

# Goliath Must Fall pt 1: Do I have a Giant?

**-structure of this:** messages will be related to the groups but we will not cover on Sundays what is covered in the groups,,,, YOU NEED BOTH

**-fear, rejection, comfort/ complacency, anger , addiction ,,, (so much more)**

these things can torment us, beat us down,,, make our lives so much less than God intended,,, we will be looking at how to bring these giants down and find freedom.

-in here we will be more at the 30,000 ft level with the WHY's,,, the groups will be more at ground level with the WHAT'S

## Intro:

-David and Goliath is one of the most iconic stories in the Bible

-most are at least loosely familiar

-almost world wide people would understand what you meant by saying *"it was a real david and Goliath situation"*

-INCASE you are not familiar here is the QUICK VERSION..... (tell david and goliath)

**-stories that have been around forever can feel like fairytales**

-but **this event really took place** ,,,, about a thousand years before Jesus

-400 year before David and this story, The Israelites had come out of Egyptian Slavery as FREE PEOPLE

-God led them to Canaan and commanded them to defeat and drive out the people who lived there

**-they basically did that,,,, but not completely. (map picture)**

-When they got down in the south to the area known as Judah they stopped short of driving out a bunch of people called Philistines

-they were not all that interested in the land the Philistines occupied

-mostly mountainous hill country

-the philistines were not a big bother to them right now

**-so Israel let the philistines be**

-Quite a few Generations passed and Israel now had an actual King, they were established as a nation and growing more powerful

-The philistines were becoming more and more a problem, they were growing more numerous and more powerful

**-it became clear that both groups could not both be there long term**

-The Philistines came to make their stand

*-originally lived over in the hills by the coast,,, but the last few generations have been encroaching further and further into JUDAH, establishing cities*

*(map picture)*

-Look at the Political, Social, and geographical realities here

-Philistines only posses about 1/5 of the land area Israel does

-The philistines have 7 cities,,, the Israelites have over 30 cities

- The Israelites were united and organized in under 1 king with a unified agenda
- the Philistines had no unified power structure, but were loyal to their city.

-If Israel had taken the threat of the Philistines seriously and united all their strength to deal with the problem once and for all, they would have won quickly.

-1 Samuel 17:1- (common English bible) The Philistines assembled their troops for war at Socoh of Judah. (name of Socoh is significant because it is a Philistine city in Judah, that land should belong to Israel, it was given to them and they were told to clear it and possess it, but they allowed Philistines to remain). They camped between Socoh and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. 2 Saul and the Israelite army assembled and camped in the Elah Valley, where they got organized to fight the Philistines. 3 The Philistines took positions on one hill while Israel took positions on the opposite hill. There was a valley between them.

4 A champion named Goliath from Gath came out from the Philistine camp. He was more than nine feet tall. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore bronze scale-armor weighing one hundred twenty-five pounds. 6 He had bronze plates on his shins, and a bronze scimitar hung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was as strong as the bar on a weaver's loom, and its iron head weighed fifteen pounds. His shield-bearer walked in front of him.

8 He stopped and shouted to the Israelite troops, "Why have you come and taken up battle formations? I am the Philistine champion, and you are Saul's servants. Isn't that right? Select one of your men, and let him come down against me. 9 If he is able to fight me and kill me, then we will become your slaves, but if I overcome him and kill him, then you will become our slaves and you will serve us. 10 I insult Israel's troops today!" The Philistine continued, "Give me an opponent, and we'll fight!" 11 When Saul and all Israel heard what the Philistine said, they were distressed and terrified.

## **Point: Israel was supposed to destroy and drive out the enemy, but the enemy is proposing terms for compromise.**

-2 Reasons God told Israel not to make compromises with the inhabitants of Canaan.

- 1. if the inhabitants remained, Israel would be negatively impacted by their influence
  - this happened again and again,,, Israel would adopt the sinful practices of their neighbors rather than the influence working the other way
  - why does that tend to happen?*

***Influence gravity: downward influence can be effortless, but influencing up requires deliberate focus.*** (you can fall without trying but climbing takes effort)

- 2. what is allowed to remain does not stay confined to where you leave it
  - the Philistines were becoming a problem because they were not staying up in the hills where they had been,,, they were spreading out and taking on more area

***-we may have habits, tendencies, or emotional hangups that,,,,, RIGHT NOW,,,,,, don't control major parts of our lives, (or maybe years ago it didn't) but if they remain over time they will grow and have more and more impact in our lives.***

- fear and anxiety may only be an occasional issue now
- that improper use of alcohol,,, or pills,,, that high that takes the edge off,,, or helps you cope
- those things may ***stay in their place now, but if left to remain, they will take up more***
  - 3-400 years earlier the Philistines were left alone because they were just crazy hillbillies
  - now they have 7 cities and are a MAJOR issue in Judah

-Maybe you are here today and your life is MOSTLY under control and MOSTLY positive, but there is that one thing that you don't really like to talk about.

-maybe like the Israelites most of the country is in your control

-but there is this area where enemies linger

-maybe it is even like this situation,,,, maybe they have a GIANT

-(map picture) Israel had cleared all *this* why would they not have gone ahead and cleared it all????

**-What if we are not that different than Israel? What if we have little areas of our lives where enemies impose their will on us.**

-In the 3-400 years following the conquering of the land, what was just a small inconsequential band of mountain people has turned into a real threat.

**Point: The Longer Issues Remain, the harder they are to Root Out.**

-Generations earlier when the Jews settled their lands, I am sure they planned to come back and finish getting rid of the Philistines.

-it was getting cold, winter was coming

-i gotta get home and plant seeds so that I will have a harvest in the spring

**-no need to be DRASTIC about it.....**

-Then the next season came and they were busy:

-a wedding to plan

-then a honey moon. -then a baby was on the way

-then they were raising kids.....

-They just never got back out there to deal with those Philistines.

**-That is what happens to us.** We tell ourselves that we are going to get serious and just do whatever it takes to deal with that issue, but *life is going on*, we are busy, and that just seems so drastic.

-we get used to that thing being there

-those around us just accept that this is part of who we are

-We get to where it is normal to have **ENEMIES MULTIPLYING WITHIN OUR BORDERS.** (*fear, anger, compulsive behaviors, addictions, multiplying, taking up more and more territory*)

## **-Once we start accepting things in our lives that hurt us, we also start developing strategies for compartmentalizing.**

- its ok as long as my parents don't know
- its ok as long as my wife, or husband doesn't find out
- as long as the boss doesn't know,,,,, everybody does this...
- we can do it as long as the kids don't see it or don't know what it is
- its ok as long as my church friends don't know

*-story about driving past the park to my city house*

-If you have to carefully frame what parts of your life get shared with what people; it is entirely possible that you have ENEMIES MULTIPLYING WITHIN YOUR BORDERS.

- you might have a nuisance that is growing into a threat**
- you may not consider it a giant now,,,, but Goliath was NOT BORN 9 ft TALL**

*-The problem with allowing enemies to grow is that Giants are demoralizing.*

- when Israel lined up for battle they should have been confident, they had the advantage
- but they would come to the battle line on top of the hill

**-then they see it,,, they feel the ground shake as he walks,,,**

- they have never seen a man so large in real life
- his voice sounds like a pack of bears eating harley davidsons while they are running
- he issues his challenge and
- every man's heart turns to wax and his knees to jello
- How could anyone beat HIM??? HE IS A GIANT

-By the time an issue grows to giant status in your life, you have given in and been defeated by it so many times, that you look at it the way those soldiers looked at Goliath.....

- maybe you have tried and failed to get this thing out of your life so many times that you think it is impossible
- I will never be able to quit: drinking so much,,,, getting high,,, giving in to anger,, being consumed with worry,,,,,. Or maybe you think you will never defeat this eating disorder.....
- that is how the soldiers felt.....

## **Question: How do we know when we have a Giant?**

-what is a giant: stronghold, habit, addiction, pattern, something we have come to see as just PART OF WHO WE ARE

-we started off in the drivers seat but now this thing calls the shots, it is capable of imposing its will on us,,, we no longer necessarily initiate it

**-that is when you have a giant**

*-anything can become a giant: comfort and complacency,,,,, fear / anxiety,,,,, binge eating,,,,, alcoholism,,,,, out of control anger,,,,, materialism,,,,, spending for pleasure. — — — — — we start off using these things but eventually the leash gets turned around. (the dog starts walking US!)*

*-“sin will take you further than want to go, it will keep you longer than you want to stay and it will cost you more than you are willing to pay”*

-Romans 6:15-16 Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! 16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

**-Goliath is now dictating the terms to the Israelites in THEIR OWN LAND**

**-Even though Israel has the military advantage, Goliath dictated the terms:**

*-he is so bold as to say “HERE ARE THE RULES:,,, just send one to represent and I will represent us,,,, if I win, you will be our slaves,,, if you win we will be your slaves*

**-Why are they even considering this?**

-their fear has caused them to believe that Goliath is in control of this exchange.

*-willing to accept whatever they get*

*-maybe the prospect of what slave labor could do for them has them curious*

*-“even though this contradicts what God told us,,, maybe we can make this work, why destroy the philistines, why not beat the giant and keep them as slaves”*

**-How often do we fall for allowing things to remain in our lives because we think, “if I can keep this under control it will serve a purpose”**

*-if I can make this giant my servant, think of the fun, or comfort, pleasure, or just the ability to numb the pain*

*-it will work,,,,,, IF I CAN KEEP IT TAME,,,,,, IF I CAN MAKE IT SERVE ME*

*-For whatever reason this ONE MAN who is part of a MINORITY clan is dictating to God's people what should be done, on their own land.*

**-When our issues begin to to reorder our lives, we have a giant.**

*-when people in your life confront that issue and you let those people go rather than dealing with the issue,,,,, YOU HAVE A GIANT*

*-when you begin mentally planning your day around getting another pill, or another drink you have a giant*

- when your fear or anger begin to dictate to you how you act or what you will or will not do,,,,, you have a giant
- when you are planning how to sneak the things you bought into your house and life without tipping off your spouse, you have a giant
- when you wont do anything new, or worthwhile because you are comfortable just how you are, ,, you have a giant,,,,,,,

**-You see how that works? You see how that giant is reordering your life? (calling the shots ,,,, dictating)**

-See, anytime you have one area that should be a little area of life but it seems to have all these ripple effects that touch every other area, it is quite possible you have a Giant beginning to throw its weight around.

*-Some of us are asking: “is this a giant or is it just a nuisance”?*

-Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

-If we are asking “*is it actually a giant*” it probably shows that we have the wrong intention.

-If you are asking “is this a giant” you are really asking “**is this bad enough yet that I need to take care of it**”

-all nuisances left to grow will turn into Giants,,, and the longer they grow the harder it is to kill them

-so if we are wondering if \_\_\_\_\_ actually qualifies as a giant, you should just go ahead and set your sites on killing it.

-its a hinderance. -its an entanglement. -or its a giant

-with any of these the issue is that it is keeping you from running the race God mapped out for you,,, or its slowing you down

**God has set you Free, do not accept anything less for your life.**

-When God freed the Israelites from Egyptian Slavery and decimated Egypt, he lead them through a wilderness and into a land with giants and fortified cities.

-he empowered them to win impossible victories and achieve a power that was legendary

-everywhere they went, the fame of the victories of the God of Israel went ahead of them

-everyone knew about this band of slaves who had toppled the greatest empire of their age,,,,, and then wiped out fortified cities like Jericho without swinging a sword

-they defeated Armies HUNDREDS of times their size

-They walked right into a land that had been built up and made rich and beautiful by the people who had lived there.

-they harvested fields they didn't plant

-they occupied homes and cities they didn't build

-Imagine going from slavery to a life of such FREEDOM and BLESSING!

*-but for the last few generations it has been conflict, oppression, issues, and a growing enemy threat*

-Here they are on a Field of Decision: would they rediscover the life of Freedom and Blessing God had already given them?

**-How they respond to this giant will determine the answer to that question.**

***-slavery and destruction or freedom and blessing,,,,,, the choice is bound up in their response to Goliath***

**(colton)**

-The same is true for us:

-will you go on this journey, will you let God make clear to you what the giants in your life are?

-will you recognize the things that are mocking you, demoralizing you

-the things that are keeping you from the FREEDOM and BLESSING God intends for you

-Join a group as we talk about what it looks like to invite Jesus up to the battle line to be your David.

-invite him bring your giant to the ground

-This isn't going to be another one of those pep talks: do better , try harder.....

-we are going to talk about a real hope for FREEDOM

-Jesus will be the your David,,,, He will be the Hero in this story,,,, **He will set you free,,, you just have to allow him into the story, and onto that battle field, and then follow his lead.**

-join a group and be with us each week.

*(response: everyone reach out and take an envelope or connection card,,,, write the name of whatever giants are at work in your life,,,,, drop in the buckets*

*=you are telling Jesus on them,,,, you are giving HIM his battle assignment*