

1 Samuel Chapter 17 Commentary

1Sa 17:1 ¶ "Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim."

We can look at the definitions of these words and see a prophetic picture. Shochoh means *to entwine, shut in, protection or restraint, fence, make an hedge*. Judah means *celebrated, to use the hand, to throw a stone or arrow at or away, to revere or worship with extended hands*. Azekah means *tilled, to grub out, fence about*. Ephesdammim means *boundary of blood-drops*.

Now, let us look at the scene before us. The Philistines have come to this place to war upon Israel. The Philistines choose to assemble in a place that means to be shut in, which is situated between a tilled and fenced place and a boundary of blood drops. It is a place which belongs to Israel, given them by God, of which they have lost control because of sin and rebellion against God.

Do you see the child of God before the new birth? They are the possession of God, however, in their flesh nature, they have been invaded by sin and Satan, whose intent is to keep them in captivity or destroy them, which is the intent of the Philistines to Israel. However, this child of God is already the possession of God, bought by the shed blood of Christ on the cross. So, the enemy has moved in upon a place that is not theirs, but a place that belongs to another. As this scene continues to be opened, we will see the delivering power of God, through Jesus Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, in this possession of God, which will be delivered from this invasion.

We shall also see the greater application of how the power of Jesus will establish the Church of Salvation by the Grace of God on earth. It will display the ongoing warfare between the principalities and powers of the earth and God's Church on earth, both individually and severally. It will display the eternal security of God's people.

2 "And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. 3 And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them."

Elah means *an oak or other strong tree*. This gives us the prophetic picture of how the deliverance of God's people, individually and severally, is all dependent upon the tree of life, Jesus Christ. David, the son of Jesse who has already been anointed to be king over Israel, will be used as a picture of Jesus Christ.

Here, we are given the setting of the scene: The Philistines on one mountain, and the Israelites on the opposite mountain, with a valley between them where the battle is to be fought.

There is a prophetic picture in this scene. God's people who need to be delivered from the bondage of Satan and have their sins forgiven are on one mountain. The devil and his armies are on the other mountain. The battle for the deliverance of God's people will be fought in the valley. Two mountains with a valley between, if profiled will make the letter V. Jesus came down from heaven and descended into the valley of the shadow of death and overcame Satan to bring freedom to God's people. Jesus coming down from heaven to earth and ascending back to heaven forms the letter V. This letter V represents the victory that was accomplished for us by Jesus. Just as David will slay Goliath, Jesus also overcame Satan. Though Satan is not dead as Goliath, he is just as helpless to do any damage to the eternal salvation of God's people which Jesus has wrought.

4 "And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. 6 And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. 7 And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him."

Goliath means *exile* and Gath means *winepress*. Because we have the New Testament scriptures, and know how this chapter ends, we see a prophetic picture revealed in these definitions. Consider the eternal judgment at the end of time. Goliath and the Philistines, representative of Satan and his followers, will be exiled to an eternity in the lake of fire. Goliath was from Gath, which is representative of this earth. Here on earth is where Jesus trod the winepress alone and wrought eternal salvation for all of God's chosen people.

Understand, the principalities and powers of this earthly world have a champion, who is the devil. Remember, the Philistines are a multitude of people with their one champion. On earth in time, the Christian has many foes, who have one champion, the devil, who is hurling darts at God's people and church.

The scene before us is that of a giant of a man, before whom even the bravest warriors of Israel do fear and tremble. Most commentators put his height between nine and ten feet. He has a very copious array of armor and exceptionally large weapons, which are complimentary to this size.

He even has a shield bearer to go before him, so that both of his hands are free to fight. Remember, Satan desires to be seen and known as God. However, because God is the greatest of all powers that exist, and existed before anything else was created, all Satan can do is imitate the works of God.

Now see the image of the shield bearer of Goliath. God in heaven sent his Son, Jesus Christ to earth to fight the war of eternal salvation for God's people. Wherefore, Satan, in his attempt to imitate God's plan, has one to bear his shield before him. This shield bearer is a son of Satan.

We have the scene of a formidable enemy, the devil, and his minions, who have come forth to war upon God's people. The satanic force is a formidable enemy to God's people and cannot be warded off by the power of even an extraordinary fleshly man. Satan is much stronger than a fleshly man. It will take the power of God to overcome him. This shows us: if a child of God is not born again and does not have the power of the Holy Spirit in them, they are helpless before this giant beast.

8 "And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. 9 If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. 10 And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. 11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid."

Goliath issues a challenge to Israel which must be answered. If they do not accept the challenge and provide a man to fight, they have already lost the war. These ordinary men of Israel, even Saul who was head and shoulders taller than any other Israelite, are trembling with fear before this giant foe.

Notice, Goliath points out that Israel is serving Saul. This reminds us that Israel chose Saul over God. This is why Israel is trembling before this giant of a man. They are serving the flesh and have forsaken God in their hearts. Wherefore, they have no strength, nor faith, to sustain them. If you were serving a leader, and your leader cowers and trembles before the challenger, would you have any strength or confidence? The answer is no. This points out the necessity of the Christian to place full faith and confidence in Jesus Christ.

This demonstrates that when a Christian is faced with temptations in life, they have the need to fall down and pray to God, for the manifestation of the power of Christ in us. This is the picture of the weapon called "**all prayer**" seen in: ***Eph 6:18; 10 ¶ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 ¶ And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.***" We shall see this text manifested in David's words, when David goes to meet Goliath.

12 ¶ "Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men for an old man in the days of Saul. 13 And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the

firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul. 15 But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem."

We are again told who David is, and that his three oldest brothers are soldiers under Saul. Eliab means **God of (his) father**; Abinadab means **father of generosity**, and Shammah means **ruin; by implication, consternation, astonishment, desolation, waste, wonderful thing**, and David means **loving, well beloved**. We are also reminded that David, who was heretofore recommended to play for King Saul when the evil spirit came upon him, has been released from serving Saul, and has returned to keeping his Father's sheep.

A prophetic scene is before us. We see in the three eldest sons of Jesse the law service. We see in David the picture of Jesus Christ. How do we see this picture? The three oldest sons, whose names indicate they are God's people, are serving under the leadership of Saul. This demonstrates God's people under the law service doing the things prescribed by the ceremonial and sacrificial law service. David is not serving Saul but his father. David, through whom will come deliverance from the bondage of the Philistines, shows the finished work of Jesus Christ, and the ushering in of the age of salvation by grace, which will free God's people from the bondage of Satan. We will pick this dialog back up in verses 27-31, for greater clarification of the scene.

16 "And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days. 17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; 18 And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge. 19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. 20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle. 21 For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. 22 And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren."

We point out: God has providentially worked things out so that David was on the scene on the fortieth day that Goliath presented his challenge to Israel. David, who is already anointed to be king over Israel, was sent by his father to check on his brothers. David will demonstrate that God has anointed him to be king by facing Goliath, the champion of the Philistines. Jesus was sent by his Father into this world in a prepared body, to reveal that he is our King and to overcome Satan and his armies of evil ones. David brought with him bread for his brethren, and Jesus brought to God's people the bread of life.

The battle is being put in array, it is the fortieth day and will be the last day the challenge is issued, which is why the armies are already beginning to battle. The challenge has not been met, wherefore, it is time to fight.

David finds his brothers and is talking to them when Goliath issues this fortieth, and last, challenge. The fortieth day reminds us that it was on the fortieth day, after fasting in the wilderness and being tempted three times by Satan, that Jesus overcame Satan by giving him the word of God for each temptation presented. This is a picture of what David will do when he goes to meet Goliath.

23 "And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them. 24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. 25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel."

The armies are fighting when Goliath appears on the scene, the Israelites flee before him in fear. Saul, who is afraid and unwilling to fight Goliath, had issued a decree: whoever will fight and kill Goliath will be given great riches, be wed to his daughter, and Saul would make his father's house free in Israel.

We see the prophetic picture: Jesus, in his victory over death, hell, and the grave, gave great riches to God's people: Jesus betrothed the New Testament church to himself, and set God's people free from their captivity.

26 "And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

Notice, David's question; and how it puts things in the proper perspective. He declares that this uncircumcised Philistine is a reproach to the God of Israel, and that Goliath has defamed the name of God. He declares that Goliath is nothing before God because God is supreme, and God is a living God. Here is where we see David as a man after God's own heart. There is at least one believer in Israel, who is willing to publicly profess: God is on his throne and rules in heaven and upon earth.

27 "And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him. 28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. 29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?"

The people reaffirm the edict of King Saul. David's oldest brother reprimands David saying that he is proud and just came to see the battle, but we know that he has been sent by his father. David's brethren know that David has been anointed to be king over Israel, and we suspect: David's brethren, knowing that David, who is the youngest brother, is destined to rule over them, were jealous, and this jealousy prompts this accusation of Eliab. David's answer is "**Is there not a cause?**" David, who has already been anointed to be king over Israel, understands that God has sent him here to be present and to do God's will. He understands that God will use him to deliver Israel.

Picking up our dialog from verses 12-15: As Eliab accuses David, think of all the accusations that the leaders of Israel under the law service, Jesus's own brethren, hurled at Jesus when he was on the earth, whose accusations were generated by their jealousy. Jesus, just as David, understood his cause, and purpose, which was to overcome Satan, and he was not deterred from doing the will of his Father.

30 "And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner. 31 ¶ And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him. 32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. 33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. 34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: 35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. 36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. 37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee."

David asks another about what would be done to the man who fought and slew Goliath. They reaffirm by giving him the same answer. David's words were reported to Saul, who sends for David. David tells Saul: no man should be afraid to go fight Goliath, because Israel is the army of the living God. Saul tells David that he is too young to fight, and David assures Saul that he has credentials that prove he has the ability to fight. David also reminds Saul: God is in charge, and God will deliver. King Saul, after hearing David's faith and trust in God, gives him permission to go and fight for Israel, and bids him God speed.

David's affirmation, of his faith and trust in God, reminds us of our duty as seen in: **1Ti 6:12 "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."** The professing Christian has the duty "**to lay hold on eternal life,**" which is to believe, with all thine heart, that whatsoever obstacles you meet in life, God will empower you to overcome them.

38 "And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. 39 And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not

proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him."

Saul, in hopes of getting some glory for himself, gives David his personal armor. David says that he has not proved his worth of the armor and removes King Saul's armor and sword. After all, Saul was head and shoulders bigger than anyone in Israel, including David, and I am sure the oversized armor was cumbersome.

Ultimately, David is not trusting in the works of men's hands; he is trusting in God. David has already put on the whole armor of God, just as we are charged to do in: ***Eph 6:11-13; 11 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."***

40 ¶ "And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine."

David takes his shepherd's staff, collects five stones for use in his sling, and goes to meet Goliath. When we are faced with our enemies and temptations in life, we must be sure that we are leaning upon Jesus. We are to take his Word of truth, which is to be stored in our hearts and minds, as the weapons of defense in our warfare.

We remind you again of how Jesus defeated Satan in his temptations of Jesus after fasting in the desert for forty days. What did Jesus use to answer the challenges of Satan? He used the Word of God to rebut each temptation of Satan.

Which leads us to ask this question: Is your script, your mind, full of the words of God, the stones, that God has provided for our defense? Do you have your sling in your hand, which is a picture of your heart being prepared to give a ready answer? God help us to lean fully upon thee, and trust wholly in thy Word of Truth.

41 "And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. 42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. 43 And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field."

Goliath comes forward to meet his opponent, and sees that David is but a youth, and he sneers at him. Goliath belittles David and curses David by the Philistine gods. Goliath tells David to come, and I will feed you to the fowls and beasts of the earth. We are reminded of the scripture in: ***Jer 17:5-6; 5 ¶ "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. 6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited."*** All of Goliath's trust was in his great size and physical strength. He has no care or regard for God at all.

45 "Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. 46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands."

David's answer to Goliath is that God will tear your house down, and his creatures will feed upon the flesh of the Philistines. David points out that Goliath is using the weapons of the earth, but David is fighting in the name of God. David understands that God is the ultimate weapon and protection of his people. David's trust of God reminds us of the scripture in: ***Jer 17:7 "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. 8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and***

shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."

David says that God will do this, to make the name of God great on earth, and to make everyone know that there is a God in Israel, who has won the battle for his people. "***All this assembly***" points out to us: God intends for his chosen people, and their enemies, to be reminded and know that God is all powerful.

Notice, David gives all the glory and praise to the Lord. David is not going to war in his name, but in the name of the Lord. How often do we go to war with our enemies in our own name and leave God out?

David says that God will make his name great upon the earth by his deliverance of Israel from the Philistines. Certainly, the name of God was made great though Jesus Christ upon the earth. As a matter of fact, the name of Jesus is so great upon the earth that it is the only name through which sinners might be brought to eternal salvation, seen in: ***Ac 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."***

After this battle, the kings of the earth will be measured by the standard set by King David. The performance of all of God's people is measured by the standard set by our King, Jesus Christ, since his return to the immortal heaven and the throne of God.

48 ¶ "And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. 49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. 51 Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled."

David slings the stone, and it smites Goliath in the forehead. There is much conjecture about how it came to be that Goliath's forehead was not protected. No one knows, but I suspect: his disdain for David was so great that he never put his forehead covering in place. Even if his forehead was protected by his armor, there is no armor of man that can withstand the power of God. We are sure that the stone David slung was powered, and directed, to its mark by the power of God, and there was nothing that could hinder that stone from doing the work of God.

David kills Goliath with a sling and stone and beheads Goliath with his own sword. Do you remember the definition of Judah? Judah means ***celebrated, to use the hand, to throw a stone or arrow at or away, to revere or worship with extended hands.*** David is from Bethlehemjudah. David uses his hand to throw the stone that kills Goliath. David is no doubt an excellent marksman with the sling and stone, however, this stone is directed to the mark by the power of God, in whom David has put his whole trust. This reminds us of how Jesus overcame Satan when he tempted him, which was by the word of God, which is the power of God, when used correctly and sent forth in the power of the Holy Spirit of God.

"and he fell upon his face to the earth." What difference did it make if Goliath fell on his face or his back? We believe that Goliath fell on his face, because God caused him to fall in the position of obeisance to God.

David will be celebrated, revered, and worshipped, for his victory over Goliath. Surely, we see the prophetic picture of the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. We remember also: Judah and David are both names in the lineage, which will lead us to the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Philistines flee when they see that Goliath has fallen. Remember, our giant enemy only has head knowledge, which is his weakness. Jesus has given us the written word of God, the King James bible, which is our shepherd's bag, wherein we can reach in and find the stone of our defense to be slung into the forehead of our enemy. The truth of God, correctly used, will always defeat the head knowledge of our enemy.

The Philistines, who are fleeing away after the fall of their champion, have suddenly forgotten the deal of being servants to Israel if a man could slay Goliath. God is again providentially working out the way of freedom for his people from the Philistines. Israel does not need Philistine slaves in their midst. The same is true for the Christian. We do not need any demonic enemies to be slave to us. We are to drive them far from us and slay them by the Word and Power of God. This must be done, or we may be tempted, by demonic slaves, to turn from God, as we have seen happen to Israel many times.

The lesson for us: the armor that man makes is not impenetrable. Goliath's armor was not stronger than the power of God. This is why the Christian must put on the "**whole armor of God**." The finished work of Jesus Christ does not have any place that is vulnerable to the darts of Satan. This is the security of our eternal life in Christ. If we do not put on all the armor of God, we leave ourselves vulnerable to attack, and we will likely fall in temptations.

52 "And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron. 53 And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents. 54 And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent."

God, having wrought victory through David in slaying Goliath, moves Israel to arise and pursue the Philistines until they come to the valley of Ekron, which is a city of the Philistines. Ekron means *eradication, to pluck up (especially by the roots), to hamstring, to exterminate, hough, pluck up, root up*. The Philistines "**fell down by the way to Shaaraim**." Shaaraim means *double gates*. The double gates are representative of the wide gate, which has two doors and opens to the broad way, seen in: **Mt 7:13-14; 13 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."**

Whereas, the strait gate has one door, which opens to the narrow way, which is Jesus Christ.

The Philistines fell all the way to Gath. Gath means *treading out grapes, a winepress*. Remember, Jesus trod the winepress alone, as prophesied in: **Isa 63:3 "I have trodden the winepress alone;"** The Philistines fell all the way to Ekron. This gives us the prophetic picture of the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ at the end of time. How? When will sin, and its enablers, finally be completely overthrown? At the resurrection of the dead in Christ, when God's people are eternally liberated from sin and Satan.

This scene gives us the picture of God's people, once saved by grace and born again, are to take up the Word of God and drive temptations and sins from their bodies and lives. Jesus has already given us the victory when we are born again, wherefore, we are to take up our cross and follow him. If we lay hold of Jesus, and his word of truth, our enemies will always fall before us, because they fear and tremble before God the Father, God the Son, and God the Hoy Ghost.

55 "And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, Abner, whose son is this youth? And Abner said, As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell. 56 And the king said, Enquire thou whose son the stripling is. 57 And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 And Saul said to him, Whose son art thou, thou young man? And David answered, I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

Saul watches David slay Goliath and then asks Abner, the commander of his army, who son David is. Abner gets David and brings him to Saul, who asks him about his heritage. David tells him that he is the son of Jesse the Bethlehemite.

We remember that David in the past played upon the harp to drive the evil spirit from Saul. We remember that Saul took David to be his armor bearer. We would think that Saul would remember who David was because of all this exposure to him. Saul even asked David's father Jesse permission for David to stay with him. Why did Saul not recognize David? I believe that God had blinded Saul's eyes to the knowledge of who David was, because David is God's anointed man to be king over Israel. As we consider this, we remember: When Jesus came to earth, in his prepared body born of the virgin Mary, his own people Israel did not recognize that he was the King over God's people, the prophesied Messiah. Like Saul, their eyes were blinded, because they were not serving God in spirit and truth, but rather, they were doing that which was right in their own eyes.

As we consider the whole of this chapter, we understand the providence of God is at work in David's life. We see the prophetic picture of David being used of God to lead Israel, and exercising in the kingship with which God has anointed him.

In David, God's anointed King of Israel: we see the prophetic picture of the coming of Jesus Christ, King of all of God's people. David was anointed to be king over Israel long before he stood in that ordained position. Before Jesus was on earth, he was ordained of God to be the eternal King over God's people. When Jesus was in the world, in the prepared body of flesh, Jesus wrought that magnificent work of freeing God's people from sin and bondage to Satan. Jesus, since his first coming, was King over God's people, but he will not be fully viewed in that eternal position until the end of time comes.

We thank you, King Jesus, that we can know today; you are our eternal King, and Priest forever, and enjoy the joy of your salvation by the grace God, as we await thy second coming. Hallelujah! Amen!