

God's Anointed One Alone Provides Definitive Rescue Over the Enemy of God's People

1 Samuel 16:31-54

- God provides victory through his anointed king, who trusts him and is zealous for his glory, over the impossible situation and undefeatable enemy, when no one else is capable, and all participate in the benefit.
- I. Vs. 31-37 - David tells Saul that God, who has always been faithful, and has enabled David, will enable David here, as he is zealous for his glory.
 - **Vs. 31-32** - David's words are repeated to Saul, and he sends for him. David says to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine (He will do this when no one else can, for the glory of God [Vs. 26.], and the good of others.)" **Vs. 33** - And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth (Experience, size, age. Chp. 16 and David's role with Saul [Compare with vs. 55-58.].)" **Vs. 34-35** - David says, "Your servant (Humility. He knows he will be king. Rest of book.) used to keep sheep for his father (Vs. 15.). And when there came a lion (Samson in Ju. 14.), or a bear (Elisha in 2 Ki. 2.), and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth (Some sort of weapon.). And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him (More like hand-to-hand.)." **Vs. 36** - Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God (He similarly poses a threat to those David, though not reigning as king yet, is to protect. David will not tolerate God's honor being mocked. 2:30 - those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.)" **Vs. 37** - David says, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine (This is essential. David alone trusts God like this.)" And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you (Good on the surface, but negatively meaningful.)!"
 - II. Vs. 38-39 - David will not face Goliath with Saul's armor.
 - **Vs. 38-39** - Saul clothes David with **his** armor (Ironic.): a helmet of bronze, and a coat of mail, and David straps his sword (Saul's. Vs. 50-51.) over his armor (Comparison and contrast to Goliath's in vs. 5-7. Armor of undefeatable enemy. Armor of human effort or ability.). He tries in vain to go, for he hasn't tested them (Not used to it. Victory is all God's doing.). David says, "I can't go with these, for I haven't tested them." So he puts them off (The Lord is his armor [Ep. 6.], and he has the Spirit upon him [16:13.].)
 - III. Vs. 40 - David prepares the weapons that God will use to defeat the undefeatable enemy.
 - **Vs. 40** - Then he took his staff in his hand (Shepherd. Protector.) and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch (Projectiles. Big enough to penetrate and kill.). His sling was in his hand (Slings and stones were actually used in warfare [Estimates to 100+ MPH.] and effective.), and he approached the Philistine.
 - IV. Vs. 41-47 - David's confrontation with Goliath emphasizes the depth of the contempt of the enemy of God and his people, in contrast to David's complete trust in God zeal for his honor, and being the one representative who provides victory.
 - **Vs. 41** - The Philistine (Emphasis. Goliath mentioned twice in chapter, none after vs. 23. Philistine to describe him - 25. Enemy. Contempt. Threat. Wickedness.) moves forward and comes near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him (Goliath's importance. Added protection.). **Vs. 42** - The Philistine sees David and disdains him, for he's but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance (He takes offense that this is what Israel sends. Purposeful immeasurable discrepancy.). **Vs. 43-44** - The Philistine says to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks (Maybe only sees staff. Like bringing a knife to a gunfight. Preposterous. Pride.)?" The Philistine curses David by his gods (Mocking and contempt. Chps. 4-5. Dagon and Ashtaroth. Whose gods or God is true?). The Philistine says to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field (Totally sure of outcome. Dead body desecrated to humiliate.)." **Vs. 45-47** describe what David says, for the honor of the Lord, and what **only he** can do. "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin (Human reliance.), but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts (Sovereign.), the God of the armies of Israel (True King.), whom you have defied (The one true God, who will defend his honor, and provide victory over the wicked enemy for those who trust him. Those who defy him will suffer the consequences.). This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand (No doubt who does this. It is God, and his representative who provides victory on his people's behalf.), and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth (Similarly, display of humiliation.), that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel (The God of Israel is the one true God, and he alone saves.), and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword

and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand (Absolute sovereign and unlimited authority).”

- This is the main point of the passage, for then, and continually. God alone is sovereign. He saves, initially and continually. He is zealous for his honor. And then David trusts, is zealous for God's honor, and acts. God's people's greatest need is a good King who is like this, providing victory on behalf of his people, in David, and beyond.
- V. Vs. 48-51a - The true and chosen leader of God's people does what no one else can, for God's honor, through his enabling, and defeats the wicked, threatening, taunting, and undefeatable enemy.
- **Vs. 48** - The Philistine draws near to meet David (Without the eyes of faith, he sees David as no threat.). David runs quickly (Purposeful.) toward the battle line to meet the Philistine (This is the location where the definitive battle between the enemy and **God**, and his anointed will take place.). **Vs. 49** - David puts his hand in his bag and takes out a stone and slings it and strikes the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sinks into his forehead (Cause of death.), and he falls on his face to the ground (The trust, enablement, Spirit, zeal for God's glory, representative rescue, and everything else come to a pinnacle as the decisive blow to kill the enemy happens.). **Vs. 50** - So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and **killed** him (See next verse.). There was no sword in the hand of David (Vs. 47 - The Lord provides rescue and victory not by human means.). **51a** - David runs and stands over the Philistine, takes his sword out of its sheath (21:9.) and kills him and cuts off his head with it (Discrepancy? He's on his face. David needs to make absolutely sure, to "finish him off." He's already promised him he will cut off his head in vs. 46. It could also be purposeful in demonstrating to the Philistines that their champion is dead [Vs. 51b].).
- VI. Vs. 51b-54 - Because of the victory of their representative and rescuer, Israel pursues and defeats the Philistines.
- **51b** - The Philistines see that their champion is dead, and flee (Jonathan in chp. 14.). **Vs. 52-53** - The men of Israel and Judah rise with a shout and pursue the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, and the wounded Philistines fall on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron. The people of Israel come back from chasing the Philistines and plunder their camp (The people who did nothing but let the rescuer, the anointed king, trust God, defend his honor, and be enabled, now, and only now, participate in what they have received.). **Vs. 54** - David takes the head of the Philistine and brings it to Jerusalem (This is the only mention of Jerusalem in 1 Samuel. In 2 Sa. 5, David conquers it, defeating the Jebusites. Foreshadowing?), but puts his armor in his tent.
 - The undefeatable, wicked, mocking enemy who would destroy God's people, of whom everyone was fearful and against whom everyone was helpless, including Saul, is decisively defeated and humiliated by God's anointed and chosen king, who is zealous for the honor of God and trusts in his enabling power, on behalf of God's people, who participate in the benefit. Read Romans. 5:6-11, 18-21.
 - Trust in the one to whom this story is pointing for rescue, for he is your only hope, initially and continually (Prayer, submission, sovereign purposes.). Practically, trust in God's ability and enablement, and a zeal for God's glory like David, by the grace of the one who is the true hero. By faith, participate in the blessing and responsibility that comes to those whose victory has been secured by their representative.