

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
MORE WARS AND MORE GIANTS
2 SAMUEL 21:15-22

Introduction

We've seen some strange things in this Chapter, and tonight we're going to see some more strange things as we come to the close of chapter 21.

Tonight we read of some more war between Israel and the Philistines which culminate in the appearance of a number of Goliath's kin, who are equally awesome and deadly as Goliath was.

READ THE PASSAGE.

Verse 15-16

Once again, we are not given a precise time frame into which we can place these events. What we are told is that the Philistines had attacked Israel, and David led his men against them.

In the course of this battle, **David “*waxed faint*”** or became weary. This is the only place that we find this happening to David that I have found.

Ish-bi-benob, one of the Philistine soldiers, **took note of David's condition and was determined to make the most of it and went about to kill David!**

It says that he was one of the giant's descendants, with weapons very much like those of his predecessor, Goliath. Among his weapons was **a new sword, which he hoped to initiate by drawing first blood from Israel's king.**

Verse 17

Here we see Abishai came to David's assistance. Abishai is the brother of Joab and the deceased Asahel, all of whom were the sons of Zeruah, David's sister (2 Samuel 2:18).

If you remember, this is the fellow who accompanied David into Saul's camp and offered to put Saul to death with one blow (1 Samuel 26:6-8).

We've seen that he also had a hand in the murder of Abner by Joab. (2 Samuel 3:30).

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Abishai sometimes commanded one of the divisions of David's army (2 Samuel 10:10; 18:2).

Twice he wanted to put Shimei to death for speaking evil of King David as he fled from Absalom (2 Samuel 16:9-12; 19:21-22).

Later on we will see that he was a renowned hero in Israel (2 Samuel 23:18).

While we've seen that David had his frustrations with Abishai—and he may not have even liked him—he most certainly was indebted to him.

This incident troubled David's army as much as it may have bothered him—It was a near miss! They had nearly lost their king in this battle. When David fought, he was valiant! So he would lead his men into battle! Doing that he obviously become the primary target, especially by the champions of the opposing army. *“Cut the head off and the snake dies!”*

It was one thing to lose a soldier in battle, but it was quite another thing to lose a king in battle. David had been rescued by Abishai this time, but **what about the next time?**

David was getting past his prime, so to speak— He was not the man of war that he once was! His men did not wish to lose David as their king, and so **they insisted that David no longer go out to battle with them!**

Verse 18-22

We see another day, another battle. But now David is not with his men! Don't you know that David had previously been a great inspiration to his men! That is, up until the previous battle when he almost got killed!

So, no doubt the question now is, could they win against another giant without this one who had taken down Goliath? Was David essential to Israel's victory against the Philistines? Well these final verses of this Chapter give us the answer.

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In these subsequent battles, we see other descendants of the giant emerged, and they were killed also.

In verse 18, there was Saph, who was struck down by Sibbecai the Hushathite

In verse 19, in a battle at Gob, Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite killed another brother of Goliath the Gittite!

In verses 20-22, we see the final descendant of the giant is saved until last, and no wonder. This fellow not only intimidated his opponents by his size but by his odd extremities—Six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot!

Nevertheless, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, struck this giant down like the rest. Whether by the hand of David or by one of his men, these five giants all fell to the army of Israel.

Remember how David chose 5 smooth stones when he went after Goliath? He was ready for not only Goliath, but I suspect he figured that he might have to deal with these four as well!

Conclusion

When the first generation of Israelites had an opportunity to possess the land of Canaan, they failed because they were afraid of the giants who were reported to be in the land (see Numbers 13:25-33).

When the Israelites were intimidated by the Philistines, Goliath was their champion who frightened the Israelites badly. David stepped forward and killed Goliath, and the Philistines were defeated.

But here we see that David was no longer able to handle the giants on his own which the Philistines put up against him. Did that mean that Israel was in trouble? Not at all! Saul's "leadership" had failed. It could not produce one man who would take on Goliath, including Saul himself!

In fact he sent out a boy to do a man's job!

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But David's leadership produced many mighty men of war. With David no longer able to fight the giants by himself, we see this was not a problem!

His men lined up and took on all the giants that the Philistines put up against them! And these giants were all killed and the Philistines defeated.

What a way to end David's military career. The people no longer needed a king to do their fighting for them! They were willing to fight themselves, even against giants.

Several things here:

I. OUR BATTLES AGAINST THE ENEMY CAN SPAN OUR LIFETIME!

David started out fighting the Philistines and their giant and that's how he ended his military career as well! And really he was still fighting even though he wasn't physically in the battle as he had been before! *1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."*

II. YESTERDAY'S VICTORIES WILL NOT KILL TODAY'S GIANTS OR OTHER ENEMIES!

David's victory over Goliath was a great victory for the people of God. It serves as a tremendous example to all of us even today. But listen, it was only one victory in the continuing battles of David's life.

Israel fought against the Philistines and had some wins, but they also had some losses! The battles they had fought and won didn't guarantee that they were going to win the next battle! There was no time they afford to **not** be vigilant in the battles!

In our spiritual lives we may have known fought and won some victories against the giants and other enemies in our life. That's great and we ought to praise God for it! But we must realize that those victories are in the past and like David and Israel, we can't afford to rest on our laurels! Because we still have to deal with the giants and enemies that may come our way today and/or tomorrow!

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III. OUR GIANTS MAY BE RELATED, BUT THEY ARE NOT ALL THE SAME!

These giants were all related to Goliath, but they each had their own way of fighting!

Not all of our giants or enemies are the same either! We know the source of them but that doesn't mean they are going to come after us the same way each time.

David couldn't fight them all alone, and we need to realize that we might need some help in fighting the giants in our life at times!

Don't need to be afraid to ask for help! And be ready to help others who are fighting battles that they need help with!
We need to bear one another's burdens!

Galatians 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12