ αὐτοῦ ἐν τῷ ποιμνίῳ καὶ ὅταν ἤρχετο ὁ λέων καὶ ἡ ἄρκος καὶ ἐλάμβανεν πρόβατον ἐκ τῆς ἀγέλης

³⁵ καὶ ἐξεπορευόμην ὀπίσω αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐπάταξα αὐτόν καὶ ἐξέσπασα ἐκ τοῦ στόματος αὐτοῦ καὶ εἰ ἐπανίστατο ἐπ' ἐμέ καὶ ἐκράτησα τοῦ φάρυγγος αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐπάταξα καὶ ἐθανάτωσα αὐτόν

³⁶ καὶ τὴν ἄρκον ἔτυπεν ὁ δοῦλός σου καὶ τὸν λέοντα καὶ ἔσται ὁ ἀλλόφυλος ὁ ἀπερίτμητος ὡς ἐν τούτων οὐχὶ πορεύσομαι καὶ πατάξω αὐτόν καὶ ἀφελῶ σήμερον ὄνειδος ἐξ Ισραηλ διότι τίς ὁ ἀπερίτμητος οὗτος ὃς ὠνείδισεν παράταξιν θεοῦ ζῶντος

³⁷ κύριος ὃς ἐξείλατό με ἐκ χειρὸς τοῦ λέοντος καὶ ἐκ χειρὸς τῆς ἄρκου αὐτὸς ἐξελεῖταί με ἐκ χειρὸς τοῦ ἀλλοφύλου τοῦ ἀπεριτμήτου τούτου καὶ εἶπεν Σαουλ πρὸς Δαυιδ πορεύου καὶ ἔσται κύριος μετὰ σοῦ

³⁸ καὶ ἐνέδυσεν Σαουλ τὸν Δαυιδ μανδύαν καὶ περικεφαλαίαν χαλκὴν περὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν αὐτοῦ

³⁹ καὶ ἔζωσεν τὸν Δαυιδ τὴν ῥομφαίαν αὐτοῦ ἐπάνω τοῦ μανδύου αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐκοπίασεν περιπατήσας ἅπαξ καὶ δὶς καὶ εἶπεν Δαυιδ πρὸς Σαουλ οὐ μὴ δύνωμαι πορευθῆναι ἐν τούτοις ὅτι οὐ πεπείραμαι καὶ ἀφαιροῦσιν αὐτὰ ἀπ' αὐτοῦ

⁴⁰ καὶ ἔλαβεν τὴν βακτηρίαν αὐτοῦ ἐν τῇ χειρὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐξελέξατο ἑαυτῷ πέντε λίθους λείους ἐκ τοῦ χειμάρρου καὶ ἔθετο αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ καδίῳ τῷ ποιμενικῷ τῷ ὄντι αὐτῷ εἰς συλλογὴν καὶ σφειδόνην αὐτοῦ ἐν τῇ χειρὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ προσῆλθεν πρὸς τὸν ἄνδρα τὸν ἀλλόφυλον

⁴¹ **LXX text doesn't contain this verse**

⁴² καὶ εἶδεν Γολιαὶδ τὸν Δαυιδ καὶ ἠτίμασεν αὐτόν ὅτι αὐτὸς ἦν παιδάριον καὶ αὐτὸς πυρράκης μετὰ κάλλους ὀφθαλμῶν

⁴³ καὶ εἶπεν ὁ ἀλλόφυλος πρὸς Δαυιδ ὥσεὶ κύων ἐγὼ εἰμι ὅτι σὺ ἔρχῃ ἐπ' ἐμέ ἐν ῥάβδῳ καὶ λίθοις καὶ εἶπεν Δαυιδ οὐχὶ ἀλλ' ἡ χεὶρ μου κυνὸς καὶ κατηράσατο ὁ ἀλλόφυλος τὸν Δαυιδ ἐν τοῖς θεοῖς αὐτοῦ

⁴⁴ καὶ εἶπεν ὁ ἀλλόφυλος πρὸς Δαυιδ δεῦρο πρὸς με καὶ δώσω τὰς σάρκας σου τοῖς πετεινοῖς τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καὶ τοῖς κτήνεσιν τῆς γῆς

⁴⁵ καὶ εἶπεν Δαυιδ πρὸς τὸν ἀλλόφυλον σὺ ἔρχῃ πρὸς με ἐν ῥομφαίᾳ καὶ ἐν δόρατι καὶ ἐν ἀσπίδι καὶ ἐγὼ πορεύομαι πρὸς σέ ἐν ὀνόματι κυρίου σαβαωθ θεοῦ παρατάξεως Ἰσραὴλ ἦν ὠνείδισας σήμερον

⁴⁶ καὶ ἀποκλείσει σε κύριος σήμερον εἰς τὴν χεῖρά μου καὶ ἀποκτενῶ σε καὶ ἀφελῶ τὴν κεφαλὴν σου ἀπὸ σοῦ καὶ δώσω τὰ κῶλά σου καὶ τὰ κῶλα παρεμβολῆς ἀλλοφύλων ἐν ταύτῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῖς πετεινοῖς τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καὶ τοῖς θηρίοις τῆς γῆς καὶ γινώσεται πᾶσα ἡ γῆ ὅτι ἔστιν θεὸς ἐν Ἰσραὴλ

⁴⁷ καὶ γινώσεται πᾶσα ἡ ἐκκλησία αὕτη ὅτι οὐκ ἐν ῥομφαίᾳ καὶ δόρατι σώζει κύριος ὅτι τοῦ κυρίου ὁ πόλεμος καὶ παραδώσει κύριος ὑμᾶς εἰς χεῖρας ἡμῶν

⁴⁸ καὶ ἀνέστη ὁ ἀλλόφυλος καὶ ἐπορεύθη εἰς συνάντησιν Δαυιδ

⁴⁹ καὶ ἐξέτεινεν Δαυιδ τὴν χεῖρα αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸ κάδιον καὶ ἔλαβεν ἐκείθεν λίθον ἓνα καὶ ἐσφενδόνησεν καὶ ἐπάταξεν τὸν ἀλλόφυλον ἐπὶ τὸ μέτωπον αὐτοῦ καὶ διέδου ὁ λίθος διὰ τῆς περικεφαλαίας εἰς τὸ μέτωπον αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν

⁵⁰ ————— **LXX text doesn't contain this verse** —————

⁵¹ καὶ ἔδραμεν Δαυιδ καὶ ἐπέστη ἐπ' αὐτόν καὶ ἔλαβεν τὴν ῥομφαίαν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐθανάτωσεν αὐτόν καὶ ἀφείλεν τὴν κεφαλὴν αὐτοῦ καὶ εἶδον οἱ ἀλλόφυλοι ὅτι τέθνηκεν ὁ δυνατὸς αὐτῶν καὶ ἔφυγον

⁵² καὶ ἀνίστανται ἄνδρες Ἰσραὴλ καὶ Ἰουδα καὶ ἠλάλαξαν καὶ κατεδίωξαν ὀπίσω αὐτῶν ἕως εἰσόδου Γεθ καὶ ἕως τῆς πύλης Ἀσκαλῶνος καὶ ἔπεσαν τραυματαῖαι τῶν ἀλλοφύλων ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ τῶν πυλῶν καὶ ἕως Γεθ καὶ ἕως Ακκαρων

⁵³ καὶ ἀνέστρεψαν ἄνδρες Ἰσραὴλ ἐκκλίνοντες ὀπίσω τῶν ἀλλοφύλων καὶ κατεπάτουν τὰς παρεμβολὰς αὐτῶν

⁵⁴ καὶ ἔλαβεν Δαυιδ τὴν κεφαλὴν τοῦ ἀλλοφύλου καὶ ἤνεγκεν αὐτὴν εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ καὶ τὰ σκεύη αὐτοῦ ἔθηκεν ἐν τῷ σκηνώματι αὐτοῦ

————— **LXX text stops here** —————

NASB

1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 2 Saul and the men of Israel were gathered and camped in the valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array to encounter the Philistines. 3 The Philistines stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them. 4 Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 *He had* a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 *He also had* bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin *slung* between his shoulders. 7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron; his shield-carrier also walked before him. 8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them, "Why do you come out to draw up in battle array? Am I not the Philistine and you servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. 9 "If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us." 10 Again the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together." 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

12 Now David was the son of the Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, whose name was Jesse, and he had eight sons. And Jesse was old in the days of Saul, advanced *in years* among men. 13 The three older sons of Jesse had gone after Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and the second to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 David was the youngest. Now the three oldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's flock at Bethlehem. 16 The Philistine came forward morning and evening for forty days and took his stand. 17 Then Jesse said to David his son, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this roasted grain and these ten loaves and run to the camp to your brothers. 18 "Bring also these ten cuts of cheese to the commander of *their* thousand, and look into the welfare of your brothers, and bring back news of them.

19 "For Saul and they and all the men of Israel are in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines." 20 So David arose early in the morning and left the flock with a keeper and took *the supplies* and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the circle of the camp while the army was going out in battle array shouting the war cry. 21 Israel and the Philistines drew up in battle array, army against army. 22 Then David left his baggage in the care of the baggage keeper, and ran to the battle line and entered in order to greet his brothers. 23 As he was talking with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine from Gath named Goliath, was coming up from the army of the Philistines, and he spoke these same words; and David heard *them*.

24 When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were greatly afraid. 25 The men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to defy Israel. And it will be that the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel." 26 Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?" 27 The people answered him in accord with this word, saying, "Thus it will be done for the man who kills him." 28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger burned against David and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle." 29 But David said, "What have I done now? Was it not just a question?" 30 Then he turned away from him to another and said the same thing; and the people answered the same thing as before.

31 When the words which David spoke were heard, they told *them* to Saul, and he sent for him. 32 David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 33 Then Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are *but* a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued *it* from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized *him*

by his beard and struck him and killed him. 36 "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God." 37 And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you." 38 Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor. 39 David girded his sword over his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested *them*. So David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested {them.}" And David took them off. 40 He took his stick in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in *his* pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine.

41 Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him. 42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance. 43 The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field." 45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and 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 taunted. 46 "This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 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." 48 Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. 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. 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. 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. 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. And the slain Philistines lay along the way to Shaaraim, even to Gath and Ekron. 53 The sons of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines and plundered their camps. 54 Then David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his weapons in his tent. 55 Now when Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this young man?" And Abner said, "By your life, O king, I do not know." 56 The king said, "You inquire whose son the youth is." 57 So when David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine's head in his hand. 58 Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "*I am* the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

NRSV

1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 2 Saul and the Israelites gathered and encamped in the valley of Elah, and formed ranks against the Philistines. 3 The Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. 4 And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. 7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him. 8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. 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." 10 And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years. 13 The three eldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle; the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 David was the youngest; the three eldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. 16 For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening. 17 Jesse said to his son David, "Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers; 18 also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See how your brothers fare, and bring some token from them."

19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. 20 David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. 21 Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. 22 David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. 23 As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

24 All the Israelites, when they saw the man, fled from him and were very much afraid. 25 The Israelites said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. The king will greatly enrich the man who kills him, and will give him his daughter and make his family free in Israel." 26 David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine, and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" 27 The people answered him in the same way, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him." 28 His eldest brother Eliab heard him talking to the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David. He said, "Why have you come down? With whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart; for you have come down just to see the battle." 29 David said, "What have I done now? It was only a question." 30 He turned away from him toward another and spoke in the same way; and the people answered him again as before.

31 When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul; and he sent for him. 32 David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 33 Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. 36 Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 David said, "The Lord, who

saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you!" 38 Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. 39 David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

41 The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. 42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. 43 The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." 45 But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and 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. 46 This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand." 48 When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. 49 David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, striking down the Philistine and killing him; there was no sword in David's hand. 51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine; he grasped his sword, drew it out of its sheath, and killed him; then he cut off his head with it.

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. 52 The troops of Israel and Judah rose up with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron. 53 The Israelites came back from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. 54 David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armor in his tent. 55 When Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this young man?" Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know." 56 The king said, "Inquire whose son the stripling is." 57 On David's return from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

NLT

1 The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. 2 Saul countered by gathering his troops near the valley of Elah. 3 So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them. 4 Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was a giant of a man, measuring over nine feet tall! 5 He wore a bronze helmet and a coat of mail that weighed 125 pounds. 6 He also wore bronze leggings, and he slung a bronze javelin over his back. 7 The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed fifteen pounds. An armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a huge shield. 8 Goliath stood and shouted across to the Israelites, "Do you need a whole army to settle this? Choose someone to fight for you, and I will represent the Philistines. We will settle this dispute in single combat! 9 If your man is able to kill me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! 10 I defy the armies of Israel! Send me a man who will fight with me!" 11 When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.

12 Now David was the son of a man named Jesse, an Ephrathite from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. Jesse was an old man at that time, and he had eight sons in all. 13 Jesse's three oldest sons – Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah – had already joined Saul's army to fight the Philistines. 14 David was the youngest of Jesse's sons. Since David's three oldest brothers were in the army, they stayed with Saul's forces all the time. 15 But David went back and forth between working for Saul and helping his father with the sheep in Bethlehem. 16 For forty days, twice a day, morning and evening, the Philistine giant strutted in front of the Israelite army. 17 One day Jesse said to David, "Take this half-bushel of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread to your brothers. 18 And give these ten cuts of cheese to their captain. See how your brothers are getting along, and bring me back a letter from them. "

19 David's brothers were with Saul and the Israelite army at the valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines. 20 So David left the sheep with another shepherd and set out early the next morning with the gifts. He arrived at the outskirts of the camp just as the Israelite army was leaving for the battlefield with shouts and battle cries. 21 Soon the Israelite and Philistine forces stood facing each other, army against army. 22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies and hurried out to the ranks to greet his brothers. 23 As he was talking with them, he saw Goliath, the champion from Gath, come out from the Philistine ranks, shouting his challenge to the army of Israel.

24 As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright. 25 "Have you seen the giant?" the men were asking. "He comes out each day to challenge Israel. And have you heard about the huge reward the king has offered to anyone who kills him? The king will give him one of his daughters for a wife, and his whole family will be exempted from paying taxes!" 26 David talked to some others standing there to verify the report. "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and putting an end to his abuse of Israel?" he asked them. "Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?" 27 And David received the same reply as before: "What you have been hearing is true. That is the reward for killing the giant." 28 But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway?" he demanded. "What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and dishonesty. You just want to see the battle!" 29 "What have I done now?" David replied. "I was only asking a question!" 30 He walked over to some others and asked them the same thing and received the same answer.

31 Then David's question was reported to King Saul, and the king sent for him. 32 "Don't worry about a thing," David told Saul. "I'll go fight this Philistine!" 33 "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There is no way you can go against this Philistine. You are only a boy, and he has been in the army since he was a boy!" 34 But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, 35 I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. 36 I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! 37 The LORD who saved me from the claws of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!" Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the LORD be with you!" 38 Then Saul gave David his own armor – a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. 39 David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what

it was like, for he had never worn such things before. "I can't go in these," he protested. "I'm not used to them." So he took them off again. 40 He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them in his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across to fight Goliath.

41 Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, 42 sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. 43 "Am I a dog," he roared at David, "that you come at me with a stick?" And he cursed David by the names of his gods. 44 "Come over here, and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!" Goliath yelled. 45 David shouted in reply, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD Almighty – the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! 47 And everyone will know that the LORD does not need weapons to rescue his people. It is his battle, not ours. The LORD will give you to us!" 48 As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. 49 Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it from his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face downward to the ground. 50 So David triumphed over the Philistine giant with only a stone and sling. And since he had no sword, 51 he ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill the giant and cut off his head.

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran. 52 Then the Israelites gave a great shout of triumph and rushed after the Philistines, chasing them as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron. The bodies of the dead and wounded Philistines were strewn all along the road from Shaaraim, as far as Gath and Ekron. 53 Then the Israelite army returned and plundered the deserted Philistine camp. 54 (David took Goliath's head to Jerusalem, but he stored the Philistine's armor in his own tent.) 55 As Saul watched David go out to fight Goliath, he asked Abner, the general of his army, "Abner, whose son is he?" "I really don't know," Abner said. 56 "Well, find out!" the king told him. 57 After David had killed Goliath, Abner brought him to Saul with the Philistine's head still in his hand. 58 "Tell me about your father, my boy," Saul said. And David replied, "His name is Jesse, and we live in Bethlehem."

