

pronouns here cannot be compared with the egoism of Goliath. They must be accepted in the light of David's utter confidence in God.

- 4) "The Lord will deliver thee into mine hand . . . He will give you into our hands" (vv. 46, 47).

Conclusion God saw to it that David prevailed (v. 50). Israel pursued the Philistines (52) who fled in the face of God's intervention (v. 51).

The question rises—is there a cause in YOUR life for which you ought to depend upon the almighty intervention of the Lord? Not resting in your own strength or marshalling the combined efforts of humanity. Is it possible that your feelings have brought you to a sense of deep depression because the situation with your Philistine is too overwhelming? Say it is the problem of forgiveness. Or it might be some habit of the life. Maybe it's a personal situation which always threatened you.

Why not operate on the premise established by this chapter? In this way, the earth (world of unbelievers) will know that God really inhabits your being. Other believers (the assembly) will know that God works in your heart and not some flimsy effort of your own. God will get the glory that way. Isn't this really what you want? Then make your decision right now. Amen.

Notes:

THE BOOK OF FIRST SAMUEL

"What About Goliath?"

1 Samuel 17:1-58

Introduction

1. The story of Goliath has been a favorite with all, but its implications have not always been fully understood. It has tremendous meaning for the earnest child of God.

2. History in the Bible is really HIS Story, hence God is always making a point to which we must give heed as He records incidents in the lives of His people. Why this account is given is stated in two verses: "that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel" and "that this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's" (vv. 46,47).

3. To put it in the form of a premise, the Spirit of God enunciates this word: Everyone is to know that God is with His people and it is He Who fights for them. His people are not to trust in earthly means for triumph or success.

4. In order that this premise might be clearly and emphatically made, the Word of God marvelously shows the attitudes of three in the account. A study of these evinces the fact that the premise is true. Take time to notice these items:

1. The OPPOSITION of the Philistines.

a. Their position vv. 1-3, 19, 21.

All that the Philistines could muster were ready for battle. Some of the key phrases are these:

1) Gathered together. v. 1.

2) Pitched. v. 1.

2. The DEPRESSION of Israel.

Israel hit an all time low when Goliath challenged their forces. They had no one who would brave the battle in personal conflict with the giant. A couple of verses accent their low feelings. Here they are:

a. What they heard. v. 11.

The ears of the Israelites were tuned to hear the "words" of the Philistines. As a result, dismay and fear tackled them and brought them down. The verb for dismay is the Hebrew which means "to be broken." They were utterly terrified.

b. What they saw. v. 24.

Israel's fears were founded upon the wrong placement of their eyes. As a result, they "fled" and that verb means they "flew!" In that fleeing, they expressed their overwhelming fear. How pitiable was their plight.

Israel was a nation whose God was the Lord. They had been chosen to demonstrate His power and how wonderfully He had worked for them. But they lost out because they looked at "man" rather than the Lord. Prov. 29:25.

3. The CONVICTION of David.

More than the previous two items does this one concerning David evidence the truth of the premise previously noted. Mark how it is done by him:

a. His questions. v. 26.

Two big questions are asked by David in his concern for the honor of God:

- 1) Concerning Israel. If one were to offer to represent the nation, what would he receive? The answer is given in vv. 25, 27.

Surely such a prize would have evoked courage on the part of some!

- 2) Concerning the Philistine. Here is a direct attack on the root of the matter. Their faith was at stake. Could Israel simply stand by and not defend the glory of God? To this David himself gives a full reply (v. 29). In essence, David says, "Is there not reason to believe that with God's help victory can be gained?"

b. His illustrations. vv. 31-39.

The central phrase in this series is in v. 37: "the Lord that delivered me." David was fortified with experimental knowledge of the power and delivering hand of God. Two animals with fierce countenances could not withstand God; how could this Philistine defy the armies OF GOD (v. 36). How important are some of the apparent insignificant experiences of life. All are designed to perfect His work in our lives (Rom. 8:29).

c. His statements. vv. 38-49.

The depth with which David trusted on the Lord and His performance for him is seen in salient statements like the ones found here:

- 1) "I cannot go with these" (v. 39). Nothing which gave evidence of help from man could be utilized.
- 2) "I come to thee in the Name of the Lord of hosts" (v. 45). Should any suggest that he trusted in sling and stones, this statement would undo that thought.
- 3) "I will smite thee . . . I will take thee . . . I will give (v. 46). The personal