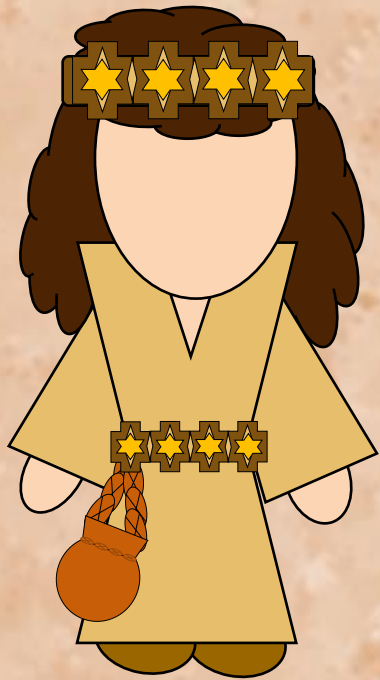


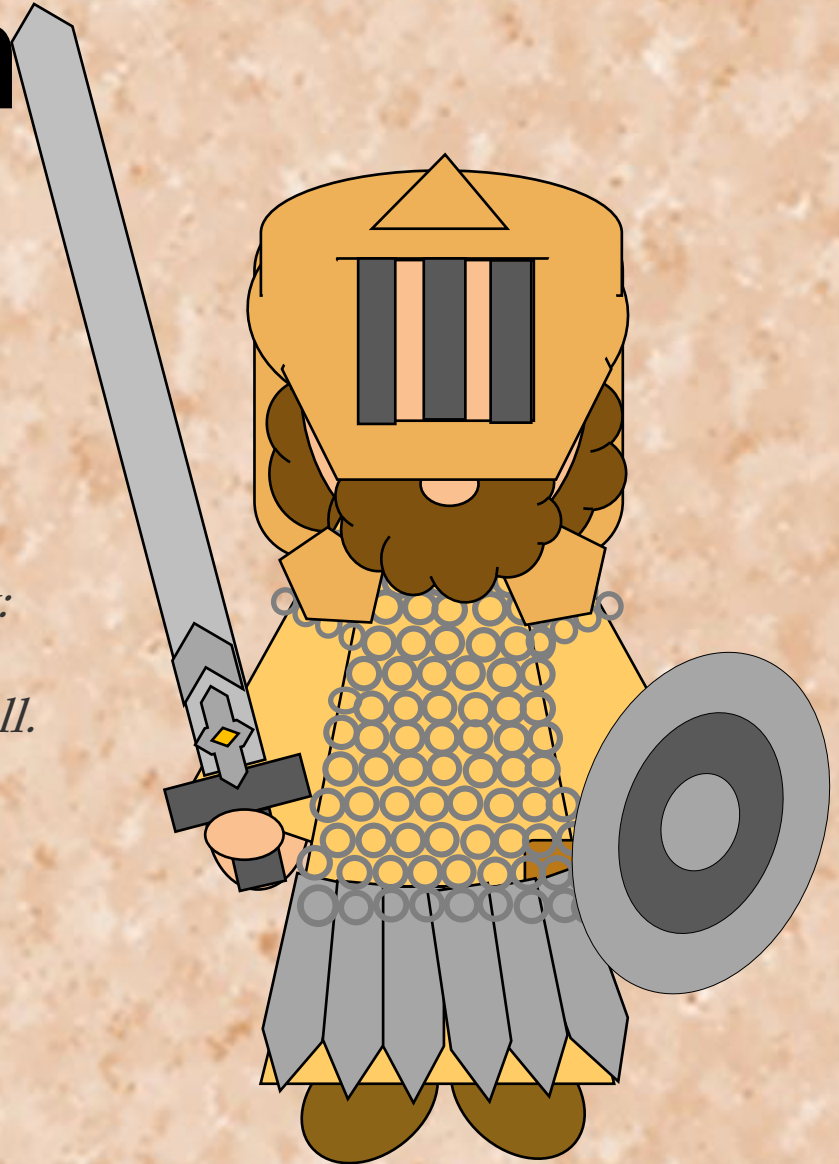
David and Goliath

1 Samuel 17

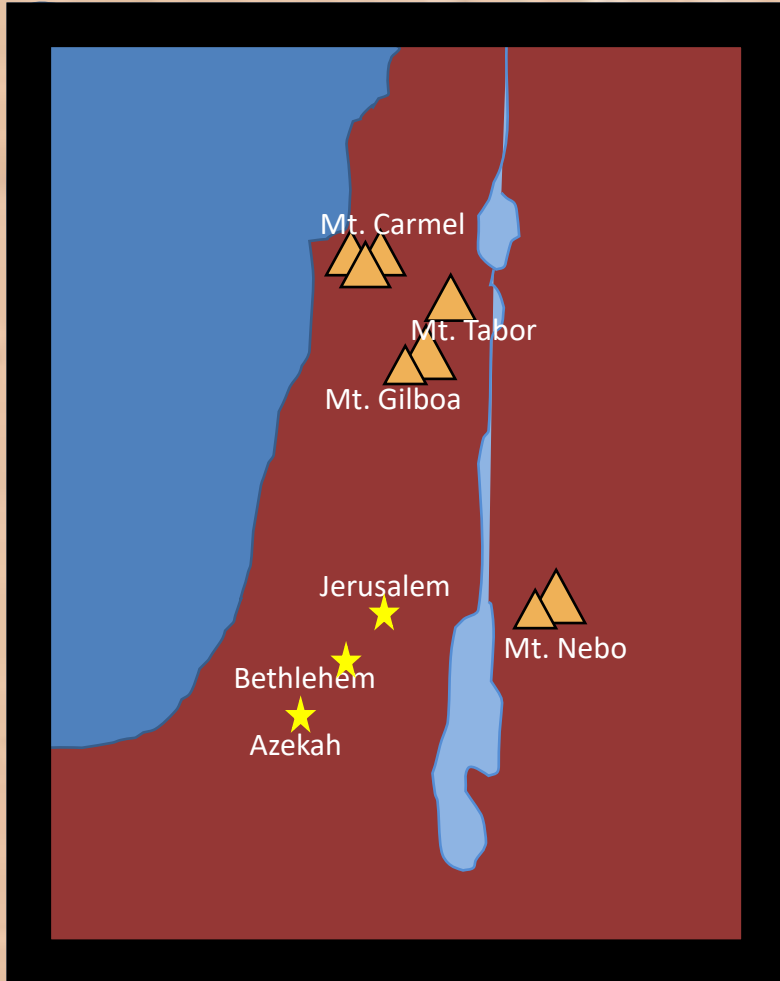


And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

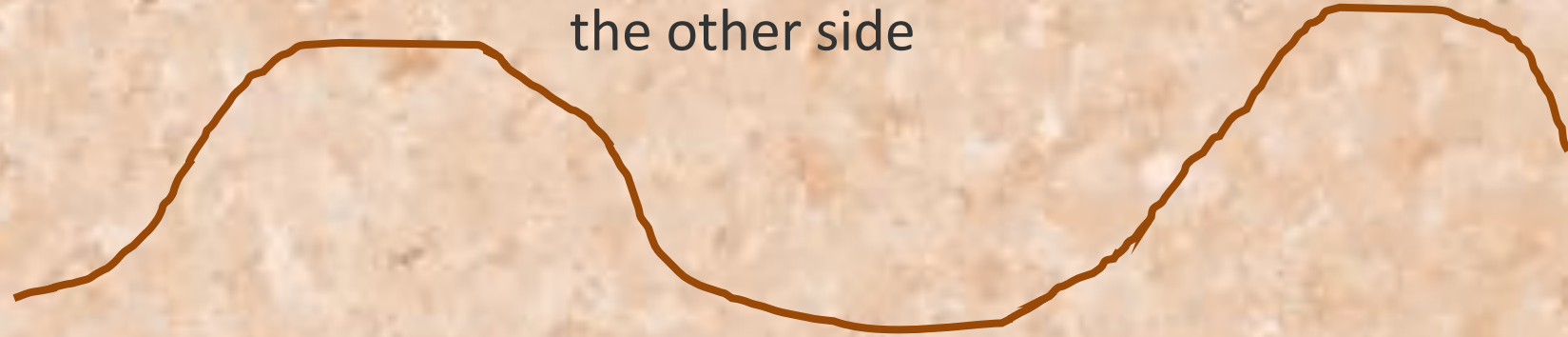
Acts 3:16



Valley of Elah



The Philistines gathered on one side of a mountain while the Israelites gathered on the other side



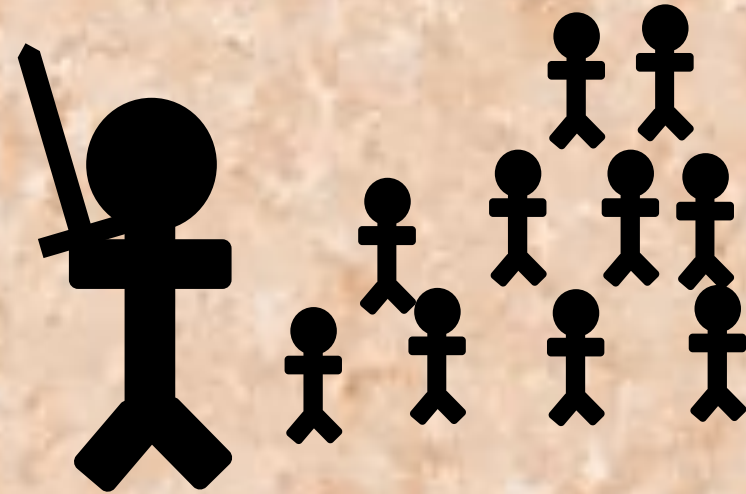
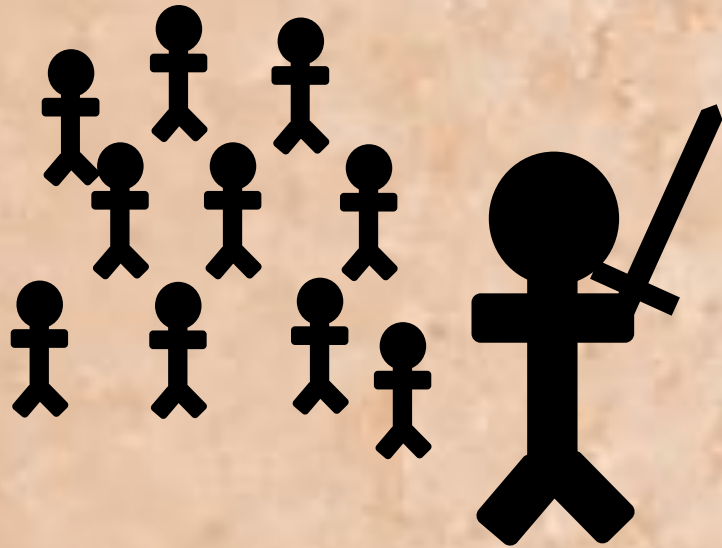
David's battle with Goliath occurred near Azekah in the Shephelah or low-lying hills.

Champion

“Our word *champion* comes from *campus*, the field; ...

‘*Champion* is he, properly, who fights in the *field*; i.e., in *campus*.’

A man well skilled in arms, strong, brave, and patriotic.



“But is this the meaning of the original ... *ish habbenayim*, a *middle man*, the *man between two*;

that is, as here,

the *man* who undertakes to settle the disputes *between two armies or nations*.

So our ancient *champions* settled disputes between *contending parties* by what was termed *camp fight*; hence the *campio* or *champion*.”

Goliath

He was from Gath and a Philistine giant

He was about 9.9 feet (3 Meters) tall and struck fear into the hearts of Saul's warriors

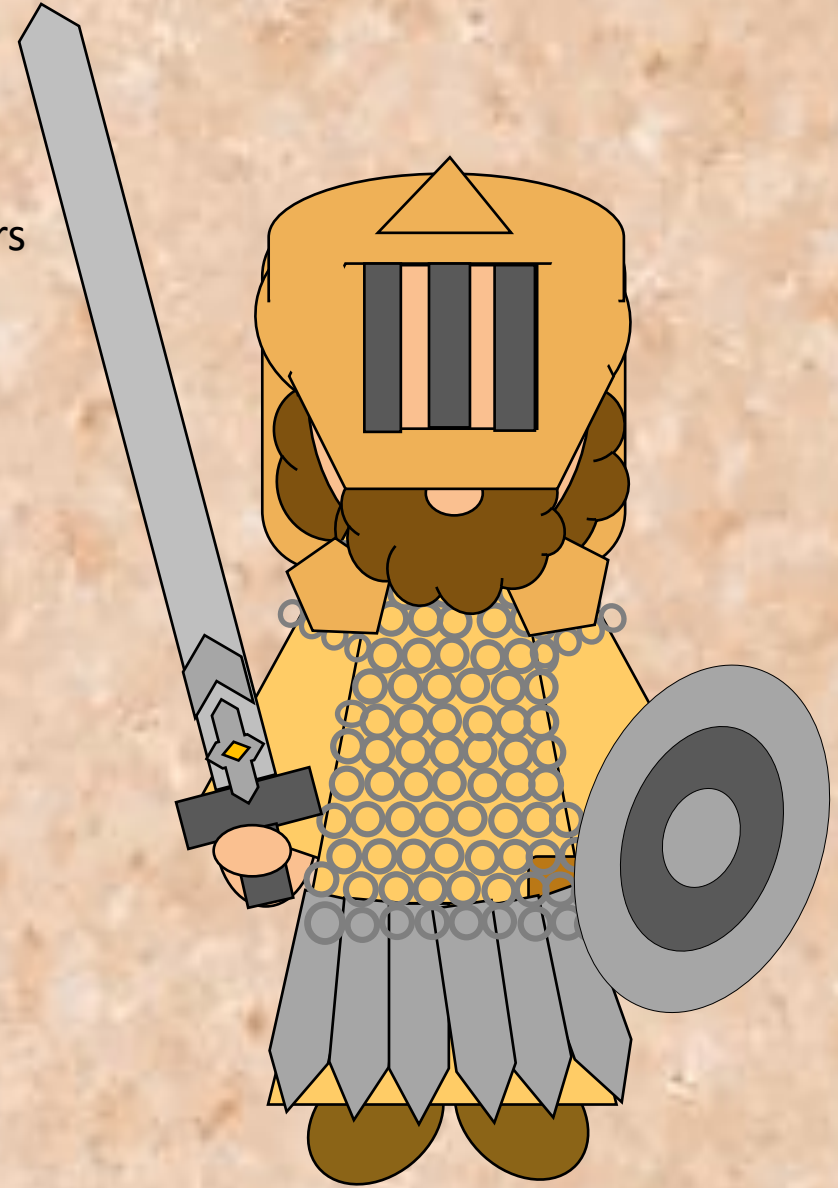
He was armed with a brass helmet, a coat of mail, greaves of brass upon his legs, a shield, brass between his shoulders and his spear was "like a weaver's beam"

He entered into a one-on-one battle with David while the two armies watched from opposing mountain slopes

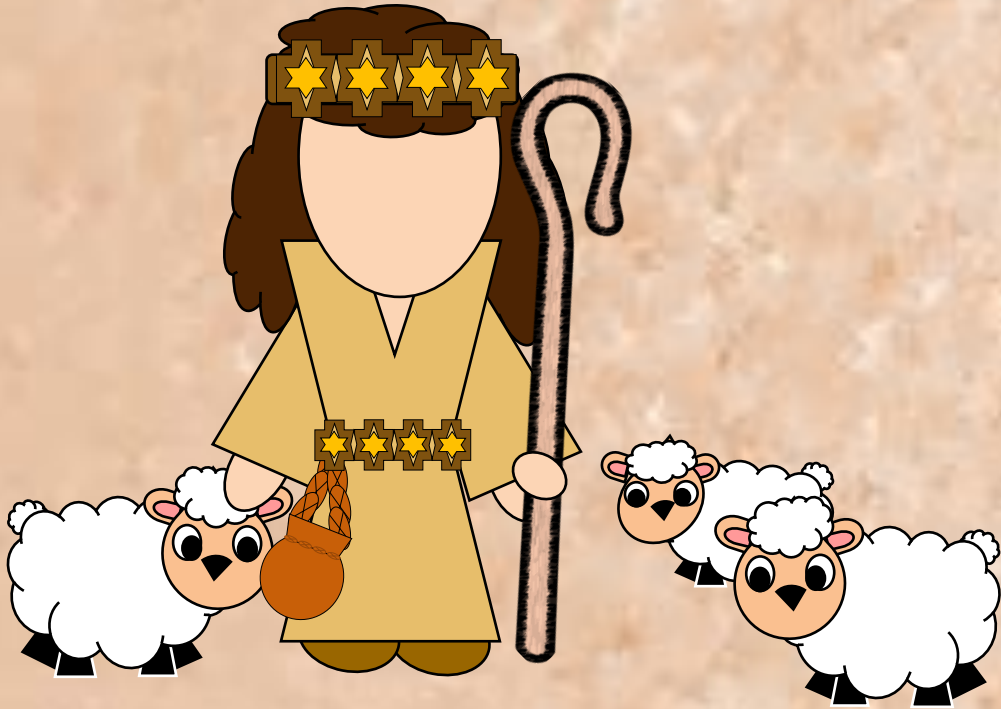
He was hit by stones slung by David and died. David took the head of Goliath and presented it to Saul

Goliath's sword became a legendary icon of the victory of good over evil

The sword was preserved as a religious trophy at the city of Nob and David later retrieved it when, during his flight before Saul



David's Brothers



Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah were with Saul on the battlefield

David was at home tending his father's sheep.

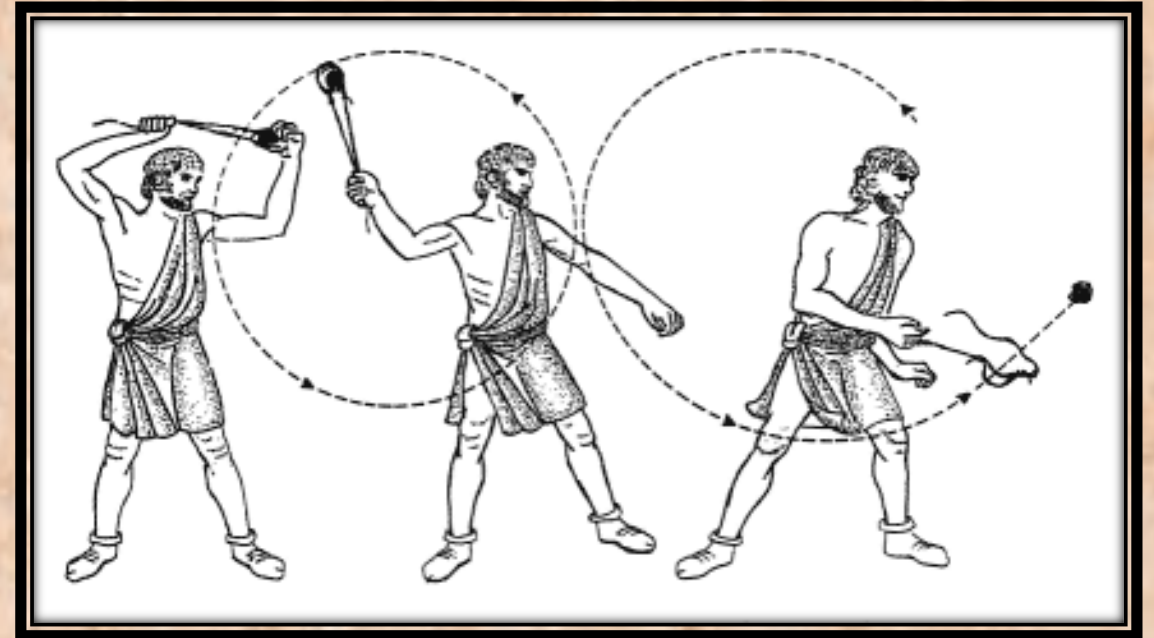
David's father gave him food to take to his brothers, who were soldiers in the army of Israel, with instructions to see how they were doing at the battlefield.

The Sling



As a young shepherd, he had much practice at slinging stones. It was an effective way both to keep wolves and other vicious animals away from the sheep and to attract the attention of straying sheep and drive them back to pasture.

As a result of his experience, David had confidence in his skills, but the true source of his courage was faith in the power of the living God.



Scrip = Shepherds of David's time carried a sling and a small leather or woolen wallet or bag in which food or stones could be carried to the place where the sheep grazed.

Goliath's Challenge

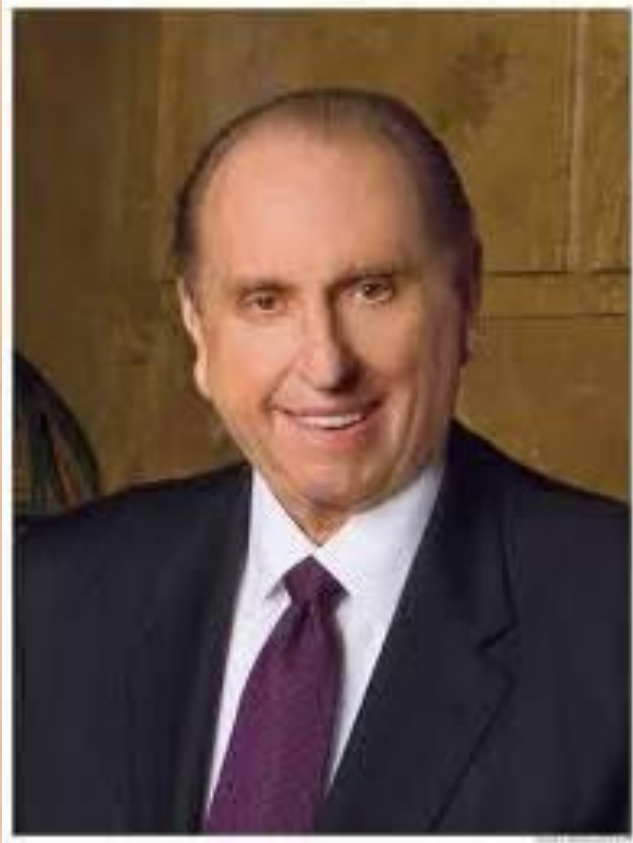
The Israelites could hear him:



Why are ye come out to set *your* battle in array? *am* not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.

If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us.

And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.



“Is there a Goliath in your life? Is there one in mine? Does he stand squarely between you and your desired happiness?”

Your Goliath may not carry a sword or hurl a verbal challenge of insult that all may hear and force you to decision.

He may not be ten feet tall, but he likely will appear equally as formidable, and his silent challenge may shame and embarrass. ...

“The giant you face will not diminish in size nor in power or strength by your vain hoping, wishing, or waiting for him to do so.

Rather, he increases in power as his hold upon you tightens.”

David Volunteers

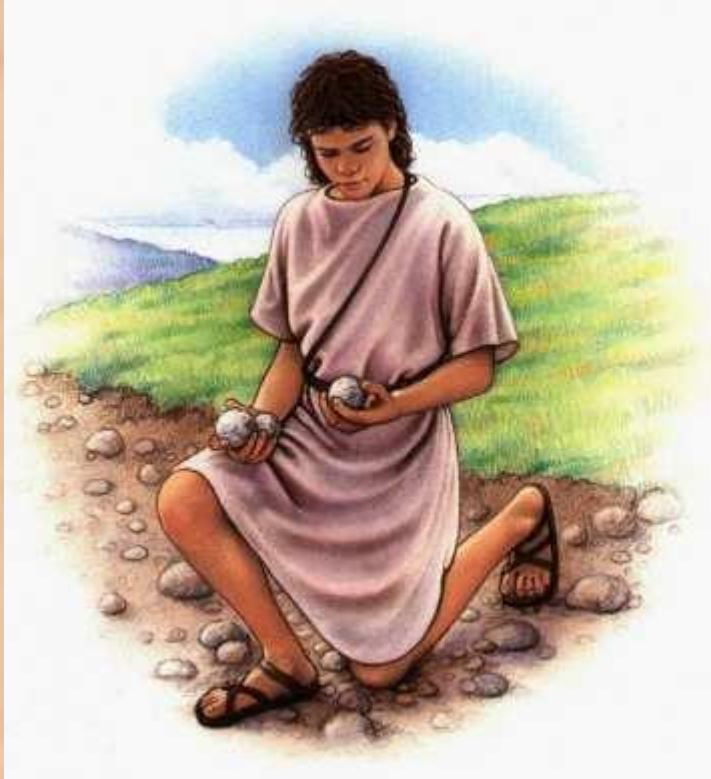
David's oldest brother, Eliab, was angry and questioned David's intentions when he heard how David reacted to Goliath's challenge.

Despite his brother's anger, David continued to tell the Israelites that they should not be afraid of Goliath. Some of the soldiers told King Saul what David said, and the king asked to see him.



The Armor of God

David chose not to wear Saul's armor



“he had not proved it” -- David was not used to wearing armor

“David fell back on his years of experience with his sling... On the way he took from a brook five smooth stones” (5)

Exercising Faith In God

Faith brings us the power of the Lord, which—among other things



Faith is both a principle of action and of power.

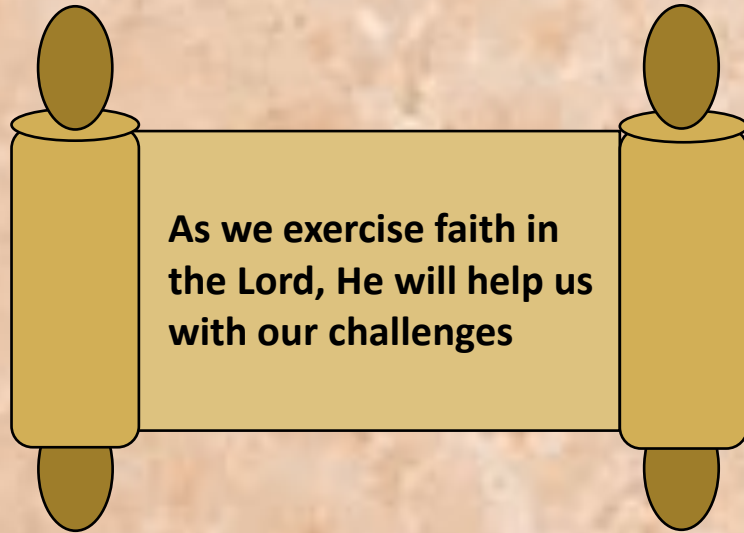
It “is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if we have faith we hope for things which are not seen, which are true.”

We too can exercise such faith in the Lord, believing and trusting that our kind and constant God will bless us with His miraculous power suited to our circumstance, according to His timing. As we do so, we too will see the hand of God manifest in our lives.



Barbara Burk

David's Conquest



After David defeated Goliath, the Philistine army fled, and the army of the Israelites chased after them. David took Goliath's head to Jerusalem, and King Saul marveled at David's bravery.

Exercising Faith in Challenges



A young man's parents decide to get a divorce.



A young woman is struggling to overcome some addictions.

A young woman knows she needs to forgive someone who caused her harm.



A young man has health problems that limit the activities he can participate in.

Challenges

What will you do to better exercise your faith as you face your challenges?



Sources:

Suggested Hymn: #320 *The Priesthood of Our Lord*

Videos: *Goliaths All Around You* (2:02)

Good Things to Come (4:55)



1. *Who's Who in the Old Testament* by Ed. J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen p. 64
2. Clarke, Bible Commentary, 2:261.) Found in Old Testament Institute Manual
3. Old Testament Institute Manual
4. President Thomas S. Monson ("Meeting Your Goliath," *New Era*, June 2008, 5).
5. W. Cleon Skousen *The Fourth Thousand Years* p. 21
6. Elder Marcus B. Nash *By Faith All Things Are Fulfilled* October 2012 Gen. Conf.

THE GIANTS

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Time of Enoch | Moses 7:15 | And the giants of the land, also, stood afar off; and there went forth a curse upon all people that fought against God; |
| Days of Noah | Moses 8:18 Genesis 6:4 | And in those days there were giants on the earth, and they sought Noah to take away his life; but the Lord was with Noah, and the power of the Lord was upon him. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare <i>children</i> to them, the same <i>became</i> mighty men which <i>were</i> of old, men of renown. |
| Time of the Israelites | Numbers 13:33 Deuteronomy 2:10-11 Joshua 15:8 | And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, <i>which come</i> of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. The Emims dwelt therein in times past, a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; Which also were accounted giants, as the Anakims; but the Moabites call them Emims. ...valley of Hinnom westward, which <i>is</i> at the end of the valley of the giants northward: |
| Anakim (long-necked or tall in Hebrew) Virtually destroyed in the conquest of Canaan under Joshua | Joshua 11:21 | And at that time came Joshua, and cut off the Anakims from the mountains, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel: Joshua destroyed them utterly with their cities. |
| It is recorded that none of the Anakim were left except in Gaze, Ashdod, and Gath | Joshua 11:22 | There was none of the Anakims left in the land of the children of Israel: only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained. |

Goliath's Armor:

Goliath's coat of mail (the armor over his upper body) weighed approximately 150 pounds (68 kilograms), and the iron tip of his spear weighed between 12 and 26 pounds (5 and 12 kilograms). Explain that greaves are pieces of armor protecting the shins, and a target is armor protecting the neck.

Slings were commonly used as weapons in David's day. To become accurate with the sling, a person had to spend a considerable amount of time using it. David had used a sling to protect his father's sheep. If you constructed a sling, illustrate the difficulty of using a sling effectively by inviting a few students to attempt to hit a target while using a sling and a marshmallow or another small, round, and soft object.

The loop goes over the index or third finger while the knot is held between the thumb and index finger; the object is slung by swinging the sling over the head and releasing the knotted string as the pouch begins its arc toward the target. Timing is critical.

Slings were made from various materials, the most common being leather. Hair, wool, animal sinews, or rushes were used to make the pouch that held the stones. The pouch had strings attached on each side and was whirled until a certain speed was reached. When one string was released, the stone was hurled from the pouch toward its mark. Any variation from perfect roundness affected the accuracy of a stone. Uniform weight and size of the stones were also important. Anciently, slingers, particularly shepherds with time on their hands, developed great accuracy and skill in slinging stones. When not in use, the slings were carried by shepherds around their foreheads or waists.

Slings were used fairly commonly in the ancient Near East. The Israelites, who did not often use chariots in war, employed many trained slingers. The same was true of peoples from surrounding areas.