

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

a Production of

Precept Ministries International

P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218

1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

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

TITLE: Program 5 – The Enemy Looms

FRIDAY

OPEN

Oh, Beloved, is there someone or something looming over you; I mean absolutely threatening you, causing you to fear, causing you to tremble? What are you going to do? Should you tremble? Should you be afraid? You say, “Kay, if you knew what I was going through you would tremble and you would be afraid.” Alright then, let’s find out what we’re going to do about it. Let’s find God’s solution to the problem.

PART ONE

When an enemy is looming over you, Beloved, I mean when there is a threat of your safety, a threat of your family’s safety, a threat of your security, a threat of your future, what do you do? You need to know the battle strategy of faith. And that’s what we’re going to look at. We’re going to do a mini-series on the battle strategy of faith. And we’re going to do it from the story, that famous, famous story of David and Goliath. You know God tells us that

the stories of the Old Testament, that the events of the Old Testament, that what we learn from the Old Testament about God, that these things were written for our instruction, so that we, through the encouragement of the Scriptures might have hope, and so that we might persevere. And so what you and I are going to look at is a battle strategy of faith when an enemy is looming over you. I'm not talking about when you have a financial need. I'm not talking about you when you're wrestling with the integrity of the Word of God. I'm talking about a faith that is needed in a battle, in a warfare. So let's go and I'm going to pretend that you don't know a thing about this story. And what we're going to do is we're going to march through 1 Samuel, chapter 17, verse-by-verse because I don't want you to miss a thing. And as we do I just want to remind you that this program is dedicated to establishing you in God's Word, so that you might know how to discover truth for yourself, and so that you might realize that you can know the Word of God on your own; not that God doesn't want teachers, not that God doesn't use preachers and pastors and that, but God wants you, as His child to know the Word of God. Well let's get going. And it's 1 Samuel and it's chapter 17. And what I want us to do is I want us to pray, okay. I always pray for you before we do this program. But I want to pray with you now. Father, you know how scary it is to have an enemy that is looming over us, an enemy that seems so much stronger and so much more powerful. And Father I just pray that you would take this series and that you would minister to these precious ones, Father, that are under the sound and under the teaching of Your Word. And I pray, Father, that your word would find root in the good soil of their hearts and that it would bring forth such a harvest and that they would so delight in what they learn about You and that they would so know you that they would be able to stand firm, and that they would be able to take action; not that they would be immobilized, but they would be mobilized to go forward in the battle and know that it is faith that wins the victory. We thank you now and bless you, in Jesus' precious name,

amen. Now let's go to 1 Samuel, chapter 17. Now remember at this point in Samuel, David has been anointed as king by Samuel. Saul does not know this. Saul is the king of Israel; he's the first king of Israel. Saul knows though that God has removed the kingdom from him because of his disobedience, because he would not do what God said. God gave him two opportunities to be obedient to Him and both times Saul failed. And because he failed he wasn't a man after God's own heart. And God was searching for a man after His own heart. And a man after God's own heart, listen carefully, is a man who listens to God, and a man who obeys God. And so David is that man that God found, a man after His own heart. God has anointed him. And then what happens is Saul is tormented by an evil spirit. And because he's tormented by an evil spirit the men suggest that they get someone to play music for him so that they might drive the evil spirit away. Well they find David. Of course we know that David is the singer of the Psalms, that he is a harpist. And so he comes and when he plays the evil spirit goes away. Also we know that Saul just loves David and because he loves David he has made David his armor bearer. But David also is apparently serving his father, because when this opens David is not with Saul at this point, rather he's out in the field tending the sheep, because David is a shepherd. Alright, chapter 17; you got the background, let's go. **"Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh which belongs to Judah, and they [were] camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim."**(1 Samuel 17:1) And it says, **"[And] Saul and the men of Israel were gathered and camped in the valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array to encounter the Philistines."**(17:2) Now if you know anything about 1 Samuel, or if you have been following us as we've been teaching the book of 1 Samuel; we've been teaching it in segments, but as we've been teaching it, right from the beginning the Philistines are the enemy of Israel. And there's this constant, constant conflict between the Philistines and between the children of Israel.

Now the Philistines were located along the western coast of Israel. And it's the same place where Gaza is today. It was Gaza, it was Ekron, and other cities right in that area on that costal plain. These are people that came from across the sea and settled there. And this is why many people have called it the land of the Palestine's. And that comes from the Philistines. So they've been an enemy and they still are an enemy of Israel. "[And] **the Philistines stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.**" (17:3) Now this is very, very strategic in war. And you need to understand this; they had hills there. Alright, I'm in beautiful Tennessee; we know what our hills are. But there's a valley in between. And in warfare you want to be on the top so that you can look down and find out what your enemy is doing. But then when the battle happens, they both leave their mountaintops and come down, the battle happens in the valley. And so, "**Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.**" (17:4) Now listen, he was over nine feet tall. I mean this was one huge, huge man. And they're on these hills and he comes out and as he stands there he's just a mammoth of a man. And it is absolutely scary. "**He had a bronze helmet on his head...he was clothed with scale-armor...**" (17:5a) which was fine armor that lapped over. So it was kind of like fish scales that would protect them from the arrows getting through. And I want you to understand this. I want you to get a glimpse of this enemy, and God does too. And do you know why He gives you such a big glimpse of this enemy? He wants you to understand that all the odds were against the Israelites. He wants you to understand how big the enemy is. You say, "It scares me. You don't know how big my enemy is. My enemy is the court system. My enemy is the lawyer that my husband could afford to hire. My enemy is this group of people that are coming against me and are determined that they are going to get me out of my place of employment because I love Jesus Christ." Okay, Beloved, your enemy may be different,

but we're looking at the battle strategy of faith. And so, **"...he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze."** (17:5b) They figure he probably had on 125 pounds of armor. **"He also had bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin swung between his shoulders."** (17:6) Bronze was very, very strong. **"The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of the spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron; [and] his shield-carrier also walked before him."** (17:7) Alright, now just imagine this giant looming in front of you and you're just right down there, let's say you're six foot. He's three feet taller than you and when you look at him you see that he is covered from head to toe with armor, that there is no way that you can penetrate this armor. He has this bronze helmet on him. And not only that, but he has this fantastic spear here and with this fantastic spear he is able to hurl that spear and as he hurls that spear the way that it is constructed like a weaver's beam, it has a rope on it that causes it to spin and really hit its target. So this is what he looked like. You got the picture? Okay, now as we continue I want you to see what he did. **"He stood and [he] shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them, 'Why do you come out to draw up in battle array? Am I not the Philistine and you servants of Saul? Choose a man yourselves and let him come down to me [us].'"** He says, **"If he's [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] again the Philistine said, 'I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we [might] fight together.'" (17:8-10)** God's going to give him a boy, not a man. And if you know this story you know what happens. If you don't, stick with me and we'll unfold and unravel the story as we go along. But I want you to know this is an accurate story; this is a real story. This is history. So here is this man looming above them, covered with all this armor and making these threats against Israel. Now you say, "What is going on?" Well this was very common in those days, because in

those days what they would do many times to keep so many men from getting killed in the slaughter of battle; and you've got to remember that war was a profession. I mean it was the time for kings to go to war. Okay, so what are these armies doing? Well we'll talk about it right after the break.

PART TWO

Welcome back to the battlefield. A Philistine has just defied the armies of the living God. He has challenged them to send a man to come and fight against him, this nine-foot giant that is loaded from the top of his head to the tip of his toes with armor and who has a spear in his hand that is a deadly, deadly weapon. And he has said, ["Send a man out, and if I beat him, then we rule you. And if you beat me, then you rule us."] (PARAPHRASE 17:8-9) Now what is going on? Well this is the way they would fight their battles. Often they would have a contest between two. Now it's not like a duel. A duel is a personal thing. But this is a different tactic of war, and it's simply that you choose your two best men; you put them down there in the valley and you let them fight, and whoever wins then the other party submits to the winner. Well obviously from everything that you can see we know who the logical winner of this battle would be. It would be the one that is the biggest, the one that is the strongest, the one that is the most experienced. I mean you can understand what it says here. It says in verse 11 of 1 Samuel, chapter 17, **"When Saul and all Israel heard [the] these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid."** (17:11) I mean dismayed means that they just lost it; they couldn't get their act together. They couldn't think. You know what I mean. If you've been in a trial and the outcome of that trial is going to be determined by you and the enemy that has come against you, and that enemy is so much bigger and so much greater and so much more influential and so much powerful, you know that sometimes when you think of what you're going to lose, when you think of what's going to happen if you lose, then you're just dismayed. You can't think. You can't get your

act together. You can't reason it through. And in that lethargy of mind or that freezing of your mind, so that you can't go anywhere; you're just frozen, you're just paralyzed with fear, then you don't know what to do. And you need to understand that this is a battle strategy of faith. And it's faith that is going to win the battle. It is faith that is going to make you more than a conqueror. And behind every enemy what you need to see is you need to see God, who looms much larger than any enemy. Well, as we look at this, mark every reference to the Philistine. Now you can mark every reference to Goliath and you can mark every pronoun, but you'll have too many markings in your Bible. So what I would do is any time you see the name Goliath or anytime you see the Philistine, not the Philistines, but the Philistine, that is the representative, then what I want you to do is simply put a box around it. Now if you have downloaded the study guide for this program then you know what to do because we show you that, and you just go to preceptsforlife.com and you can download the study guide. Alright now, let's go on and see what happens. It says, **"Now David was the son of the Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, whose name was Jesse, and he had eight sons. And Jesse was old in the days of Saul, advanced in years among men. (17:12) The three older sons of Jesse had gone after Saul to the battle. And the names of [these] three sons who went to the battle were Eliab..., we've met him before, "...the firstborn, and the second to him Abinadab..., and we've met him before in the previous chapter. "...and the third Shammah." (17:13) and we've met him before in the previous chapter. And it says, "David was the youngest. Now the three oldest followed Saul, but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's flock at Bethlehem. The Philistine came forward morning and evening for forty days and took his stand." (17:14-16) And what do you have? Instead of forty days of purpose, as my friend has written, instead of Forty Days of Purpose what you have is you have forty days of fear, forty days of terror, forty days of threatening. Now what has God done? God has**

set up the battle scene. God has shown you how great the enemy is. Now He's going to introduce the one that's going to come against the enemy and that one is David. And what He wants you to know as He tells you this about David; He doesn't want you to forget. You have to remember that the Bible for the common man was an oral book. And because it was an oral book what happened was they would repeat themselves; God would repeat Himself so that they would remember because repetition and review is essential for memory. So He's introducing David, and He wants you to understand that David is the youngest of Jesse's sons. Here is a young man, and what God's going to do is He's going to bring David to the battlefield. But before we get David on the battlefield, I want you to write down the first principle of faith's strategy in war when an enemy is looming above you. Well the first thing is this: that you are not to be dismayed. Do not be dismayed by the threat of man; rather, you need to fear God. And what we're going to see as we read on is we're going to see David coming on the scene so that you know that you're not to be threatened by man. You're not to fear the face of man. So watch what happens. Well, it says in verse 17, **"Then Jesse said to David his son, 'Take now for your brothers an ephah of this roasted grain and these ten loaves and run to the camp [of] your brothers. [And] bring also these...cuts of cheese to the commander of [the] thousand[s], and look into the welfare of your brothers, and bring back news of them.' (17:17-18)** Well his brothers weren't doing so well. They were scared to death. Saul and all the people were scared. It was forty days of fear. **"For Saul and they and all the men of Israel are in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. So David arose early in the morning and left the flock with a keeper and took the supplies and went as Jesse had commanded..., he came to the circle of the camp while the army was going out in battle array shouting the war cry. (17:19-20)** 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 [in] order to great his brothers. [And] As he was talking with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine from Gath named Goliath, was coming up from the army of the Philistines, and...spoke these same words; [‘I defy the armies of the living God,’ (PARAPHRASE OF 17:10)] and David heard them. [And] When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled...and were greatly afraid.”(17:21-24) What do you do in fear? We’ll talk about it in our next program. Remember I have eight battle strategies of faith for you that are going to enable you to live and walk as more than a conqueror, no matter how big, no matter how foreboding the enemy is, you Beloved, can be more than conqueror through Him who loves, who loves you. **“And this is the victory that...overcome[s] the world, [even] our faith.” (1 John 5:4b)** So grab hold of God. Grab hold of all that God is and walk and live in the light of it, Precious One, and you will be more than a conqueror. God bless you!