**1 Samuel 17**

**David and Goliath**

Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. **2**Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. **3**The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

**4**A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Samuel%2017&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7623a)] **5**He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Samuel%2017&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7624b)]; **6**on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. **7**His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Samuel%2017&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7626c)] His shield bearer went ahead of him.

**8**Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. **9**If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.” **10**Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.” **11**On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

**12**Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul’s time he was very old. **13**Jesse’s three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. **14**David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, **15**but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father’s sheep at Bethlehem.

**16**For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

**17**Now Jesse said to his son David, “Take this ephah[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Samuel%2017&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7636d)] of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. **18**Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Samuel%2017&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7637e)] from them. **19**They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines.”

**20**Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. **21**Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. **22**David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. **23**As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. **24**Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

**25**Now the Israelites had been saying, “Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.”

**26**David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

**27**They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, “This is what will be done for the man who kills him.”

**28**When Eliab, David’s oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, “Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.”

**29**“Now what have I done?” said David. “Can’t I even speak?” **30**He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. **31**What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

**32**David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

**33**Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

**34**But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, **35**I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. **36**Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. **37**The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

**38**Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. **39**David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. **40**Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

**41**Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. **42**He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. **43**He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. **44**“Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

**45**David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. **46**This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. **47**All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

**48**As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. **49**Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

**50**So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

**51**David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. **52**Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Samuel%2017&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7671f)] and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron. **53**When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp.

**54**David took the Philistine’s head and brought it to Jerusalem; he put the Philistine’s weapons in his own tent.

**55**As Saul watched David going out to meet the Philistine, he said to Abner, commander of the army, “Abner, whose son is that young man?”

Abner replied, “As surely as you live, Your Majesty, I don’t know.”

**56**The king said, “Find out whose son this young man is.”

**57**As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with David still holding the Philistine’s head.

**58**“Whose son are you, young man?” Saul asked him.

David said, “I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem.”

**1 Samuel 24**

**David Spares Saul’s Life**

[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+24&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7841a)]After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the Desert of En Gedi.” **2**So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats.

**3**He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. **4**The men said, “This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+24&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7844b)] to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’” Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.

**5**Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. **6**He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.” **7**With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

**8**Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, “My lord the king!” When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. **9**He said to Saul, “Why do you listen when men say, ‘David is bent on harming you’? **10**This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, ‘I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord’s anointed.’ **11**See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. **12**May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. **13**As the old saying goes, ‘From evildoers come evil deeds,’ so my hand will not touch you.

**14**“Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Who are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? **15**May the Lord be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand.”

**16**When David finished saying this, Saul asked, “Is that your voice, David my son?” And he wept aloud. **17**“You are more righteous than I,” he said. “You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. **18**You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the Lord delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. **19**When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the Lord reward you well for the way you treated me today. **20**I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. **21**Now swear to me by the Lord that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father’s family.”

**22**So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

**2 Samuel 7**

**God’s Promise to David**

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, **2**he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

**3**Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.”

**4**But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:

**5**“Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? **6**I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. **7**Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’

**8**“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. **9**I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. **10**And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning **11**and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-8192a)] over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“‘The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: **12**When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. **13**He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14**I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. **15**But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **16**Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-8197b)]; your throne will be established forever.’”

**17**Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

**David’s Prayer**

**18**Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said:

“Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? **19**And as if this were not enough in your sight, Sovereign Lord, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant—and this decree, Sovereign Lord, is for a mere human![[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-8200c)]

**20**“What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, Sovereign Lord. **21**For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant.

**22**“How great you are, Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. **23**And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt?[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-8204d)] **24**You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, Lord, have become their God.

**25**“And now, Lord God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, **26**so that your name will be great forever. Then people will say, ‘The Lord Almighty is God over Israel!’ And the house of your servant David will be established in your sight.

**27**“Lord Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, ‘I will build a house for you.’ So your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. **28**Sovereign Lord, you are God! Your covenant is trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant. **29**Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, Sovereign Lord, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever.”

**2 Samuel 11:1-17 & 12:1-25**

**David and Bathsheba**

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

**2**One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, **3**and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” **4**Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. **5**The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”

**6**So David sent this word to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent him to David. **7**When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. **8**Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. **9**But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master’s servants and did not go down to his house.

**10**David was told, “Uriah did not go home.” So he asked Uriah, “Haven’t you just come from a military campaign? Why didn’t you go home?”

**11**Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-8271a)] and my commander Joab and my lord’s men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!”

**12**Then David said to him, “Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. **13**At David’s invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master’s servants; he did not go home.

**14**In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. **15**In it he wrote, “Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.”

**16**So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. **17**When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David’s army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

**2 Samuel 12:1-25**

**Nathan Rebukes David**

The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. **2**The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, **3**but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

**4**“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

**5**David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! **6**He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

**7**Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. **8**I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. **9**Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. **10**Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

**11**“This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. **12**You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

**13**Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. **14**But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel%2012&version=NIV#fen-NIV-8301a)] the Lord, the son born to you will die.”

**15**After Nathan had gone home, the Lord struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and he became ill. **16**David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel%2012&version=NIV#fen-NIV-8303b)] on the ground. **17**The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them.

**18**On the seventh day the child died. David’s attendants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, “While the child was still living, he wouldn’t listen to us when we spoke to him. How can we now tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate.”

**19**David noticed that his attendants were whispering among themselves, and he realized the child was dead. “Is the child dead?” he asked.

“Yes,” they replied, “he is dead.”

**20**Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.

**21**His attendants asked him, “Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!”

**22**He answered, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, ‘Who knows? The Lord may be gracious to me and let the child live.’ **23**But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

**24**Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and made love to her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The Lord loved him; **25**and because the Lord loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel%2012&version=NIV#fen-NIV-8312c)]