

The Kings and I

Lesson 2: The Kingdom Takes Shape

TEACHING NOTES

David and Goliath

❖ David and Goliath

- Paradigm for O.T. Interpretation (each week also look at how to read History)
- Turn to **I Samuel 17 (read out loud)**
- Listen to / read sermon excerpt
- Critique: is this the proper interpretation / application? Why? (*Small Groups*)

❖ Evangelical Sermon on David and Goliath

First the preacher begins with a powerful description of Goliath. He uses some great lines like “[He’s] got the making of a shoo-in linebacker for the Chicago Bears”. He then goes on to describe the Israelites: “Paralyzed and hypnotized, the camp of the Israelites sat galvanized in their tents. The only noise heard from the Israelite troops was the knocking of their knees or the chattering of their teeth – in unison. Goliath was, up to that point, eminently successful with his basic strategy of intimidation. His threats boomed across the valley with chilling regularity, producing the desired result: *fear*.”

Then comes this description of David: “Some ten miles away, a handsome, muscular teenager – the runt in a family of eight boys – was sent on an errand by his father. That innocent errand proved to be an epochal event in Jewish history. Fresh from the wilderness, the sheep trails, and more important, from the awesome presence of God, David stopped and stared in disbelief when he reached the battleground. For a young man whose unsullied character had been nursed in solitude and spawned in secret acts of bravery, the scene before him was staggering. The young shepherd simply could not believe his eyes. Refusing to accept his brothers rationalizations or listen to the giant’s threats, David saw through the Philistine strategy and withstood it through sheer, solid faith”

He then moves on to application: “You know the outcome. With a well-worn leather sling and a smooth stone, *and unbending confidence in his mighty God*, David introduced Goliath and all the Philistine hordes to the Lord of Hosts, whose name they had blasphemed long enough ... To this day two timeless truths of giant warfare live on. Both are as appropriate today as they were in the days of Goliath. [(1)] *Prevailing over giants isn’t accomplished using their technique*. That’s “lesson one” for all of us ... [David’s] greatest piece of armor, the lethal weapon that made him unique and gave him victory, was his inner *shield of faith*. It kept him free from fear, it made him hard of hearing threats, it gave him cool composure amidst chaos, it cleared his vision. [(2)] *Conquering giants isn’t accomplished without great skill and discipline*. To be God’s warrior, to fight His way, demands much more expertise and control than one can imagine. Using the sling and stone of the Spirit is a far more delicate thing than swinging the club of the flesh.”

“Are you facing a giant? Chances are you’ve already bumped into one or more of them this week. Is the intimidation reaching unbearable proportions? ... Be like David. Turn you Goliath over to Jehovah, the giant-killer. Explain to your powerful God how anxious you are for *Him* to win the victory for a change – not the giant, and not you. Then load up your sling, soldier, and don’t forget the stones. You’re in for the time of your life.”

{note: the proceeding sermon was given on the radio by a well known evangelical preacher. The above transcript was originally written out by Professor Doug Green as part of New Life Presbyterian Church in Glenside, PA's "Summer Festival of the Word" for a talk entitled "How to Read Old Testament History"}

❖ **Response to Sermon**

- **What is Good?** (what is Biblical, what is presented well, what is compelling, where is there practical and appropriate application?)

- What is Not So Good? (Is there anything not Biblical? Are there things that potentially overstretch a point or change the overall Biblical picture? Are there things that are confusing or that cause us to lose interest? Are there applications that are either impractical or not derived from the passage?)

- What is Missing? (Are there key parts of the passage or key links to the rest of Scripture that are missing? Is this part of a larger context, in the extended passage or in the theology of Scripture that are not fully or properly accounted for? Where do we see God, Christ, the Gospel?)

Note: Goal is not to tear down the speaker (that is why I do not name him), nor to simply analyze for analysis sake, or to make us over conscious that every time we speak we must somehow say all that could be said – the goal is to help us wrestle with the point of this passage and in that to develop some tools for proper interpretation and application of any OT historical passage.

Key: This is not just a story of a boy, a Giant and a sling ... it fits in a larger context. Also the application above fails to mention Christ and his role in fulfilling this story. Thus, while great at observation, what it misses in the interpretation actually makes the application weaker than it should be ...

❖ **Need Context**

- I Samuel 8 – 31; Especially I Samuel 15-17

I Samuel: A Tale of Two Kings

❖ **I Samuel 1-7 – Hope Comes as the Nation Bottoms Out!**

- The Priesthood reaches bottom
- The Nation Reaches Bottom
- God departs
- God hears and raises a final Judge / Prophet

❖ **I Samuel 8 – Israel Demands a King**

- problem is it has rejected God as king, and it wants king 'like the other nations'

❖ **I Samuel 9-12 – Saul Anointed and Made King**

- God does grant request – and does give one who 'looks' like a King (as the other nations)

❖ **I Samuel 13-15 – Kingdom Taken from Saul**

- But Saul disobeys God – first in not waiting for the sacrifice and usurping the priests' role, then in not killing everyone in battle

- Note: Saul starts well in both cases ... waits 7 days, gathers army and has battle ... BUT he does not follow through to the end ... grows impatient, takes some of the goods

- God not interested in almost obedience, demands total obedience – takes Kingdom

❖ **I Samuel 16 – David Anointed**

- David does not look the part of the king ... But is the one God chooses ... he will prove to be one after God's own heart

- Note: both the removal of the kingdom from Saul and the anointing of David in private – no one except Samuel knows these have happened

❖ **I Samuel 17 – God's Public Display of New Kingship**

- So I Sam. 17 first time people see both the fear / lack of trust in God and anointing of Saul and the clear faith in God / work of God / anointing of David

- This is not story of any boy, but of God's anointed King ... not facing any Giant, but the sworn enemy of God ... not at any time, but when the army and current King of God's people have utterly failed and proved faithless ... not any battle but one against all odds with no hope for victory so God can clearly show Himself and His anointed King.

❖ **I Samuel 17-30 – Saul Chases David**

- the remainder of the book Saul chasing David, not accepting God's rule, and David submitting to God humbly, not taking Saul's life but entrusting self to God.

❖ **I Samuel 31 – Saul Dies**

- End of 1 Samuel Saul dies, old Kingship ended ... sets up II Samuel which tells of the reign of David, the consolidating of the Kingdom, and the beginning of prosperity and peace.

❖ **A Comparison of 2 Kings**

Saul	David
Handsome, Wealthy, Known	Unknown, young, shepherd
Anointed by God to be King	Anointed by God to be King
Not trust God - sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel, take goods from Amelek when God said destroy all, fear Goliath & Philistines	Trust God - faithful shepherd and son, when sees Goliath taunt God goes to fight him, obeys God's commands
Anointing removed, seeks to kill David	Even after anointed dos not kill Saul, trusts God to do it
Desires worship for himself (upset people cheer more for David that for him!)	Unites people into kingdom for God, brings Ark of God back to center of nation, desires to build God permanent house of worship
Man like the people	Man after God's own heart

David and Goliath - Take 2 and 3

❖ **Take 2 – God Redefines the Kingdom**

- In light of larger story of entire book – what are the applications?

- Certainly the lessons on faith, trust in God, not rely on own devices ... still true – but actually deep and more striking with larger context of how this incident fits the bigger picture

- Large picture of God's sovereignty, of His revealing of His plan, of His ability to show self and to lift up or tear down (including setting up and removing Kings).

- Who are we in the story?

- Most applications put us in the spot of David, the weak kid who stumbles into the battle and has to learn to see and trust God, just like we need to in our lives... do you relate to that? Will you step up as David did?
- But David is not just a weak kid, He is the anointed King of all God's people ... do you relate to that, does that describe you?
- What about the army – the people of God, who have seen God work in the past, and heard the stories of great works of God in previous generations, but when faced with a Giant stand in fear – as our radio teacher said with “the knocking of their knees or the chattering of their teeth – in unison” ... does that perhaps sound a little more like you and me - I know it fits me!
- So maybe the application is not so much that each of us needs to step up and defeat the Giant, but that we need God to send a Giant-killer, that we need a real King, not one that looks like the world's kings and talks a good talk but in the end fears Giants more than God, but God's true anointed King that comes boldly in His name to establish His kingdom for all time ... Which leads to Take 3

❖ Take 3 – The King of King defeats the Ultimate Giant!

- Where Does this Story fit the Redemptive-Historical Picture, and How does Christ Fulfill it?

- If we are the people quivering in fear, then what we need is a deliverer, a King and Saviour ... what we need is Christ
- And who is the Giant, the leader of the enemy camp, that Christ goes against? Not Goliath, but Lucifer, Satan himself ... And Christ defeats Him once for all!
- And not just Satan, but Christ actually defeats sin and death as well!
- And then He sets up a new Kingdom here, with the promise of returning one day to translate that into an eternal Kingdom, with no sin, death, Satan or evil anymore!

❖ Application for the 21st Century - How does that change things for us?

- Ex.: Go back to the classic “faith and trust” applications from David and Goliath ... If I am not David, but Christ is, how does that change the picture?
 - - It is not me who had to defeat the Giant, rather CHRIST has ALREADY DEFEATED the Giant ... Satan actually hold no more power – he may claim that, and I may be tempted to believe it – but if I put my trust in Christ I will see Satan and sin are already defeated
 - My faith is not in my ability to fight, or even my ability to believe and throw the stone ... my faith is in the completed work of Christ – who saw me when I was still cowering in fear and decided to win the battle for me!
 - You are not going to : “Explain to your powerful God how anxious you are for *Him* to win the victory for a change” – you are confessing the Victory IS WON!

Next Class:

- ❖ **II Samuel (overview)** - God establishes his Kingdom in David / Covenant of David
- ❖ **I Kings 1-16** – Solomon, the Queen of Sheba, and the Dividing of the Kingdom