

David and Goliath



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“Simply told”
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In the ancient lands of Israel, a great conflict brewed between the Israelites and the Philistines. The Philistines, formidable in their might, had among them a giant named Goliath from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He was clad in armor, his bronze helmet upon his head and a coat of mail weighing five thousand shekels. He stood before the Israelite army, his voice booming across the valley, challenging them to send a warrior to fight him.

For forty days, Goliath taunted the Israelite's, his challenge unanswered, for they were all filled with great fear. Meanwhile, David, a young shepherd boy, was sent by his father Jesse to bring provisions to his brothers in the army. When David arrived at the camp, he heard Goliath's defiant cries and saw the fear in the eyes of the soldiers.



Surprised by their dismay, David spoke to the men around him, inquiring what would be done for the one who defeated this Philistine and removed the disgrace from Israel. They told him of the king's promises: riches and the hand of his daughter in marriage. But more importantly, David was struck by the dishonor Goliath's challenge brought to the living God of Israel.



As word of David's interest reached King Saul, he sent for him. Despite Saul's doubts, given David's youth and lack of battle experience, David persuaded Saul to let him fight Goliath, recounting his previous encounters defending his flock from lions and bears.



Saul, moved by David's faith in God, agreed and offered him his own armor, which David tried but decided against, as he was not accustomed to it. Instead, armed only with his staff, sling, and five smooth stones he picked from a stream, David approached Goliath.



As the giant loomed over him with shield and spear, he mocked David and cursed him by his gods. But David, undeterred, replied, "You come to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied."



With the faith of his words bolstering him, David placed a stone in his sling and swung it. The stone flew, striking Goliath squarely in the forehead, sinking into his skull, and he fell face down to the ground. David then ran and stood upon the Philistine, took Goliath's own sword, and cut off his head.



The Philistines fled in terror upon seeing their champion defeated, and the Israelites pursued them with great shouts and victory. Thus, the shepherd boy who trusted in God became a hero and a symbol of faith and courage, his story echoing through the ages.

