

## **Dr. Robert Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 11, 1 Samuel 17 – David’s Faith Ignites a Victory Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 11, 1 Samuel 17, David’s Faith Ignites a Victory, Biblicalearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. Chisholm's lecture dissects 1 Samuel 17, focusing on David's triumph over Goliath.** The session emphasizes how David's unwavering faith in God sparked Israel's victory against the Philistines. **The lecture goes into the historical context, such as Saul's failures and David's anointing.** Chisholm addresses potential contradictions within the narrative, especially regarding Saul's familiarity with David. **The lecture argues that Saul's question about David's father was to ascertain tax-exempt status, not David's identity.** Ultimately, the lesson underscores the importance of faith over outward appearances and recognizes David's divinely aided skill.

**2. 10 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Chisholm, Session 11 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → 1 Samuel).**



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ession 11.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 11, 1 Samuel 17, David's Faith Ignites a Victory

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from Dr. Chisholm's lecture on 1 Samuel 17, "David's Faith Ignites a Victory".

#### **Briefing Document: 1 Samuel 17 - David's Faith Ignites a Victory**

**Main Theme:** The lecture focuses on how David's faith in God, coupled with his existing skills, led to victory over Goliath, highlighting the contrast between David's faith and the fear and focus on outward appearances exhibited by Saul and the Israelites. The lecture also touches upon the textual issues and debates surrounding the passage, particularly the discrepancies between the Hebrew text and the Septuagint concerning Saul's knowledge of David.

#### **Key Ideas and Facts:**

- **Context:** The story occurs after Saul has forfeited his dynasty and throne due to disobedience (1 Samuel 13 & 15). David has been secretly anointed as the next king (1 Samuel 16) and the Spirit has left Saul, replaced by an evil spirit that torments him.
- "In 1 Samuel chapter 13, Saul forfeited his dynasty... Then in chapter 15, Saul actually forfeits his throne. Samuel says to Saul, because you have rejected the word of the Lord, the Lord has rejected you."
- **The Challenge:** The Philistines and Israelites are poised for battle, but Goliath, a formidable Philistine champion, challenges the Israelites to single combat.
- "There's a Philistine champion named Goliath, and he is described in detail because he's a very formidable opponent."
- **Goliath's Size:** Goliath's height is debated; the Hebrew text suggests approximately 9 feet 9 inches, while some Greek manuscripts and other sources suggest 6 feet 9 inches. Regardless, Goliath is presented as a daunting figure.
- "1 Samuel 17.4 says that his height was six cubits and a span...which translates into 9 feet 9 inches. So Goliath was a big, big guy. However, there are some Greek manuscripts, Josephus and the Qumran scroll from cave 4, that read 4 cubits and a span. That would translate to 6 feet 9 inches"

- **Ancient Near Eastern Context:** The concept of single combat was not unique. Examples exist in ancient Egyptian and Hittite texts.
- "Actually we have other examples of this kind of single combat in the ancient Near Eastern world. As early as 1800 BC in Middle Kingdom Egypt... a Hittite king, Khatushilish, and he tells how he defeated the commander of an imposing enemy force..."
- **David's Arrival:** David is sent by his father, Jesse, to bring provisions to his brothers at the battlefield. He hears Goliath's challenge and is concerned that Goliath is defying "the armies of the living God".
- "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"
- **David's Faith and Skill:** David volunteers to fight Goliath, citing his past experiences protecting his father's sheep from lions and bears. He emphasizes that the Lord who rescued him then will also rescue him from Goliath. David's success is both because of God and the skills that he has.
- "The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."
- "I think what we really need to see here is that when David goes out there in faith and confidence in the Lord, the Lord allows him to execute the skill that he already had. I'm sure David was a very accomplished slinger."
- **Rejection of Saul's Armor:** David refuses to wear Saul's armor, finding it cumbersome and unfamiliar. He chooses to use his sling and five smooth stones.
- "David fastened down his sword over the tunic, and he tried walking around because he was not used to them. And David says, I can't go in these. I'm not used to them. So, he took them off."
- **The Battle and Victory:** David defeats Goliath with a single stone from his sling, striking him in the forehead. He then uses Goliath's own sword to cut off his head. The Philistines flee, and the Israelites achieve a great victory.
- "Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and it struck the Philistine in the forehead. And it sinks into his forehead... David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone. Without a sword in his hand, he struck down the Philistine and killed him."

- "David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword, as he said he would do."
- **Saul's Question and Textual Issues:** After the victory, Saul asks Abner whose son David is, which raises questions because David has already been presented to Saul in Chapter 16. Dr. Chisholm argues this isn't a contradiction but rather Saul asking about David's father's identity in relation to the tax exemption he had promised. He cites Hebrew grammar to support this interpretation, comparing it to Genesis 24.
- "Saul watched David going out to meet the Philistine. And he said to Abner, commander of the army...whose son is that young man?"
- "Saul is not asking for David's name. I think he knows who David is. He's asking for the identity of David's father. And you may be wondering, why would he do that? Remember verse 25. Saul had promised the victor tax-exempt status for his family."
- **The Septuagint:** The Septuagint (Greek translation) omits verses that create the potential contradiction, presenting a shorter version of the story where David is not previously known to Saul. However, Chisholm argues that the longer Hebrew version is the more complete and canonical form.
- "In 1 Samuel 17, we actually have two versions of the story. A longer version, which is in the Hebrew text...but there's a much shorter version in the Greek Septuagint that leaves out verses 12 through 31 and leaves this section out."
- **Themes Revisited:** The themes of Jonathan's victory are echoed in David's: faith in the Lord is paramount, and focusing on outward appearances leads to fear.
- "What we see is that faith in the Lord's power to save can be the catalyst for victory...when you focus on outward appearances, that can obscure reality. You have to walk by faith, not by sight. And it can stifle faith, and it can produce paralyzing fear."
- **Foreshadowing:** The victory sets the stage for Saul's growing jealousy and fear of David, which will drive the narrative in subsequent chapters.
- "Saul is going to view David as a threat, and David's success is really going to have just the opposite effect. Saul gets more and more suspicious of him."

## 4. Study Guide: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 11, 1 Samuel 17, David's Faith Ignites a Victory

### 1 Samuel 17: David's Faith Ignites a Victory - Study Guide

#### I. Key Concepts and Themes

- **Faith as a Catalyst for Victory:** David's unwavering faith in God empowers him to overcome seemingly insurmountable odds.
- **God's Choice vs. Outward Appearances:** God's selection of David is based on his heart, contrasting with Saul and the Israelites' focus on Goliath's imposing physical presence.
- **Ambiguity in David's Character:** The text hints at complexities and flaws in David's character even as he demonstrates faith and courage.
- **Theological Significance of the Battle:** The conflict is portrayed as more than just a physical battle; it is a contest between the God of Israel and the pagan Philistines.
- **Single Combat in the Ancient Near East:** Understand the cultural context of single combat and its significance in ancient warfare.
- **Historical and Literary Issues:** Understand arguments for there being two separate stories of David meeting Saul.
- **The Sling as a Weapon:** Familiarize yourself with the sling's history and impact in the ancient Near East.

#### II. Quiz (Short Answer)

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What two things did Saul forfeit as a result of his disobedience to the Lord?
2. Describe Goliath's physical stature and weaponry.
3. According to Dr. Chisholm, what earlier Egyptian account of single combat parallels David's defeat of Goliath?
4. What specific question does David ask upon arriving at the Israelite camp, and what theological dimension does he add to the conflict?
5. How does David's brother Eliab react to his presence at the battle, and why?

6. How does David justify his ability to fight Goliath to Saul?
7. Explain the significance of David selecting five smooth stones from the stream.
8. Why is David's statement, "I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied," important?
9. What is the significance of the verb tense used in 1 Samuel 17:51, referring to David's killing Goliath?
10. Explain Dr. Chisholm's interpretation of Saul asking Abner "whose son is that young man?"

### III. Quiz Answer Key

1. Saul forfeited his dynasty in 1 Samuel 13, and then he forfeited his throne in 1 Samuel 15. This was due to his disobedience regarding the Amalekites.
2. Goliath is described as a giant, possibly around 6'9" or even 9'9", depending on the source. He was heavily armed with a bronze helmet, a coat of armor, a javelin, a spear, and carried a shield.
3. The account of Senui and the Hero of Retinue in Middle Kingdom Egypt is a parallel. In this account, Senui defeats his opponent, then uses the enemy's own weapon to finish the job.
4. David asks what will be done for the man who kills Goliath and removes the disgrace from Israel. He adds a theological dimension by asking, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"
5. Eliab is angry and accuses David of being conceited and wicked, implying he only came to watch the battle. This may be due to sibling jealousy, as David was anointed king instead of Eliab.
6. David tells Saul that he has protected his father's sheep from lions and bears, killing them when necessary. He believes the Lord who rescued him from those animals will also rescue him from Goliath.
7. David's selection of five smooth stones is likely just a practical measure to ensure he had enough ammunition. While trusting in the Lord, he was also acting wisely by preparing.

8. David's statement is important because it underscores that the battle is not just a physical conflict, but a theological one. David recognizes that Goliath has defied the God of Israel, not just the Israelite army.
9. The verb tense is in the Hebrew polel stem, suggesting it was used to finish someone off who was already dealt a mortal wound. This implies that David brought Goliath down with the slingstone and finished him off with Goliath's sword.
10. Dr. Chisholm interprets Saul's question not as asking for David's name, but as asking for the identity of David's father, Jesse. Saul was thinking ahead in terms of the promise of tax-exempt status for the victor's family, as promised in verse 25.

#### **IV. Essay Questions**

1. Discuss the theme of faith as a catalyst for victory in 1 Samuel 17, comparing and contrasting the faith of David with the fear of Saul and the Israelites.
2. Analyze the portrayal of David's character in 1 Samuel 17, paying attention to both his expressions of faith and any hints of ambition or self-interest. How does this portrayal contribute to the larger narrative of David's life and reign?
3. Explore the significance of the single combat between David and Goliath in its ancient Near Eastern context. What cultural values and beliefs are reflected in this type of warfare?
4. Examine the arguments surrounding the "two versions" of David meeting Saul, as presented in the lecture. Which argument is most persuasive and why?
5. How does Dr. Chisholm apply literary or rhetorical analysis to interpret 1 Samuel 17?

## V. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Amalekites:** A nomadic people group who were enemies of the Israelites; Saul was commanded to destroy them completely, but failed to do so.
- **Anointing:** A ritual act of pouring oil on someone's head, signifying their selection for a special role, such as king or priest.
- **Bethlehem:** The city where Jesse and his sons, including David, lived.
- **Cubit:** An ancient unit of measurement, approximately 18 inches, based on the length of the forearm.
- **Dagon:** A Philistine god.
- **Ephrathite:** A person from the region of Ephrath, near Bethlehem.
- **Gath:** A Philistine city and the hometown of Goliath.
- **Philistines:** A people group who were frequent enemies of the Israelites, known for their military prowess.
- **Septuagint:** A Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible.
- **Single Combat:** A duel between two warriors representing opposing sides, often used to avoid large-scale battles.
- **Sling:** A weapon used to hurl stones or other projectiles, consisting of a pouch attached to two cords.
- **Span:** An ancient unit of measurement, approximately 9 inches, based on the distance between the thumb and little finger of an outstretched hand.
- **Yahweh:** The personal name of the God of Israel.



## 5. FAQs on Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 11, 1 Samuel 17, David's Faith Ignites a Victory, Biblelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided text:

### FAQ: 1 Samuel 17 - David and Goliath

- **What is the main significance of 1 Samuel 17 in the context of 1 & 2 Samuel?**
- 1 Samuel 17, often titled "David's Faith Ignites a Victory," is a pivotal chapter that demonstrates how David's faith in God leads to an Israelite victory over the Philistines. It's significant because it highlights the contrast between David, whom God has chosen to replace Saul as king, and Saul, who has forfeited his dynasty and throne due to disobedience. The chapter formally introduces David as a key figure in the narrative.
- **How tall was Goliath, and why is there some debate about his height?**
- The Hebrew text of 1 Samuel 17.4 states that Goliath was six cubits and a span tall, which translates to approximately 9 feet 9 inches. However, some Greek manuscripts, Josephus, and a Qumran scroll read four cubits and a span, which translates to about 6 feet 9 inches. Scholars debate which height is accurate, with some arguing that the taller Goliath is the original account and others suggesting that the Hebrew tradition exaggerated his height.
- **Is the concept of single combat unique to the story of David and Goliath?**
- No, the concept of single combat was not unique to the story of David and Goliath in the ancient Near Eastern world. There are other examples of single combat in the ancient Near East like the story of Senui who engages in single combat around 1800 BC in Middle Kingdom Egypt or the story of the Hittite King Khatushilish around 1250 BC. This practice of choosing champions to decide the outcome of a battle was a recognized method of warfare.
- **What did King Saul promise to the Israelite who defeated Goliath?**
- King Saul promised great wealth, his daughter in marriage, and tax-exempt status for the victor's family in Israel. These were significant incentives to encourage someone to face the formidable Philistine champion.

- **What is the theological significance of David's actions and words before fighting Goliath?**
- David viewed the conflict not merely as a battle between Philistines and Israelites but as a battle against the living God of Israel. He was concerned that Goliath was defying the armies of the living God. David trusted that the Lord, who had protected him from lions and bears while tending his father's sheep, would also protect him from Goliath.
- **Why did David choose five smooth stones from the stream, and what kind of weapon was his sling?**
- David chose five smooth stones to ensure he had enough ammunition, trusting in the Lord but also acting wisely and practically. The sling was a deadly weapon in ancient Near Eastern armies, capable of launching stones at high speeds. It was not a child's toy but a tool that could inflict serious damage.
- **How did David defeat Goliath, and is there any confusion in the biblical account regarding the method of the killing?**
- David struck Goliath in the forehead with a stone from his sling, causing him to fall. Then, David used Goliath's own sword to cut off his head. There is no confusion because David first mortally wounded him with the sling and then finished him off with the sword.
- **What is the controversy surrounding Saul's question, "Whose son are you, young man?" after David's victory, and how can it be resolved?**
- The controversy stems from the apparent contradiction between 1 Samuel 16, where David is introduced to Saul's court, and 1 Samuel 17, where Saul seems not to recognize David after he defeats Goliath. However, the question refers to the identity of David's father because Saul wanted to know whose family would receive the tax exemption that he promised, not David's name or general identity.