

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
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SERIES: 1 Samuel, Part 2 (Who Are You Most Like – Saul or David?)

TITLE: Program 6 – Battle Strategy

MONDAY

OPEN

Can you imagine living under forty days of absolute fear and terror? Not forty days of purpose, but forty days of fear. How do you handle fear? What do you do? Because fear can literally decimate you. Well as we look at the story of David and Goliath, you and I are going to learn that we don't have to be afraid of those Goliaths if we have the right mindset. We'll talk about it today as we look at God's precepts for life.

PART ONE

You know there have been many many books written about David and Goliath. It's a story that has captured our imagination, especially as a child. We think of that giant, Goliath, standing there. I mean some say that he was nine foot tall. And they have historical records, of a man that was eight foot, 11 inches tall. He didn't live very long, but neither did Goliath. And Goliath didn't live very long because he met a man who knew how to handle fear.

And this is what we're going to talk about today as we look at this incredible incredible story. You know what I was thinking, Beloved? I was thinking that why does God devote so much time and so much space in the Bible to the story of David and Goliath? Why does He give us details that really, you don't see anywhere else as He describes a warrior that's coming against another person. Well, we're going to see that I think He does it because there's so many of us that have Goliaths in our life. At one time or another, you and I are going to come face-to-face with this figure, this person, or maybe it's a cause or maybe it's an enemy or maybe it's a nation or maybe it's a government that looms before us and we just feel so small. And we feel so insignificant. And we're sitting there, and our teeth are rattling and our hands are trembling and we're filled with fear. And that's not what God intends for His people. And He has some lessons for us, and that's what I want us to look at today. I want us to look at how do you deal with the Goliaths in your life or what is faith's battle strategy, as I spoke of in our last program, When the Enemy is Coming Against You. Well, remember we left off in 1 Samuel, chapter 17, and we saw in verse 16 that, **"The Philistine came forward morning and evening for forty days and took his stand,"**(1Samuel 17:16). And all the way through as you're marking your Bible, you want to mark the Philistine, the Philistine. I mean, this was the representative of all the enemies of all the Philistines that were coming against the nation of Israel. And it says, **"Then Jesse said to David his son, 'Take now for your brothers an ephah...,'"**(17:17a) and you remember he said, ["Take this food and go see your brothers and see how its going."] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Samuel 17:17-18) And as he gets there, it says in verse 20 that **"...David arose early in the morning and left the flock with a keeper and took the supplies and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the circle of the camp while the army was going out in battle array shouting the war cry. [And] Israel and the Philistines drew up in battle array, army against army. Then David left his baggage in**

the care of the baggage keeper, and ran to the battle line and entered in order to greet his brothers.” (17:20-22) Now, he had three brothers that were there in that battle and those are the three brothers whose names we know about. And as they were arrayed, you’ve got to imagine, and I was just there in this valley. I was just there looking at these two mountain peaks, or hills so to speak, that the armies would have been on and the valley’s in the center. And here this warrior is standing nine foot tall in all of his awesome armor, threatening the army of Israel. And it says, “[And] **David left his baggage....**”(17:22a) Verse 23: “[And] **as he was talking with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine from Gath...,**” and you’d want to mark it again, “**...named Goliath, was coming up from the army of the Philistines, and he spoke these same words; and David heard them.**”(17:23) Now what are the “**same words?**” Well, they’re back in verse 8 and in verse 10. So, let me read them to you again. He says, “**...‘Why do you come out...in battle array? Am I not the Philistine and you servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me.’**” (17:8b) Now they had been hearing this for forty days. “**If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us. [And] the Philistine said...,**” and this is what you need to get, “**...[So] I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we [might] fight together.**” (17:9-10) “**...‘give me a man that we [might] fight together.’**” Well, “**When all the men...,**” verse 24, “**...of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and [they] were greatly afraid.**”(17:24) Greatly, greatly afraid. But you know what? David wasn’t afraid. Listen to what happens: “**The men of Israel said, ‘Have you seen this man who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to defy Israel. And it will be that the king will enrich [this] man who kills him with great riches and [he] will give him his daughter and make his...house free in Israel.’**” (17:25) In other words, no taxes no nothing. “**Then David spoke**

to the men who were standing by him, saying, ‘What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach [of] Israel?’....” Now listen to this next statement: “...‘For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?’” (17:26) “...Who is this uncircumcised Philistine...?” Well listen, if you were uncircumcised, you were not part of the covenant that God had made with Abraham and then later confirmed with Isaac and with Jacob, a covenant where He said that He would be their God, a covenant that promised them that they would be an enduring nation and that they would live on their land forever and ever. So this is an uncircumcised Philistine and David recognizes that the battle is not against this uncircumcised Philistine, but rather the battle is against this force of the enemy that is coming to defy the armies of the living God, to taunt the armies of the living God. Well, I wanna stop for a few minutes and I want to talk about what we do when we are overcome by fear. What does God want us to know and to understand when the Goliaths loom very big and very large in our lives? Well I think the first thing, and I told you this in the last program, but it’s this: Do not be dismayed. Do not be dismayed by the threat of man. Know this: It is just a man. I mean he may be nine foot tall, but it is just a man. And you and I need to know that whenever the enemy looms over us, even if it’s a government, that governments are in the hands of God. That if they are, so to speak, uncircumcised Philistines – in other words, if they do not belong to the kingdom of God, if they are opposed to the kingdom of God, if they are opposed to the people of God, then that’s a Goliath. And you don’t have to handle that Goliath on your own. Because, “**The fear of man brings a snare....**,” (Proverbs 29:25a) I want to take you to this verse so that you understand very very carefully, that “**The fear of man brings a snare....**,” Proverbs chapter 29, and you wanna write it down. And it’s Proverbs 29:25. Proverbs 29:25. And it’s a verse that you probably ought to write somewhere in the front of your Bible because so many times we need to stop and realize:

Hey, this is fear, and fear does not come from God. Well in Proverbs 29 verse 25 it says this: **“The fear of man brings a snare...,”** Now what is a snare? A snare is a trap. I mean you’re walking along and all of a sudden it’s gonna come up and it’s gonna grab you and it’s gonna put its tongs into you and it’s going to keep you from moving and it’s gonna paralyze you. So, **“The fear of man brings a snare...,”** But he goes on to say, **“...But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.” (Proverbs 29:25)** Well, if you’ve heard this story before, you know that David trusts in the Lord. And you know that David is exalted as a result of this. You know that the women come out and sing a song that Saul has killed his thousands and David his tens of thousands because he is exalted. And he’s exalted because he does not allow the fear of man to trap him. Beloved, so many times, so many times, when we get in a situation like this, what we do is we look at ourselves. We look at our own impotence, then we look at the enemy, and we look at this Goliath that is looming over us that is so much stronger, so much bigger, so much everything than we are. And the problem is, then we look at man and that fear of man, brings us a snare instead of looking beyond the man to the God that sits on His throne in heaven, the God who is sovereign. Now, the next thing I want you to know about this is that we are to fear not man, but we’re to fear God. And this is found in Matthew chapter 10:28. Matthew chapter 10:28. And in Matthew 10, verse 28, Jesus is speaking. And as He speaks, this is what He says, **“Do not fear those who kill the body...but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both [body and soul] in hell.”(Matthew 10:28)** In other words, [“Look, don’t look at man. The fear of man brings a snare. Look beyond man and look to God and remember that you are not to fear man who’s able to kill the body and sometimes God does allow us to die.”] Sometimes there are martyrs, history tells us this. And right now in this century we have more martyrs than we’ve ever had in all of history. So God sometimes allows us to die. [“And yet we are not to fear man who kills the body. We’re to fear God who is able to cast

both body and soul into hell.”] You see, what he’s saying here is this: that if you and I fear God, if we love Him, if we trust Him, if we believe Him, then our times are in His hands. And if we die, then we are absent from the body and we are present with the Lord, and that is even far better. Now I know you don’t think so, but according to God it is far better. And the minute that you die, you’re going to find that out. Well we’ll be right back in just a minute.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved, do you know that I love you? (Laughs) You say, “How can you love me you don’t even know me.” Well, I was in Israel recently, and I was standing in the Jewish quarter, and some people recognized me and came up to me and they were from Holland and I just immediately hugged ‘em and I loved them and they knew that I loved them and I loved them because I knew that they were studying along with me and that they were hungry for the Word of God. And I just thank you so much for being hungry for the Word of God. And you know we love those that have a similar heart as ours. Now, I want to make sure, before we get back into this subject of fear, I want to make sure you know how to contact us. We have a website and I want you to go to preceptsforlife.com. That’s preceptsforlife.com. And you can get in touch with us and you can download the study guide on Samuel. Because if you’re hesitant to mark the Bible, I want you to at least to be marking the study guide and we have the whole book of 1 Samuel in that study guide so that you can work along with us, you can mark the text and have it come alive. Of course my dream is that you would get a New Inductive Study Bible and that you would mark that because that’s the Bible I use and then together we would have marked Bibles that we can open up and immediately share with others the things that we are learning. These verses that I’m giving you on fear, you can even write in the margin of the Inductive Study Bible because it has wide

margins, and then you would always have them there. And then all you'd have to do is remember: Hey, where's that story about David and Goliath? Where's that giant that is looming over the children of Israel for forty days and bringing forty days of fear into their life. Well as we look at fear, we have realized that the fear of man brings a snare, but if we trust in the Lord, then we're going to have that fear dissipate. We're going to have that fear go away. Fear is natural and David says in the Psalms, ["When I am afraid, all of a sudden something happens and when I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee."] (PARAPHRASE, Psalm 56:3) And so this is the key to fear. And this is what you're going to see David doing. He's putting his trust in God, not in the giant, and not in the circumstances. He's looking beyond that. Now I've shared two verses with you on fear, I'm gonna share a third one. And this third one is very important. It's found in 2 Timothy, chapter 1, verse 7. And if you're able to go to your Bible and look at it, it's very important for you to do so. And I will tell you why, because when you look at the Scripture, when you mark the Scripture, it's a learning device and this is what will help you remember what you're hearing. The minute you participate in something, the deeper your learning goes. So in 2 Timothy, chapter 1, verse 7, Paul is writing to Timothy. And Paul is about to die, and Timothy is going to take over. He's passing the baton to him. And in essence he's saying, "Okay, now you've run beside me, now you're gonna run alone." And he says this, **"...God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline."** (2 Timothy 1:7) I think, actually, that behind fear is the enemy. It's like a demon is behind fear. It's all the host of the enemy and they want us to fear them rather than fear God. And so, what you and I need to recognize is this: that God has not given us the spirit of fear. So the minute I feel fear coming up in me, I have to realize: Hey, that's not from God. God has not given me a spirit of fear, but He has given me power. I am indwelt with the living God – the omnipotent God is inside of me. And the grace of God that saved me, brings me power. And that

“...power is perfected in [my] weakness....” as 2 Corinthians 12 (*verse 9*) says. So God has not given me a spirit of fear, but he’s given me power and he’s given me love. In other words, I know that God loves me and I know that because God loves me, He has me in His hand, and no one can do anything to me without His permission. And if He permits it, He has a purpose. And that purpose is a higher purpose than what I may see and understand. So God has not given me the spirit of fear, He’s given me power, He’s given me love, and He’s given me discipline or the word really in the Greek, is “a sound mind.” Now what is a sound mind? It means that it is a mind under control. It means that you do not go bananas when all of a sudden, this Goliath is looming over you or someone is threatening you and they’re even trying to take away your life. And it may be physically or it may be your children who are your life or it may be your husband who is your life or your wife who is your life. You’re not to fear man because man is just another mortal human being like you. And that’s what David realized even though this mortal human being standing in front of him, was nine foot tall and just in this fabulous fabulous armor that looked like no one could bring him down. David understood the power of God and so he did not have the spirit of fear. Well the next Scripture I want you to see, is Psalm 56 and it’s verse 3. Psalm 56, verse 3. And this is what you need to know and how you need to walk. **“When I am afraid I will put my trust in You.”** God. So the minute fear hits me, I’m gonna put my trust in God, I’m gonna know that the spirit of fear has not come from God, it has come from the enemy. God has not given me a spirit of fear, he’s given me power and love and a sound mind. Now, what do we do when the Goliaths come against us? Well, we have to stop and we have to look and say, “Okay, that is man; that is not God. That is man and therefore, I am not going to fear man because it will bring a snare.” So immediately, “God, I am afraid, but I’m going to put my trust in you. I’m going to rely on you.” And as you rely on God, which you need to do, you need to rehearse what you know about God. You need to

remember who God is. You need to remember what He has done in the past. You need to go over His attributes. He is omnipotent. That means He is all-powerful. He is omniscient. That means He is all-knowing. He is omnipresent. I mean He's not off on a vacation somewhere. He is right there. And because He's right there, then you don't have to be anxious for anything. But you instead, can turn to God, and [with prayer and supplication, as Philippians 4 says, you can let your requests be made known unto God and God will give you the peace that passes all understanding] (PARAPHRASE, Philippians 4:6-7) and all of a sudden, as you do that, you're going to find, instead of looking at the giant, you're going to see the one behind him, who is the God of all peace. And you're going to see that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and you're going to understand: Hey, I'm on the right team; I'm on the winning team. I don't have to fear the Goliaths that are raising their puny little fists and defying the armies of the living God. And you can say, "But I'm not an army. I'm one human being." But listen, you're one human being, and you're indwelt by the triune God: by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And as Romans 8 says, **"...if God is for us, who [can be] against us?"** (NAS & KJV mix, Romans 8:31) This is what Israel is about to understand and we'll look at it in our next program. But I want you to remember today, Beloved, that if you belong to God, and you're walking uprightly before God, God is for you. And if He's for you, then no one can be against you. So when see the Goliath, look beyond the Goliath to God because God has Goliath under His control. Fear not, little flock, He watches over you.