David and Goliath

1 Samuel 16:14 – 17:58
by Don Falkos
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The Spirit of the Lord had been taken from Saul and he became subject to bouts of despondency. On these occasions, David was brought in to play the harp for Saul to sooth him.

The Philistine and Israelite armies were encamped opposite each other in the Valley of Elah. Goliath, a Philistine warrior who was over nine feet tall, shouted across to the Israelites, "Send someone out to fight me. If he kills me, we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves." He issued this taunt every morning and every evening for forty days. The Israelites were terrified.

But when David heard him, he went before Saul and said, "I will fight this Philistine. I am a shepherd. When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from my flock, I go after it and kill it. The Lord who has rescued me from the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!"

Saul consented.

David picked up five smooth stones from a stream and armed only with his shepherd's staff and his sling he started across the valley to fight the Philistine. Goliath sneered in contempt, "Am I a dog that you come at me with a stick?"

David replied, "This is the Lord's battle, and the Lord will give us victory over you."

David ran out toward Goliath. He hurled a stone with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. Goliath fell to the ground. David ran over, pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath, and used it to kill him and cut off his head. The Philistine army turned and ran away, pursued by the Israelites. David was taken before Saul. He was still holding the Philistine's head in his hand.