

Lessons From The Valley of Elah



Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- The story of David and Goliath is much more than a fun story for children.
- It is a true narrative that contains real and applicable lessons for God's people living today.
- This morning we will examine this incredible story of courage and uncover these lessons.

The Story and Background



The Valley of Elah



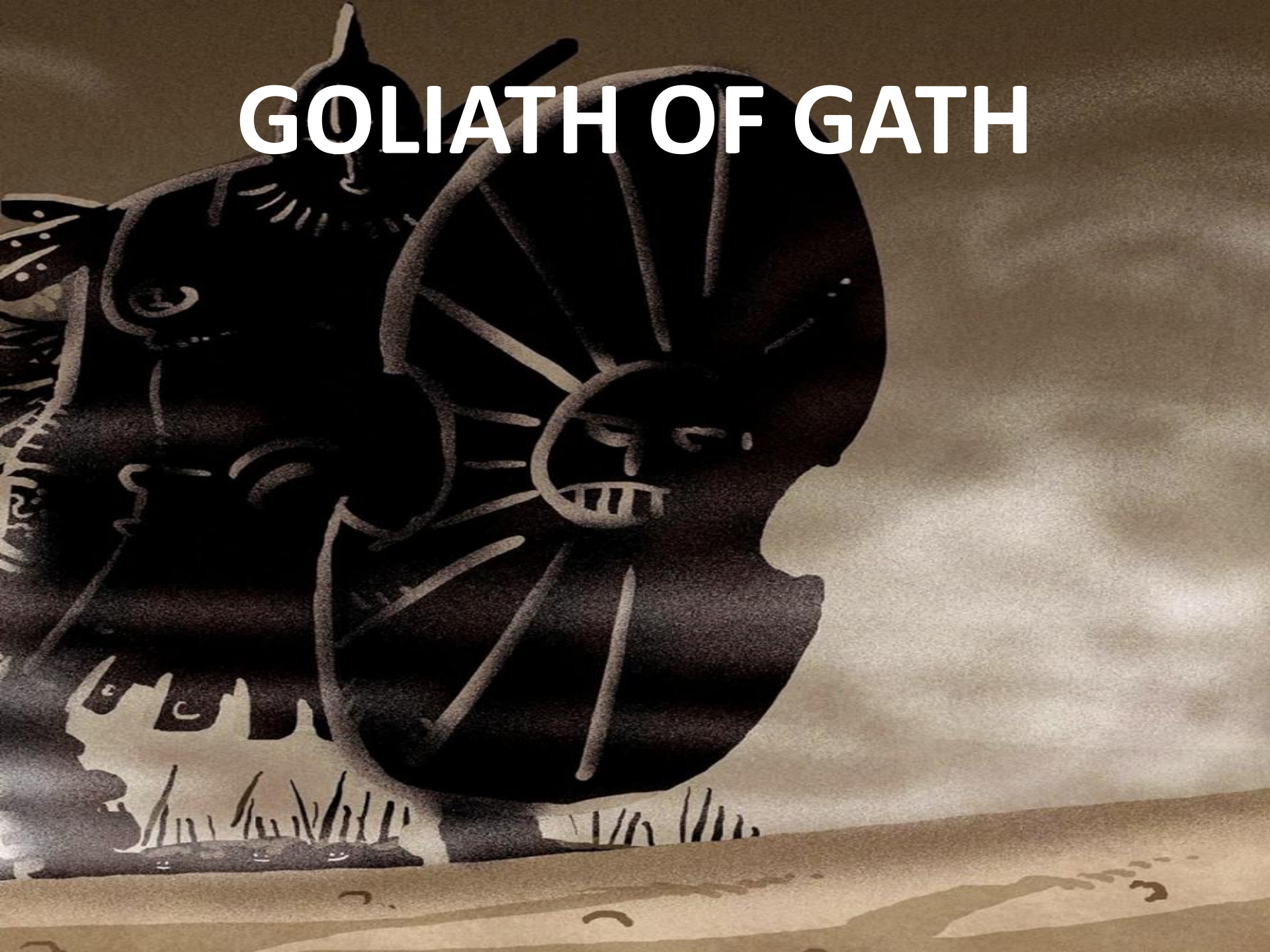
Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- Israel was ruled by their first king Saul who had all but forsaken God (**1 Samuel 13:8-14; 15:10**)
- Because of this the Spirit of God had departed from Saul and the Philistines came to make war against Israel.
- This was a consequence of Israel not wiping them out as God had said to do (**Exodus 23:31-33**).

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- The Valley of Elah lays some fifteen miles to the southwest of Bethlehem.
- On each of the valley's sides were two mountains, on the one side of the valley were the Philistine's Army. On the other side was the Army of the Israelites **(1 Samuel 17:1-3)**.

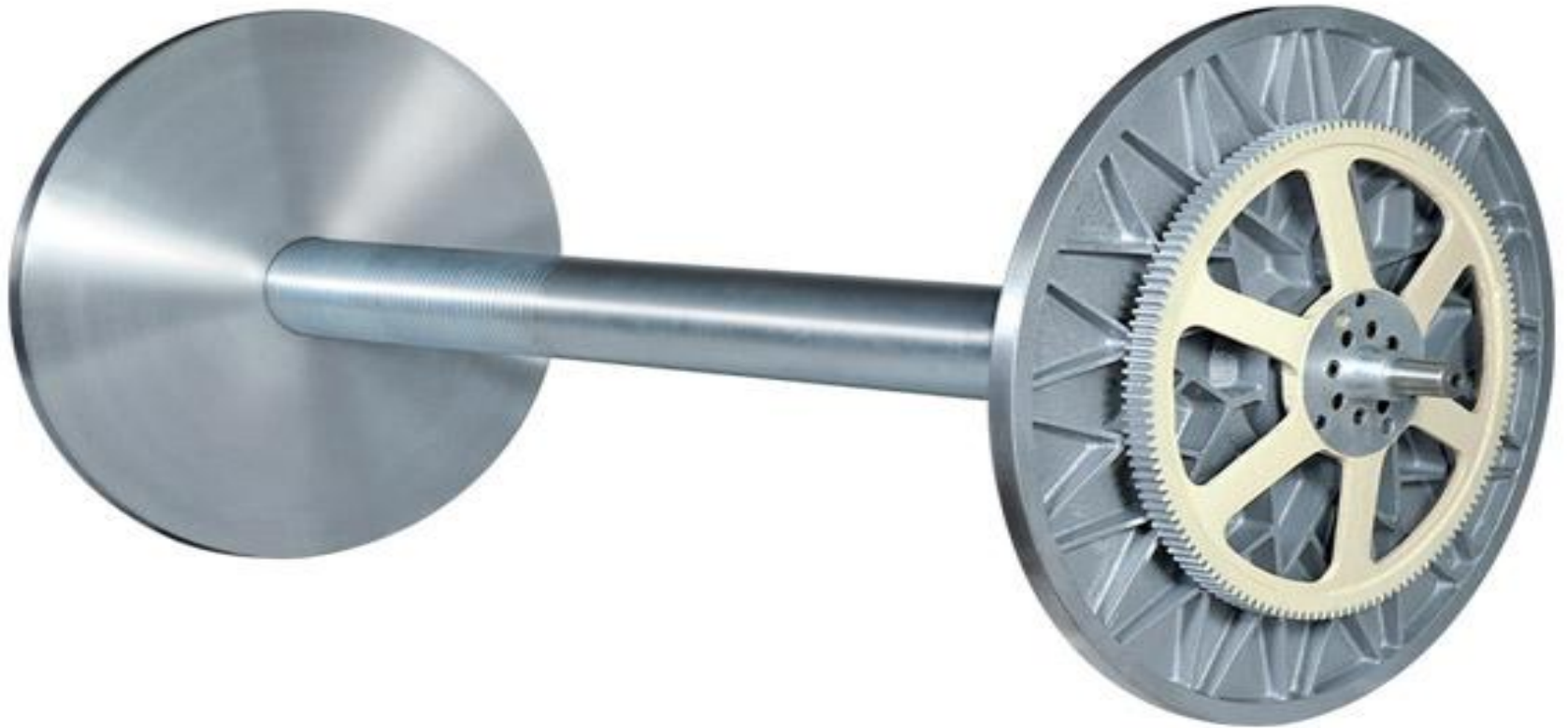
GOLIATH OF GATH



Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- From the Philistine Army was a man named Goliath, a champion, standing at six cubits and a span or nearly **Nine and a Half Feet Tall (17:4)**.
- He had bronze covering his legs, back, over his shoulders he carried a bronze javelin the size of a weavers beam. **His armor would have weighed roughly 156lbs**, and the **head of his spear would have weighed 18 lbs (17:5-7)**.

A Weavers Beam



Large amounts of thread were wrapped around this heavy duty beam

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- He would stand in the valley and challenge the Israelites to send one of their men to fight him **(17:8)**.
- If the Israelites win the Philistines would be their servants and if the Philistines win then the Israelites would be their servants **(17:9)**.

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- Goliath openly challenged and defied the armies of Israel and ultimately God **(17:10)**.
- King Saul and Israel heard Goliath's challenge and they were afraid of him and so they stayed on their side of the mountain in fear **(17:11)**.
- Goliath challenged the Israelites in the morning and evening everyday for 40 days **(17:16)**.

David the Son of Jesse



Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- David was the son of Jesse, the youngest son of eight **(17:12-14)**.
- His three oldest brothers had followed Saul into battle **(17:13)**.
- David often stayed home, not following the King to tend to his elderly father's sheep **(17:15)**.

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- Jesse asks David to go and take grain, bread, and cheese to his brothers and their captain who were encamped at the Valley of Elah **(17:17-18).**
- David reaches the camp as the Israelites were preparing to fight and speaks with his brothers **(17:19-22).**

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- As David spoke to his brothers Goliath emerged from the Philistines and bellowed out his challenge yet again as the Israelites flee **(17:23-24)**.
- The Israelites tell David that whoever kills Goliath will have the kings daughter, the kings father's house, and is exempt from paying taxes **(17:25)**.

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

“For who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”
(17:26).

David’s oldest brother Eliab scolds David for wanting to see a battle and accuses him of abandoning his father’s sheep in the wilderness **(17:28).**

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- And David said, “What have I done now? *Is there not a cause?*” David confronted each brother with this question **(17:29)**.

**If God is not worth standing up for,
then what is...?**

Goliath's Challenge is Accepted



Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- King Saul hears what David has said and sends for him **(17:31)**.
- Then David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” **(17:32)**.
- Saul tells David that he is only a youth and that Goliath has been a man of war since he was a youth **(17:33)**.

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- David justifies fighting Goliath by recounting how he killed lions and bears who attacked his sheep **(17:34-35).**
- David demonstrates tremendous faith in God by telling Saul that God will deliver Goliath to him since he has defied God's armies **(17:36-37).**

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- David was fitted with armor but had not tested it and so he chooses to fight Goliath without them **(17:39)**.
- David takes only his staff, sling, and five smooth stones in a shepherds pouch and walked down into the Valley Elah to meet **Goliath**.

David Fights Goliath



Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- Goliath sees David coming and walks out to meet him, Goliath recognized that David was young and considers him an unworthy opponent (17:41-42).
- He begins to intimidate David, asking if David thought he was a dog. He then curses David by the names of his gods and said he would feed David's flesh to birds and beasts (17:43-44).

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- David says you come with weapons, but I come in the name of The Lord of Hosts, whom you defied (17:45).
- (1)God Will Deliver you to me; (2) I will strike you; (3) I will take your head; (4) The birds and beasts will feed on the Philistines, and all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel (17:46-47)

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- Goliath had heard enough and came at David who rushed out to fight Goliath (17:48).
- David, on his first try as Goliath was approaching him, took a rock from his pouch and slung it with the rock hitting Goliath and sinking into his forehead, mortally wounding him (17:49).

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- David having no sword ran and took Goliath's, and then took his head as he promised God would do for him (17:50).
- When the Philistines saw that their champion had been beaten by a kid with only a sling, they ran, and the battle was over (17:51).
- This was the beginning of David's rise to becoming King.

Lessons From the Valley of Elah for the Church Today



Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- **Spiritual Weakness Can Even Affect Nations**

Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.

~ **Proverbs 14:34**

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- Fear is a reproach to God

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God.

~ 2 Timothy 1:7-8

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- **Defying God Has Consequences**

behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the LORD, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations.

~ **Jeremiah 25:9**

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- When Goliath defied Israel he was ultimately defying God
- When Paul persecuted the Church (**Galatians 1:13**) he ultimately persecuted Christ (**Acts 9:4**).
- It is no light matter to mistreat Christians.

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- **Never Discount the Small Things, or Weak Things**

*But God has chosen the **foolish things** of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak **things** of the world to put to shame the **things** which are mighty.*

~ 1 Corinthians 1:27

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

Shamgar had an oxgoad;
Rahab had a string;
Gideon had a trumpet;
David had a sling;
Samson had a jawbone;
Moses had a rod;
Tabitha had a needle;
But all were used for God!

~ Mac Layton

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- **Everyone Has Something to Contribute**

*So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to **you**, if you have faith as a mustard seed, **you** will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for **you**.”*

~ Matthew 17:20

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

~ **Philippians 4:12-13**

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

- The Lord's cause does not depend upon elaborate methods for its success.
- David did not assault Goliath with a sword, spear, or sophisticated armor; rather, his confidence was in the power of truth.
- We should consider where true power exists:

Lessons From the Valley of Elah

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

~ **Romans 1:16**

**This Morning You Can Experience
The Power of God's Love**

A photograph of a field of golden wheat in the foreground, slightly out of focus. In the background, a bright sunburst or lens flare effect is visible against a hazy, greenish-yellow sky. The overall mood is warm and hopeful.

Love of God