

David and Goliath

Bigger Than You Think

March 1, 2020

Welcome to where we're learning that God is doing something bigger than we think!

How often do you love the Lord?

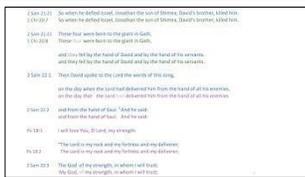
Versus, how often you tell Him you love Him. Singing. Praying. Worshipping. Those are ways of saying, "I love you," or often, more like, "love ya". And those *expressions* are very important.



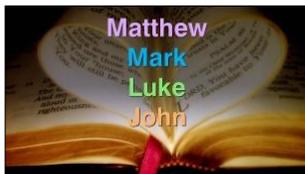
But, **we confuse expressions of love with demonstrations.** We only have two basic ways of *demonstrating* our love to the Lord. **Receiving His Word into our heart so we can hear His voice.** That's foremost. And then, **loving others according to His heart that we've heard.**

So, how often do you demonstrate your love?

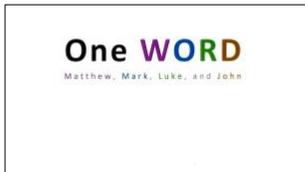
We're doing something completely different today; because, I couldn't stop working on the story of David and Goliath this week. An incredible truth hit me last year. **The Old Testament harmonizes exactly like the Gospels.** Turns out, the Gospels are a training ground for teaching us the seeking, finding, and weaving style the Lord uses throughout the Bible. But, a hard truth hit me last year as well. We can't finish harmonizing the Gospels until we see Jesus' OT references in *their* harmonized context. We need to harmonize the entire Old Testament. But, I've been going full bore, and I'm about halfway done.



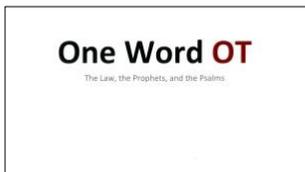
And, I've had a breakthrough this past couple weeks. And I just have to show you this.



David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. – 1 Samuel 17:50a NKJ



Question: how did David kill him?



But there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, – 1 Samuel 17:50b-51 NKJ

Little flashbacks and flash-forwards like this are far more prevalent in the Bible than I realized. They're everywhere.

And I thought: **I think God's doing something bigger than I think.**

David takes the head of Goliath to Jerusalem. (1 Sam 17:54) But, he doesn't conquer Jerusalem for years. Saul hires David at the beginning of the story; (1 Sam 16:19-23) yet at the very end, it says:

When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know." So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man is." – 1 Samuel 17:55-56 NKJ

Anybody going to say, *that's* not a flashback! And the Lord says, "So, you do see how it works; now make it make sense."

So David came to Saul **and stood before him**. And he loved him greatly, **[Why?]** and he **became his armorbearer**. **[Except David *doesn't* become Saul's armorbearer]** Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please **let David stand before me**, **[Uh ... *he is*]** – 1 Samuel 16:21-22 NKJ

It's two-chapters with 19 self-evident flashbacks and flash-forwards that have identifiable, no guesswork, anchor points! So, I spent just a couple days putting them where they go.

I've never read the story of David and Goliath before! And neither have you. And, it's really, really good! Want to see it?

The flashbacks (FB) and flash-forwards (FF) are marked on the side margin to show when something has been moved to its chronological location. And, the grayed verses show where the flashbacks and flash-forwards came from (and where they were anchored).

All of the bracketed information comes from within the story in First Samuel.

David, the Lord's Anointed

1 Sam 16:13 Samuel [the High Priest] ... anointed [David] in the midst of his brothers;

[For] The Lord [had] said ... "Do not consider ... his height" (16:7 NIV)

and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from *that* day forward.

The Spirit of wisdom ... and might ... and of the fear of the Lord. (Is 11:1-2)

So Samuel [the High Priest] arose and went to Ramah.

16:14^a FF: God's Spirit departs from Saul. (17:10)

16:14^b FF: Saul is overwhelmed by a distressing spirit. (17:11)

16:15-17 FF: Saul needs some soothing music to reduce his anxiety. (17:13)

16:18-19 FF: David is suggested as a possible musician for Saul. (17:15)

16:20 FF: Jesse sends a donkey loaded with food to Saul. (17:18)

16:21^a FF: David stands before Saul. (17:31)

16:21^b FF: Saul loves David and becomes his armorbearer. (17:32)

16:22 FF: Saul asks Jesse to allow David to remain in his service. (18:1)

16:23 FF: David plays for Saul whenever he's overcome by anxiety (18:5)

Lining Up for Battle

17:1-3 ¹Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim. ²And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, ³and drew up in battle array against the Philistines. ³The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, [army against army (17:21)] with a valley between them.

Goliath Approaches

17:4-7 ⁴And a *champion* [lit. *go-between*] went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits [about nine feet] and a span [about nine inches]. ⁵He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze [about 125 pounds]. ⁶And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. ⁷Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels [about 17 pounds]; and a shield-bearer went before him.

Soldiers See and Flee

FB 17:24 ²⁴And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man [and his shield-bearer approaching them on the battle line], fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.

Goliath Ridicules the Runners

17:8 ⁸Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle?"

King Saul Called Out

17:9 Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."

[You see] When [King] [Saul] stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. (10:23)

[And his men had agreed] "We will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may ... go out before us and fight our battles." (8:19-20)

And [true to the agreement, while fighting their former battles] when Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him for himself. (14:52)

17:10 ¹⁰And [Goliath] the Philistine [go-between] said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

King Saul Stressed Out

FF 16:14^a ¹⁴But the Spirit of the Lord [of wisdom and might and faith (Is 11:1-2) had] departed from Saul,

17:11 ¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of [Goliath] the [giant] Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

FF 16:14^b and a distressing spirit from the Lord [who had removed His blessing] troubled [Saul].

[For Samuel had recently said] ²⁶ “You have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.” ... ²⁸ “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.” (15:23-28)

Better than Saul

17:12 ¹² Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight [adult] sons. And the man was old, advanced in years, in the days of [tall King] Saul.

Three Brothers in the Battle

17:13 ¹³ The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone to follow Saul to the battle. The names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn,

And, the first to come before Samuel the prophet to be anointed as the future ruler.

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (16:7)

next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.

40 Days of Goliath

FB 17:16 ¹⁶ And [Goliath] the [giant] Philistine drew near and presented himself [at the daily assembled battle line (17:8)] forty days, morning and evening.

⁸ And cried out to the armies of Israel ... ¹⁰ “I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.” (17:8, 10)

Then they would all sit and wait (17:48) while the soldiers cried out for a challenger (17:20).

Saul Needs Soothing

FF 16:15-17 ¹⁵ And [King] Saul’s servants said to [Saul] [their formerly fearless defender, now anxiety ridden ruler], “Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. ¹⁶ Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man [not a boy] who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well.” ¹⁷ So Saul said to his servants, “Provide me now a man [not a boy] who can play well, and bring him to me.”

Just the Man of War

17:14-15 ¹⁴ David was the *smallest*¹. And the three oldest [Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah] followed Saul. ¹⁵ But David [a tiny man of war (16:18)] occasionally went and returned from [his brothers’ encampment with] Saul to feed his father’s sheep at Bethlehem.

¹ NKJ translates “qatan” (which means youngest or smallest) as “youngest”. However, David is listed (1 Chr 2:14-15) as Jesse’s seventh-born son. And Jesse had eight sons (17:12). The youngest is Elihu (1 Chr 27:18).

FF 16:18-19 ¹⁸ Then one of the servants [of Saul] answered and said, “Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, [David, who occasionally comes into camp (17:15)] who is skillful in playing, [and returns to feed his father’s sheep at Bethlehem (17:15)] a mighty man of valor [not a boy], a man of war [not a boy], prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord is with him.” ¹⁹ Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, “Send me your son David, who is with the sheep.”

17:16 FB: Goliath presents himself forty mornings and evenings. (17:13)

Jesse Sends His Smallest

17:17-18 ¹⁷ Then Jesse said to his son David, “Take now for your brothers [Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah] an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp. ¹⁸ And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them.”

FF 16:20 ²⁰ And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his [smallest] son David to [tall King] Saul.

Day 40

17:19-21 ¹⁹ Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. ²⁰ So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. [“Run to your brothers at the camp. And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand” (17:17-18)] And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight [on day 40 (17:16), hoping King Saul or someone will fight him (17:9-10) and shouting for the battle. ²¹ For [King Saul had offered a huge prize to any successful challenger, (17:26) and] Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, [and sat down (17:52)] army against army.

David Arrives

17:22 ²² And David left his [donkey, loaded with (16:20)] supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army [as commanded, to carry the ten cheeses to his brother’s regiment’s captain (17:18, 20)], and came and greeted his brothers [to get a report to take back to their father (17:18)].

17:23 FF: Goliath appears as David is talking with his brothers. (17:29)

17:24 FB: The first time the men of Israel saw Goliath and fled. (17:7)

17:25^a ²⁵ So the men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who has come up? [He’s giant! (17:4) And he’s gone unchallenged for 40 days (17:16). And every day he boasts of defying the armies of Israel (17:10)] Surely he has come up to defy Israel;

17:25^b FF: The men of Israel answer David’s question. (17:27)

King Saul’s Reward

17:26 ²⁶ Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

17:27 ²⁷ And the people answered him in this manner, saying,

FF 17:25^b and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel."

"So shall it be done for the man who kills him."

Little Brother's Big Talk

17:28-29 ²⁸ Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride [He was there when Samuel anointed him as the future king; and he's heard David's stories about grabbing a lion and a bear by the beard and killing them (17:34-35)] and the insolence [i.e. ugly scrawniness (see Gen 41:19)] of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle [not to fight it]." ²⁹ And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?"

David Sees Goliath

FF 17:23 ²³ Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the [giant] Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them [for himself].

"I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." (17:10)

17:30 ³⁰ Then [David] turned from [his brother Eliab] toward another and said the same thing;

"What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (17:26)

and these people answered him as the first ones did.

"It shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel." (17:25)

Saul Sends for David

17:31 ³¹ Now when the [mighty and faithful] words which David spoke were heard, [about taking away Israel's reproach; and taking out this guy who defies the living God (17:26)] they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him [unaware that he is the very "Man of War" he's waiting for (16:18-19)].

A Stranger Stands Before Saul

FF 16:21^a So David [Jesse's smallest son] came to [tall King] Saul and stood [unknown (17:55)] before him.

An Inspiring Little Man

17:32 ³² Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

Unsuitable Armor

FF 16:21^b And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer.

FB 17:38-39 ³⁸ So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he [doing what armorbearers do] put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. ³⁹ David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, “I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them.” So David took them off.

Saul’s Second Thoughts

17:33 ³³ And [tall King] Saul said to David, [this feisty little stranger (17:55)] “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, [Not true. He’s a “man of war” (16:18) who looks like a youth] and he [Goliath] a man of war from his youth.”

The Little Man’s Strategy

17:34-36 ³⁴ But David [who had not yet been introduced by name (17:58)] said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, ³⁵ I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine [who apparently has a beard] will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.”

17:37^a FF: David’s final response to Saul. (17:37^b)

David’s Inspiring Sendoff

17:37^b And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!”

FF 17:37^a ^{37a} Moreover David said, “The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

17:38-39 FB: Saul Clothes David with his own armor (17:32)

FB 17:55-56 ⁵⁵ When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to [his uncle (14:50)] Abner, the commander of the army, “Abner, whose son is this youth?” [Not a youth (16:18)] And Abner said, “As your soul lives, O king, I do not know.” ⁵⁶ So the king said, “Inquire whose son this young man is.”

David Approaches Goliath

17:40 ⁴⁰ Then [David] took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the [seated (17:48)] Philistine [champion (17:4)].

And David’s brothers, King Saul, his Uncle Abner, and the soldiers on both sides, know that this is the match that will determine who becomes the other’s slaves. (17:9)

17:41 FF: Goliath begins drawing near to David. (17:48)

David and Goliath’s Standoff

17:42 ⁴² And when [Goliath] the [giant] Philistine looked about and saw David [staff in hand (17:40)], he disdained him; for he was only a youth, [or so he thought; albeit] ruddy and good-looking. [Strange to see a *kid* with weathered skin and rugged good looks]

17:43^a So the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?”

17:43^b Goliath's first response to David. (17: 45)

17:44 Goliath's second response to David. (17:47)

17:45 ⁴⁵ Then David said to the [giant] Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

FF 17:43^b And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

17:46-47 ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

FF 17:44 ⁴⁴ And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

David's Rapid Response

17:48 ⁴⁸ So it was, when the Philistine arose and came

FF 17:41^a ^{41a} So it was, when the Philistine arose and came,

FF 17:41^b ^{41b} and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield [made a deadly mistake and (17:49)] went before him.

17:49 and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

17:50^a FF: David's victory by sling, stone, and sword. (17:51^a)

Goliath Loses His Head

17:50^b-51^a ^{50b} But there was no sword in the hand of David. ^{51a} Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath [and quite likely took him by the beard like that lion and bear (17:35-36)] and killed him, and cut off his head with it.

Sling, Stone, and Sword

FF 17:50^a ^{50a} So David [the smallest son of Jesse] prevailed over [Goliath] the Philistine [giant] with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine [with his own sword (17:51)] and killed him.

The Philistines Flee

17:51^b And when the [other] Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

Pursuing and Plundering

17:52 ⁵² Now the men of Israel and Judah [sitting in stunned silence] arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath [the home of Goliath] and Ekron.

- 17:53 FF: The men return from chasing the Philistines to plunder their tents. (18:1)
17:54 FF: David takes Goliath's head to Jerusalem; and puts his armor in his tent. (18:5)
17:55-56 FB: When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine. (17:)

Abner Discovers David's Identity

- 17:57 ⁵⁷ Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, [King Saul's uncle (14:50)] Abner [the commander of the army (17:55)] took him and brought him before [tall King] Saul with the head of [Goliath] the Philistine in his hand.

Saul Interviews David

- 17:58 ⁵⁸ And Saul [still believing David to be a teen] said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" So David [the mighty man of valor (16:18) that Saul had asked Jesse to send (16:19)] answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite." [I'm the man of war you've been waiting for (16:18-19); I'm just smaller than you imagined]

[And David presented King Saul with] ^{16:20} a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat ... ^{17:20} as [his father] Jesse had commanded him. (16:20, 17:20)

Jonathan's Friendship

- 18:1 ¹ Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan [King Saul's equally heroic son] was knit to the soul of David,

For, in a previous battle, Jonathan snuck out and took on twenty soldiers singlehanded; which led to such chaos, the Philistines turned on each other until they defeated *themselves*. (14:1-22)

and Jonathan loved [David] as his own soul.

Plundering the Tents

- FF 17:53 ⁵³ Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents.

Favor in Saul's Sight

- FF 16:22 ²² Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David [continue to] stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."

David Stays with Saul

- 18:2 ² Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore.

Jonathan's Covenant

- 18:3 ³ Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

Perfectly Suited

- 18:4 ⁴ And Jonathan [tall Saul's heroic son] took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

Because, unlike his father's ... *his* was a *perfect fit*; for the two were perfectly suited.

Man of the Men of War

18:5 ⁵ So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

Strumming Away the Stress

FF 16:23 ²³ And so it was, whenever the [distressing (16:14)] spirit from God [removing His blessing (15:23-28)] was upon [tall King] Saul, that David [Jesse's smallest mighty man of valor, and man of war] would take a harp and play it with his hand [that had killed Saul's giant enemy]. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

Goliath's Head Taken Again

FF 17:54 ⁵⁴ And David took the head of [Goliath] the Philistine and he brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

But, *that's an entirely different story.*



Pick a story, any story; and, demonstrate your love!

Read it again and again until every part is in your heart.

Then watch it reassemble itself in your imagination!

He wrote us one book.

And we have one instruction, and a surefire way to demonstrate our love: **receive it, live by it, and search for Him within it; so He can rewrite it in our mind and then our heart, and renew us.**

Trust the Author.

He's doing something in your life much bigger than you think.