

David's Song of Celebration

Psalm 151 (Deuterocanonical)

by Don Falkos

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After David had fought in single combat with Goliath, he wrote an autobiographical song in celebration:

I was the youngest of my father's sons. I was smaller than any of my brothers. Yet my father entrusted me with the task of watching over his flocks. And while I tended my father's sheep, I met a lion, and a wolf came seeking its dinner. I killed them both and tore them to pieces.

With my own hands I have fashioned a lyre. Through my music I have poured out my soul, giving glory to the Lord. The trees have bent their ears to my words, and the flocks have cherished my songs.

Who can proclaim the deeds of the Lord? Who can give evidence for the works of God? Who can recount the Lord's accomplishments? Who? The Lord alone! Only the Lord has seen everything, heard everything, and taken notice of it all.

The Lord sent his prophet, Samuel, who took me away from my father's sheep. My brothers were there, tall and handsome, but God was not pleased with them. Instead the Lord chose me to rule over the people of Israel, and Samuel anointed me as their leader. And the spirit of God came upon me.

Then I saw a Philistine shouting defiantly at the army of Israel. I went out to meet him, and he cursed me by the names his false gods. By the power of the Lord I slung three stones at him, struck him in the middle of his forehead, and laid him out on the ground. I drew the Philistine's sword and beheaded him, ending the disgrace he had brought on the people of Israel.