

Little David & the Giant Goliath: An Adult Child's Story

By David Lee Burris

As a young boy I was fascinated with stories of Giants – Jack and the Beanstalk was at first my boyhood favorite. I requested my dad to tell me that story over and over every night. As a good parent my Christian dad selectively balanced my requested reading of personal favorites with inspiring stories from the Bible. Once I was informed that my namesake was King David of the Old Testament – my story-time favorite then became David versus Goliath. I pictured myself – toy slingshot in hand - taking down monsters.

Every children's story finishes with the statement – “The Moral To This Story Is [fill in the blanks].” Unfortunately, for most Bible Stories we are not provided with such narrator epilogue. Often the moral lesson is categorically obvious but sometimes it is redemptively complicated.

In my opinion, the inter-generational spiritual lesson to this moral allegory of David and Goliath is three-fold: First, we need to see ourselves as God sees us. Second, when we righteously rumble with life's Giants – we must do so strategically with situational awareness - seeing them as God does. Third, Flip The Script of False Perceptions!

Adult Lesson: To See Ourselves The Way God Sees Us.

1st Samuel 16: 7 - New International Version

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his (David's) appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Adult Lesson: To See Our Giants The Way God Sees Them.

Joshua & Caleb Had No Fear Of Giants @ Numbers 13 & 14

Numbers 13: 28 - New International Version

“But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak [Giants] there.”

Numbers 13: 30 - New International Version

Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

Young David – Man of God’s Own Heart – Had No Fear Of Giants

First Samuel Chapter 17

Verse 40 - By selecting five stones – David was prepping himself for multiple combat and to kill Goliath’s four brothers as well.

Second Samuel Chapter 21

Verses 15 thru 22 - Inspiring others by way of demonstrating how it could be done – David, his brother and “his servants” [1st Chronicles 20:5] later took out Goliath’s entire warrior family.

The Answer Is To See Opportunity Where Others See Obstacle

**Situational Awareness Of Providential Arranged Circumstance
God Had Opened David’s Eyes to Slinger Homefield Advantage**

Background. The Palestine Levant Was The Regional Buffer Between Ancient Empires of the Near East. The Levant Was Also The Preferred Passageway For Military Conflict & Often Served As The Battlefield Between River Centric Empires of the Nile to the South & those of the Eastern Tigris-Euphrates.

The Bible records several instances whereby both Assyria & Babylon did not take a direct desert route but went around the western portion of Palestine & instead Invaded by way of the Northern Coast where the seafaring Philistines were dominant. These invaders then would march east along the Coastal Plain passing through several deep valleys and steep ridges in order to occupy the highland area near Bethlehem - thus - splitting the country in two. Any Israeli defense or Egyptian counter-offensive would have to be concentrated along these valleys and ridges following the coastal plain to intercept before the mountain terrain where the population centers were located.

Conquering Philistines Followed The Same Military Strategy. Israel Had Strategically Met Them – Stalling Their Advance. The Situation Was At An Impasse With Israel Controlling The Northern Ridge & Philistines Controlling The Southern Ridge. Ancient Custom Dictated That Single Combat Should Settle Such Stalemate Without Further Bloodshed!

David Saw Homefield Advantage In The Barite Infused Local Limestone – Making Smooth Rocks Of Twice Normal Density.

In an article entitled *“Was David’s Sling Versus Goliath As Powerful As A Bullet?”* the author notes that David did not use the leaded stones of future Roman slingers calculated to have the stopping power of a .44 magnum slug. However, Malcolm Gladwell in his Ted Talk makes the point that the double density of these area abundant bohrium-sulfate stones swung at six revolutions per second and hurled at 35 meters per second had the same stopping power expected of a 45-caliber handgun.



God Had Opened David's Eyes To The Giant's Near-sightedness

The Clinical Term for Giantism is *Acromegaly*. Acromegaly is most easily explained by as a hormonal growth disorder of the pituitary gland that tends to run in families. Although not altogether hereditary, there is definitely a genetic susceptibility to inheriting the aryl *hydrocarbon receptor interacting protein* gene that triggers the gland to oversecrete into adulthood and throughout life. Giantism in childhood is evidenced by exceptional gains in height and during adulthood it is seen in huge bone growth of feet, hands, and skull. When acromegaly is combined with a genetic inheritance of long lifespan – historically - some families have produced many generations of giants – eight to nine feet tall.

Side-effects – weakness – vulnerability with advanced acromegaly – the benign tumor growth of the pituitary compresses the visual nerves – resulting in an extreme myopia.

Pulpit Commentary Numbers 13:22 @“Descendants of Anak”

Giantism Plus Longevity. “The gigantic size which the Anakim shared with the Emim and Rephaim, other remnants of the aboriginal inhabitants, may have been accompanied by remarkable longevity.”

Goliath Was In The Last Stages of Giantism! - "Come To Me!"

Clue Number One @1st Samuel 17: 41. Goliath's Designated Attendant or "Shield Bearer" Went First Pre-Positioning Him.

Clue Number Two @1st Samuel 17: 47. Goliath's Statement – Seeing David's Singular Shepherd's Staff (verse 40) as "Sticks" - Indicated a Severe Case of Double-Vision.

By Arranged Circumstance The Combat Field Of Equal Obstacle In His Mind's Eye David Never Perceived Himself An Underdog Knowing God Was On His Side David Was Confident of Victory!

David Prosecuted Providential Arrangement To His Advantage

Unresolved Individual Combat & General Combat Slinger Status Accuracy Only @200 Yards - Not Infantry Or Calvary Or Artillery

David moved stealthily – keeping at such an ample distance that the continued taunting reassured David that the Giant's vision remained blurry making him unable either to skillfully throw his close quarter heavy spear [not light javelin] or to anticipate David's shot in sufficient time to shield his unprotected forehead. At this safe distance David gave a speech to the assembly of what God through him was about to do – then he ran toward Goliath delivering his kill shot between the eyes. After David had killed the Giant, he was still not finished. . .

Adult Lesson: Finish By Flipping The Script of False Perception

Follow Through In Chopping Off & Skewering The Giant's Head Motivated Defensive To Offensive & Threatening Forces To Flee

Moral Lesson in Modern Application The Same Today As Then

When we embrace our potential – seeing ourselves as God does – when we observe from our life’s obstacles spiritual opportunities – we flip the worldly narrative of our obstructionist adversaries – our Goliaths.