

Is There Not A Cause?

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[0 : 00] Amen. Stand in your Bibles with me, if you will, to 1 Samuel chapter 17.

! Very familiar passage of Scripture to you.! This has been a favorite of many a young boy in Sunday school from eons past.

But we want to take a look at that today because I think it's quite appropriate in some of the things that we see and hear of going on in this present day and time.

This is a really frustrating time, difficult time, for the kingdom of Israel. A number of things have taken place. Let's recall that they had at one point come before God and said, We want to be just like everybody else.

We want an earthly king. We're just not satisfied with God ruling and reigning over us in everything. So we want to have an earthly king just like everybody else.

[1 : 12] So God granted their request, warned them what would happen when that takes place. But he went ahead and acquiesced and gave them a king. Then the character of that king came to light throughout the years through the things that he did and mostly through the disobedience toward God that came.

And then eventually God then renders the kingdom from Saul. And there was a good period of time after he mentioned that he was taking that away from him before that actually happened.

David was the favorite of God then to pick up after Saul. He is known as a man after God's own heart. So God separates him as king of Israel, though his actual taking of the throne will be much later.

And then the Philistines now, once again, the arch enemies of God, have captured at one point the Ark of the Covenant. That instrument by which God manifests his presence among his covenant nation.

And now that Ark has been captured by the Philistines and it is no longer in their presence. And so we find in 1 Samuel chapter 17, that once again, Israel and the Philistines are in battle array against each other.

[2 : 43] Here at the Valley of Elah, they come together. And as they, on each side of that valley, one army on one side, the Israel on the other side, that valley in between, all of a sudden there comes out from among the ranks of the Philistines a giant of a man named Goliath.

And he has, he has within him power and strength, defiance, arrogance, and everything you can imagine.

And he comes out into that valley to defy the God and the armies of Israel. And so pick up with me, though, in verse number 15 of 1 Samuel 17.

Then we'll back up some more and we'll get into what we see here. So stand together with me, if you will, as we honor God's Word and begin in verse number 15 of 1 Samuel 17.

That's, of course, Goliath.

[4 : 01] Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the valley of Elah fighting with the Philistines.

And David rose up early in the morning, left his sheep with a keeper, and took and went as Jesse commanded him. And he came to the trench, or the encampment, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.

For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.

And as he talked with him, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words.

And David heard them. And all of the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and they were sore afraid. And the men of Israel said, Have you seen this man that has come up?

[5 : 24] Surely to defy Israel is he come up. And it shall be that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel?

For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? And the people answered him after this matter, saying, So it shall be done to the man that killeth him.

And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David. And he said, Why camest thou down hither?

And with whom hast thou left these few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart. For thou art come down, that thou mightest see the battle.

[6 : 26] And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause? Now the true rendering of that is more so, What have I done now?

Was this just not a good question? A perfect question here? A harmless question? But when you see the defiance of Goliath and the weakness of Saul, you kind of put those two together.

And I think King James has a good rendering here. Yeah, it's a harmless question, but wasn't there a cause here? Isn't there a good reason to ask the question? And we'll look at that in just a moment.

Pray with me if you will. Father, thank you again for your loving kindness. Thank you for your goodness. And for your grace in the day that allows us to come and worship you and to hear from you in your word this morning.

So I do ask that you speak to us. That, Father, your word would become real to our hearts and our minds today. And that we will know specifically what you have to say to us, both individually and collectively as your church.

[7 : 34] So, Lord, give us then that grace to respond in obedience to what you say to us. And we'll thank you for it in Jesus' name. Amen. Thank you.

And be seated. Now, notice, if you will, the statue of this great man called Goliath. Over in the first part of chapter 17, in verse number 4, there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

And he had a helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.

And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron, and one bearing a shield went before him.

What a man this guy was in stature. Notice what it says with me, if you will. His height's a little over nine foot tall, between nine and ten foot tall.

[8 : 45] That's a pretty good basketball player. Amen. If he had any speed, he'd make a great lineman. Amen. Now, in football, not basketball, in football. All right.

Nine foot, nine inches thereabouts. He had a coat of mail. You remember that metal weaved vest-type thing, or sweater-type thing he put on?

That thing weighed 156 pounds. The staff that he had, it says, was like a weaver's beam. That beam that they wove that cloth and fabric around, that's the size of that spear, the staff of his spear. The weight of the head of that spear, it was made out of iron, was 18 pounds. And then someone else went before him and carried his shield.

What a structure of a human being here. But I want you to notice also the brazen speech that he had. He comes out from amongst the armies of the Philistines into that valley all by himself.

[9 : 50] I can imagine he just kind of stands right in the middle of that. And look at verse number 8. Here's what he says. Why would you engage in battle with us?

Talking to the army of Israel. Why would you do such a thing? Why would you engage in battle? I am Goliath, the Philistine of Geth, the man who represents the strength of the Philistines.

And you, as for you, you're only simply servants of Saul. If you have heroes or champions, choose one out that we may decide the matter in a single combat.

And then in verse 9 he says, If I defeat you, you become our servants and slaves. You'll serve us. If you defeat us, then we will serve you.

We'll be your servants. And verse 10. I have mocked the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man that we might fight together.

[10 : 55] Now the Aramaic translation of the Old Testament adds a lot to that speech of Goliath. Here's what it says. This is what they write that says, this is the speech or the words of Goliath.

He said, What has he done?

What a statement.

What defiance. And really what arrogance there is here in this man. Now, David has followed the instructions of his father. David, the youngest brother, has stayed behind to feed the sheep and take care of them.

His older brothers, three older brothers, have gone to battle with Saul. Dad says, David, I want you to go and take some food, some corn and some bread to your brothers.

[12 : 41] And take some cheese for the captain of their army. And then I want you to see how they're doing. See if there's anything that they need. And check out the affairs.

See who it is they're fellowshipping with and doing things with. And see if there's anything that they've done or bought that we need to redeem. Just check on them.

And so David does that. He goes like an obedient son. And so as he comes then, the army of Israel is getting ready to go to battle with the Philistines.

And they're, you know, like they do like they get in a huddle, you know. You know, they're psyching themselves up and they're ready to go. And that's what the army's doing.

And all of a sudden, David sees this giant of a man come out from the armies of the Philistines. And then he hears the words that he has rehearsed in the ears of the army of Israel for 40 days.

[13 : 43] Why are you set in battle array? I'm the giant. I am the strength, if you will, of the Philistines.

If you have any champions, send him out and we'll do battle. In other words, he's saying, I'll grind him to dust. He has no chance.

And all of the army of Israel is frightened. And David sees that. And one of the men says, do you hear what this guy says?

And he said, the king has promised whoever can slay this man and remove this reproach from Israel, he'll make him rich, give him riches. He'll give him a daughter to marry.

And he'll make sure that his father's household is now tax exempt. Well, that's a good deal. Amen. Yeah, no property taxes. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

[14 : 41] And David said, what is it that the king said would be done for the guy that kills him? And he hears that again.

And notice what he says with me, if you will. What is it that the man says? That the king would do to the man that takes away the reproach?

Then he says, I love this. Then he says, who is this uncircumcised Philistine? Who is this guy?

Who does he think that he is? His eldest brother hears all of this, and he comes and says, David, what in the world are you doing? You've just come here to see the bloodshed in the battle.

Who's back there? Who have you left the sheep with? As if to say, you just go home. David said, oh, it's a harmless question. It's a harmless question.

[15 : 46] Is there not a cause? Now, King Saul hears the words of David, sends for him, and David comes to King Saul and says, David said to Saul, verse 32, let no man's heart fail him because of him.

The servant, thy servant, will go and fight with this Philistine. Now, Saul said to David, thou art not able to go against this Philistine and fight with him, for you're but just a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

David said unto Saul, thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion and a bear, and took a lamb out of his flock. And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth.

And when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear, and this uncircumcised Philistine, shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

I love David. Amen? He's got to be a scrappy, little, young, small-statured, redhead, fair-complexion boy. Amen? Yeah.

[17 : 13] In fact, that's what the Scripture, it didn't say redhead, but kind of alludes to it. Now, again, who's this uncircumcised Philistine? What's that mean? Well, it means he's not in any relationship with God.

He's a foreigner when it comes to the commonwealth of God and the commonwealth of Israel. Who does he think he is? Define the living God and his armies.

Now, I slew the bear, slew the lion, and I will do the same thing to this Philistine. Look at verse 37. The Lord, David said, moreover, the Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of the Philistine. And Saul said unto David, go, and Jehovah be with thee.

Oh, that we had some men and women like David today who would stick their fists in the face of the enemies of the cause of Christ and say, I'm not going to let you get away with that.

[18 : 21] How dare you defy God, the God of heaven, the God of Israel, and the God of the church? How dare you do that?

Is there not a cause? Jesus had said, or does say later, upon this rock, who Jesus is, I will be building my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Literally, the power, authority, throne, and dignity of the infernal kingdom shall not stand up against the church. The songwriter had it right when he said, stand up, stand up for Jesus.

Ye soldiers of the cross, lift high his royal banner. It must not suffer loss. From victory unto victory his army shall he lead, till every foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.

My question today is, where is that mighty church going forward? Where is it in our life today? Now, look at David's confrontation, fearless confrontation with this giant.

[19 : 54] King Saul tries to put his armor and weapons on David, and David says, I just cannot do that. I can't use these. I've never tried them before.

So he takes them all off. And then verse 40, He took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, which he had, even in a scrip.

And a sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. And the Philistines came on and drew near unto David, and the man that bared the shield went before him.

And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, and ready, and a fair countenance.

And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

[21 : 00] And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field. Then David said to the Philistine, Thou comest 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, Jehovah of hosts, the God or the Elohim of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand, and I will smite thee and take thine head from thee, and I will give the carcasses of the hosts of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth.

Now look at the next phrase. That all the earth, everyone, including the Philistines, may know that there is an Elohim, a God in Israel.

And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear, for the battle is Jehovah's, and he will give you into our hands.

The courage, the boldness, the fearlessness of David, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

[22 : 32] Later on, Elijah says the same thing as he deals with Ahab on Mount Carmel, you remember. The ordeal there with the altar and the sacrifice, and whoever's God consumes that sacrifice, he will be God.

It becomes Elijah's turn, and Elijah goes and he prays. And it came to pass in verses 36-37 to 1 Kings 18, came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, Lord God of Abraham, of Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that Thou art God in Israel, that I am Thy servant, and that I have done all these things at Thy word.

Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that Thou art Jehovah Elohim, and that Thou has turned their heart back again.

That the world may know that there is a God. In this case, there is a God in Israel. Now, people may reject it, others may deny it, and some may even disbelieve it, but nevertheless, the fact remains,

there is a God in heaven.

There is. He's there. And it's to Him that all of us will stand before and one day give an account of our lives.

[24 : 11] There is a God in heaven. The psalmist in Psalm 14, I think it may even be David, in Psalm 14, one said, the fool hath said in his heart, there is no God.

I like the way the Amplified put it. It says, the empty-headed fool has said in his heart, there is no God. Now, in scriptural language, the heart, of course, is the center of where we make our choices, but it also is the center of our thinking.

It's the fool that has said in his heart. The fool, the Hebrew word *nebel*, is not content with acting as though there were no God, but directly denies the reality of God, in essence, especially a personal God.

The psalmist then, as he writes this, sees this as the very extreme in the depth of human depravity, the mere idea that anyone can deny the reality of the existence of God.

God. Thus, Isaiah, in the 32nd chapter and 6th verse of his prophecy, describes that nabal, or the fool, by saying, a simpleton, that is a nabal, speaks simpleness, and his heart does godless things to practice tricks and to say foolish things against Jehovah, to leave the soul of the hungry empty and refuse drink to the thirsty.

[25 : 51] The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. Folks, don't ever trust your heart. Don't trust your heart.

Jeremiah tells us not to do that in his prophecy in chapter 17, verse 9. He says, the heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly perverse or desperately wicked and corrupt and severely mortally sick.

Who can know it? Who can perceive it, understand it, and be acquainted with his own heart and mind? Who can do that? Nobody. That's why God goes on and says, I, the Lord, try the heart and mind.

Now, the heart is deceitful. Who can know it? More cunning than all else. It comes from the Word to deal treacherously.

Then it is perverse. It's wicked. Literally, dangerously sick, incurable, and it's wounded by sin, corrupted, and depraved. So, who can know it?

[26 : 55] Who can fathom its nature and corruptness? Thus, a man must not trust the suggestions and illusions of his own heart. How many of us here today, I include myself, every day in the morning, go stand in the mirror and look at yourself and say, boy, I'm good.

Amen? I've got such a good, kind, compassionate, loving heart and fail to see the corruption and the perversion within that heart because of the natural man that is still within us.

Now, the character of David is seen in his obedience to his father. You remember, his father told him to go and see about your brothers.

He didn't know what all was going to take place here. But his character, David's character, is seen and brought out through that obedience. That obedience brought out true courage, true boldness, and true faith within David.

All the actions that David does here, notice, all the actions that he does when he hears Goliath and responds to all of that, that response is a natural response for David in lieu of the character that he has built within him.

[28 : 17] His boldness, his faith, his courage, all those things. Those are the things that I think as Father Jesse developed within him.

Jesse developed courage in his son, and that courage was founded upon truth, two basic truths. truth about who he, David, was.

He was the son of Jesse. Jesse was a godly man. He was a man of God. He knew, David knew, he was Jesse's son. But he also knew that he also belonged to God.

That courage was based on the knowledge of who God was. and how then he related himself to God. So, David's boldness then stood in defense of God and his integrity.

In verses 41 through 46, we notice something here. Look there with me if you will. Chapter 17, verses 41 through 46. The Philistine came on and drew near unto David, and the man that bare the shield went before him.

[29 : 40] And when the Philistine looked about, saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth and ruddy and fair complexion. We saw that a minute ago. Philistine said unto David, Am I a

dog that thou comest to me with staves?

The Philistine cursed David by his God. Again, go down to verse number 45, the last part. I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

This day the Lord will deliver me into your hand, and I'll smite thee and take thine head from thee, and I will give thee the carcasses of the hosts of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air.

No, take notice of that if you will. David doesn't just say, I'm going to give your carcass to the birds and the fowls and all of those things. He said, I'm going to give the carcasses to the hosts of the Philistines.

In other words, all the army of the Philistines, I'm going to feed their carcasses to the birds and the beasts. Utter victory here, conquering the armies of the Philistines.

[30 : 52] And again, the reason being in the last part of verse 46, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Now, in verse number 47, then, David's faith expressed the power of God.

In verse 47, all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's.

It's Jehovah's. And He will give you into our hands. The psalmist in Psalm 44, verses 4 through 8, say, Thou art my King, O God.

Command deliverances for Jacob. Through Thee will we push down our enemies. Through Thy name will we tread them unto that rise up against us. For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me.

But Thou hast saved us from our enemies. Thou hast put them to shame that hated us. In God we boast all day long and praise Thy name forever.

[32 : 09] While Goliath boasted upon his strength and his size, his ability, David found that his assurance, his assurance of victory lies simply upon the Almighty God of Israel, that same God that Goliath defied.

Now, Israel has a God. They have an Elohim and that God is Jehovah. Realize, war is His.

He is the Lord of war, if you can, if you will. The one who both has war and its results within His power.

Amen? How many times when we see things taking place that we just get so irritated at, we just want to get up and go and do something?

Amen? Yeah. I don't know, but I do every once in a while. and my wife just looks at me and gives me the look and I calm down.

[33 : 13] Amen? The thing we have to recognize is the same thing David does. This battle is not ours. It belongs to God. Now, that does not mean we're to be passive in the matter, but it means that we've got to be sensitive to the direction and leadership of the Spirit of God and to how He wants to utilize our lives in the midst of a battle.

It's God's battle, but we're His instruments to fight that battle, if you will. Now, God is the ruler.

In Psalm 33, verses 12 through 15, I'm going to start with verse 10. The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to naught. He maketh the thoughts and plans of the peoples of no effect.

The counsel of the Lord stands forever. The thoughts of His heart through all generations. Blessed, that's happy, fortunate, to be envied, is the nation whose God is the Lord, whose God is Jehovah, the people He has chosen as His heritage.

The Lord looks from heaven. He beholds all the sons of men. From His dwelling place, He looks intently upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

[34 : 38] He who fashions the heart of them all, who considers all their doings. You see, He's the ruler. Nothing escapes His heart and His mind.

He possesses infinite awareness, understanding, and insight, nothing done in secret, nothing hidden from Him, especially those things that are done against the people of God.

Oh yeah, things may get more difficult as the days go along here for the church of God, the true people of God. But do not despair, amen? Don't get so irritated that you lose sight of the fact that God is God and He knows it all.

nothing escapes His thoughts, nothing escapes His sight or His hearing, especially those things that transpire from the world against His own people.

Now, great assurance is given to us in Psalm 33 in verses 16 and following. I want you to see that with me if you want to turn there.

[35 : 50] 33rd Psalm. verse 16. No king is saved by the great size and power of his army.

A mighty man is not delivered by his much strength, Goliath. A horse is devoid of value for victory, neither does he deliver any by his great power.

Behold, the Lord's eye is upon those who fear Him, who revere and worship Him with awe, who wait for Him and hope in His mercy and loving kindness, to deliver them from death and to keep them alive in famine.

Our inner selves wait earnestly for the Lord. He is our help and our shield. that's the hope that the believer has in the reality that we are related to God the Father through our faith and trust in Christ Jesus.

For in Him does our heart rejoice, He goes on, because we have trusted, we've relied on and been confident in His holy name.

[37 : 07] So let your mercy and loving kindness, O Lord, be upon us in proportion to our waiting and hoping for You. Catch that last verse. Let your mercy and loving kindness, O Lord, be upon us in proportion to our waiting and hoping for You.

Don't lose hope in it. Stay firm in your relationship with God. Stay firm in your trust in Him. Stay firm in your hope in Him.

And He will eagerly award and reward that faithfulness. So, again, the fact remains, there is a God in heaven.

And it's before Him that all of us one day will stand to give an account. To the unbeliever, it's going to be that great white throne judgment.

judgment. When the books are opened, and the Scripture says men will be judged out of those books according to their deeds or according to their works. And then for the believer, the Apostle Paul says, for we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account.

[38 : 31] We've always got to keep that before our minds and our thinking. The day is going to come when we stand before Him.

And when we stand before Him, whether we're saved or unsaved, we're going to give an account of our lives. For the believer, I truly believe, it's how much we have done to be sure that the will of God for our lives specifically has been fulfilled.

Because God's got a will for us. He's got specifically things He wants to accomplish through our life and through our living. We will answer to that one day.

What have I done? How faithfully have I allowed that to be accomplished in my life? For the unbeliever, it will be whether or not the name's written in the Lamb's book of life.

And if He's standing there at the great white throne judgment, His name won't be there. Because that's why He's there. And He then, the Scripture says in Revelation 20 with the others, will be cast into the lake of fire forever and ever.

[39 : 45] Again in 2 Corinthians chapter 5 in verse 10, the apostle says, For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Then in verse 11, Knowing therefore, believers, knowing therefore the terror of the Lord. You know, knowing what it's going to be like to stand before a holy and righteous God with sin in our lives, knowing the terror of the Lord, we then persuade men.

I think more so, he's talking here about the idea that there will be unbelievers that stand before God and the terror that will be there will be tremendous.

So, he's urging believers here to reach out and bring the gospel message of saving grace to the unsaved so they will not have to face the terror of the Lord.

You know, John in his epistle says, perfect love casts out all fear. That's why he's talking about having the love of God for us and us having the love of God for Him.

[41 : 12] Because if we love God with the same love God loves us, there is no terror when it comes to the time of standing before Him. Amen? Yeah.

How many of you, when you were in... Now, some of you are going to have to think back a while. When you were in grade school, one of the biggest fears you had was the day the report cards came out.

Amen? Yeah. And the teacher handed you, it was usually a lot of times in a little envelope, handed you that report card to take home to Mom and Dad.

and you kind of slid it open there. Oh, I've got to take this to Mom and Dad. What am I going to do?

You had to take it to them because they had to sign the bottom of it so that the teacher would know that they did see it and knew what was going on.

[42 : 18] You couldn't hide that. Such fear. I hated that. I really did. When we stand before the Lord, there should be no fear in our hearts as we stand before Him.

We should be able to stand before Him with a great loving smile of adoration on our face and in our countenance looking straight in the eye and hope to hear Him say, well done thou good and faithful servant.

Yeah. Folks, we need to persuade men of the reality of who God is, that He is a God and He is in heaven and He knows the affairs of men and He knows our lives.

and that one day we will all stand before Him and give an account. But the joyous news is that He sent a son to pay the penalty for that sin so that we can all stand before Him with that smile on our face and hear Him say, well done.

I'm going to take this out. Is there not a cause? Yes, there is.