

Computer Generated Transcript - We're going to be launching into a new series here this morning if you're with us you're here for week one we just finished up a series on full Libyans that I very much enjoyed studying for and going through and just kind of seeing it come to life and today we're going to start a series on King David all right and we're going to hit some well known parts of David's life we're going to some other parts that maybe you've heard before but don't know as well David it is one of those figures in the Bible that most people even if they're not from a church background know something about right they've heard the story of David and Goliath or or maybe they've heard the story of David and Bathsheba right there's there's some part of David's life that we know and we can relate to some part of David's life that we've heard and at least is stuck in our head a little bit and David was a lot of things David was a King David was a poet David was a shepherd he was a giant killer he was a musician he was an intercessor he was a warrior David was a bodyguard David was so many different things to so many different people his life just just had so many different facets that there are to see and so much stories David is one of the most documented historical figures in literary history like as far as all of history his life is one of the most documented that there is of anybody who has ever lived because we have the Psalms we have him in the first kings we have him and Samuel there's there's other people that wrote about him outside of the Bible we see all of these kind of things about David and one of the things I think that sometimes we forget is just how violent a time David lived in and I'm going to paint a picture for you here and I'm not trying to be gross All right I'm not trying to be gross for gross sake this morning but I do think that it's hard for us to even begin to imagine. Some of the things that we read in the Bible right it's hard for us to even begin to think about how real these situations. We're how hard these situations were the way that war was and this time a lot of times now we kind of have Hollywood to guide us as to what we think of as war you know there were movies like Braveheart or there were movies like Gladiator that kind of showed us and warfare to a degree but I understand that those kind of things are cleaned up those kind of things as violent as they are on film don't come close to matching the reality of what happened there sanitized Hollywood versions of this and you can try and imagine it but it's hard you can't understand the fear that they felt as they walked onto a battlefield knowing that most of them were not going to leave the field right it's hard to understand the stench that was about a battlefield as blood and everything began to run it's hard to imagine the screams that were happening at arm's length I am not trying to. To downplay the horror of modern war at all please understand I have a brother in law that's in the army I have many friends that have come home with P.T.S.D. So I'm not trying to downplay what happens over there right now at all but it's not the same most killing now is done at a distance the dying isn't necessarily done at a distance but most of the killing now happens at a distance and then the killing happened at arm's reach at the end of the reach of your arm is where people were dying and it's hard to even begin. To get that into our heads you could look as a warrior into the eyes of the man that you were fighting you could smell their breath you could tell whether or not they'd had a drink to get some liquid courage in them before they could go you could look into their eyes and see fear you could look into their eyes and see terror you could look in to their eyes and you could see that glazed look of somebody who was dead but didn't know it yet as they were fighting you mortal. Did you could look into their eyes and see a blood lust you could look into their eyes and maybe see somebody who was going crazy one of the scariest things you could see is a look of calm. Because if you met somebody who looked calm on a battlefield you were now standing across from somebody who was a veteran somebody who was a killer somebody who was a champion someone or someone who had been here before multiple times and walked away so unless you also were a champion if you saw calm in the eyes of the man standing across from you most likely you were looking into the eyes of the man who was going to kill you. And it's hard to even begin to get into these kind of things to think about this only after the battle would you know many times whether or not you were wounded because you were so full of adrenaline and so so worked up and many times people would walk away and they'd have to wash themselves because one way or the other you're covered in blood somebody else's or your own and they would have to wash themselves to see if they were bleeding or not and even if they were bleeding and they were

somehow able to stop the bleeding most people who have that kind of a wound on a battlefield die from infection anyway. Historians will tell us as you study in this particularly period of time that we're going to be talking about that many people who fought on the shield wall the fraud line of the shield wall fought mostly naked because even though they didn't understand germs and bacteria they understand that if they received a puncture wound and that wound brought clothing into the wound they were going to lose a limb or a life as a result. And this is the time that David lived in after the battlefield if you did not survive. Most likely it was. A bird or an animal that was going to take care of what was left and again I'm not trying to be gross I'm trying for us to maybe just get a little window into what it was like being a soldier on that day we're going to be talking about David we're going to be talking about one of the most famous stories in David's life today and first Samuel Chapter seventeen if you've got a Bible with you you can turn to first Samuel seventeen if you use an electronic version if you got lost or you got you version or something like that on a tablet or a phone I want to be speaking out of the New Living Translation So if you want to read the same words that I'm reading that's what I'm going to be reading out of this morning but that's where we're going to be first Samuel seventeen David was a young man at this time probably around fifteen years old and fifteen year olds and here anyone about fifteen put your hand on Rachel fifteen year olds there was not a single fifteen year old how about a fourteen or sixteen year old in here all right these are people that you're going to school with all right this is freshman in high school right. Fifteen year olds right just got the learners permit that's about how old David is as we pick up this story first Samuel Chapter seventeen we're going to start in verse one the Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camp to between soca in Judah and as Ika at can't say that word first to Saul countered by gathering his Israel like troops near the Valley of Elah So the Philistines in Israel had faced each other on opposite hills with the valley between them Chris can you put up that picture real quick this is the actual Valley where this happened OK this is a modern picture but this is the actual Valley where this battle took place and I don't know if you can read it if you need to put on your cheaters or something like that maybe grab binoculars I'm not sure but if you look you can see up there that Saul scanned the camp of the Israel lights is right over on this side and really honestly kind of down in the valley down there and then the Philistines. Samplers right here what is hard to see in this is there's kind of a creek that runs through the middle of this whole thing right and the Philistines were on the better side. The Philistine side is elevated and the Israel lives side is not OK where their campus but when their armies come crashing down into each other the Philistines are going to have the advantage of elevation which is a huge advantage in this kind of warfare that they are lined up across from each other to see all right it's a huge deal they come into this valley the Philistines kind of get there first and they get their pick of where they're going to be and that's where they're adverse for OK then go Elias a Philistine champion from gaff came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel he was over nine feet tall more severe translations probably have something about cubits it's about nine feet six inches is about how tall the Bible lists Goliath as OK. He wore a bronze helmet and his bronze coat of mail weighed one hundred twenty five pounds he also wore bronze leg armor and he carried a bronze Javelin on his shoulder the shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed fifteen pounds his armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying the shield so I want to just show you just a second we've had a cardboard cut out of here before but I don't want to stare Nick alive the whole time in this what we're actually talking about that lip right there is about eight feet ten inches tall. OK that would lift up on top of there's about eight ten. Goliath is nine six OK so most of his head would be above that lip according to scripture that's how big this dude was all right he fought with one hundred twenty five pounds just on his his breastplate alone just on his chest he basically had a junior high are holding on to his chest the whole time he was fighting OK that's that's that's what he fought. The tip of his spear was about fifteen pounds Goliath was so big he probably would have been standing on the second rank of soldiers reaching over the front way front rank just killing at will over and over and over and over again this long shaft of this man with this gigantic reach could just wreak devastation over the heads of the front of an army. First Goliath stood and shouted the

time to cross to the Israel lights Why are you all coming out to fight he called I Am The Philistine champion but you are only certain only the servants of Saul choose one man to come down here and fight me if he kills me then we will be your slaves but if I kill him you will be our slaves I defy the armies of Israel today send me a man who will fight me when Saul and Israel I've heard this they were terrified and deeply shaken listen we know according to Scripture that Goliath did this for weeks he comes out twice a day and he talks the armies of Israel and as this is happening the entire nation says you are servants of Saul Saul is the nation's very first came K. Saul Saul is the nation's first monarch of all time OK the nation of Israel was started as a nation about four hundred years prior to this Saul is their first king Second we know what we know one of the reasons that people are looking to Saul OK in all of this is that Saul according to scripture one of the reasons he was chosen as King is because he's head and shoulders taller than the average man kid than the average person he's head and shoulders taller I'm going to ask I know I don't usually like to do this but John and Lynn can have you stand up for a second. This is an example of head and shoulders taller. Go and sit down. That's an example Saul is that much taller than the rest of his army Saul is a big dude so when the nine six giant walks out onto the field and starts calling people out and picking a fight who do you look toward. Your biggest dude right you look toward the guy on your side that's the biggest And you say all right. Glad you're the one who's taller not me how about it. The Israel I look to Saul. And they place their hope in their king. Right and that's pretty normal in this day and age especially this is a normal thing. Because their hope is in their king they look to the tents of Saul. To fight their battles and listen I want you to understand if you don't hear anything else this morning this is where we can relate to these people in this story because wherever we put our hope. That's where we really begin to depend right whatever we put our hope in is what we depend on when we're kids we put our hope in our parents to take care of us most of us right that's where that's where we depend we don't depend on the neighbor most of us for food I know some of you have had some experiences that were tough but most of us we put our hope in our parents to take care of us and that's who we depend on to take care of us wherever our hope is that is what we depend on and part of what's happening in the story here is the Israel army is putting their hope in their king. And that's who they're depending on to see this through. And so I'll let them down by staying. It is ten. So all the first king of the Nation of Israel did not rise. To his office he did not rise to what his stature stature would declare so all stayed in this tent and the hope of the army slowly withered and we can see that because for weeks there is a stalemate for weeks nothing is happening. If you study this all out though like I talked about here there is a major problem that's happening with all this though and that's that God never wanted Israel's hope to be in a king in the first place four hundred years before this God set up Israel as a theocracy they were meant to follow the laws of God and be judged by a judge that a human judge would be the leader of the people and he would carry out the laws that God gave them but Israel was meant for more than just being set apart right Israel was meant to be a picture of what God wanted his people to be Israel is so much like us today right we don't get saved just so we can experience the saving knowledge of Jesus that's also but we get saved then to reach out and that's what Israel was supposed to be they were supposed to be a theocracy that pointed people to God and everybody else around the Israel lights had a king right they just left Egypt who had a pharaoh everybody else had a king and you can see we're going to turn back to chapter eight of First Samuel that Israel wanted to be just like everybody else. Everybody else had a pharaoh everybody else had a king not them in the about the eleventh century they go to Samuel who was the last judge of the Nation of Israel he was also a prophet. You can see in Chapter eight we're going to start with verse want to get in as Samuel grew old he appointed his sons to be judges over Israel. Jolan Abijah his oldest sons held court in Beersheba but they were not like their father for they were greedy for money they accepted bribes and Perverted Justice listen let me just put that in today's language whoever had the most money always had the courts go their way. OK that's what happened if you got into a dispute with somebody and you had more money than another person you could bribe his sons and they would throw it your direction all right verse four finally all of the Elders of Israel met at Rama to discuss the matter with Samuel Look they told him you are now old

and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have. Make us like everybody else. They completely forgot in this moment that the plan for Israel went beyond that God set up this nation not to point to the great ruling of a king but to point people back to him when Israel was blessed when Israel was victorious when Israel had great things happen it wasn't supposed to point to a monarchy it was supposed to People were supposed to look and say wow you're king Assad doing such a great job they were supposed to look at Israel and say Who is your god. That was the point and the Israel lives completely messed it up to be like everybody else for six Samuel was displeased with their request and went to the Lord for guidance do everything they say to you The Lord replied for they are rejecting me not you got understood it even though this hurt Samuel's feelings got understood what was actually happening here the people were rejecting God as their king not just Samuel as their prophet or their judge. They don't want me to be their king any longer verse eight Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have continually abandoned me and followed other gods and now they are giving you the same tree. Do as they ask but solemnly warn them about the way a king will walk will reign over them and you can see if you keep reading here that Samuel tells him he goes back to the people and he says listen having a king sounds great but it's not all is cracked up to be there's going to be taxes he's going to draft your sons into his military he's going to take your daughters as handmaidens in his castle and he's going to take your best lands to give his people right and he said it's not all fun and games to have a king and the people basically say we don't care give us a king anyway and honestly that is one of the scariest moments in the entire Bible to me when people pray for something and it's not what's best for them. And despite the warnings of God They say we want to anyway and then God gives it to him. That's a scary moment in Scripture. Let's make sure that what we're praying is in the will of God and if if somebody comes out and like all this isn't the best way so be like yeah I want to anyway maybe you should stop and just take a moment think. It's go back to verse seventeen Chapter seventeen I'm sorry go back to first Samuel chapter seventeen. Goliath is shouting all of the stuff that Israel. DAVID The fifteen year old shows up OK and like most curious fifteen year olds he wants to know what's going on right he's sent there with food first brothers but. That's only part of the joy ride you can see David kind of gets his way right up to the front of the Army where he hears Goliath taunting the nation of Israel he gets right up there and unlike everybody else in the army David isn't scared he's offended. David isn't afraid of Goliath he's offended by what Goliath to say it's not just the offensive like oh you're not as cool as me and so now David's all offended David is offended for his god. Verse twenty four of First Samuel chapter seventeen. Glaive his taunting OK And you can see as soon as the Israel army saw him they began to run away in fright Have you seen the giant the man asked he comes out each day to defy Israel the king has offered a huge reward to anyone who kills him he will give that man one of his daughters for a wife and the man's entire family will be exempted from paying taxes. This is too pretty big prizes you're now part of the royal family and you never have to pay taxes again. David asked a soldier standing nearby maybe not such a good deal for the daughter just you know for the guy who kills Goliath verse twenty six David asked a soldier standing nearby What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel. Who is this pagan Philistine anyway that he is allowed to defy the armies of the Living God and these men gave David the same reply they said yes that is the reward for killing him listen. David you can tell just from the questions he's asking. How upset he is not just with Goliath but with the fact that this that life is disrespecting his God who is this pagan Philistine maybe your translation says uncircumcised Philistine. David sees not a giant he sees somebody outside of the Covenant of God attacking his god outside of the protection of God coming at his God saying I'm bigger than what you have to offer and David is. Set word gets back to Saul he calls for David and when Saul sees me shock right because you don't expect a fifteen year old to be so upset they're willing to fight a giant you expect to see some seasoned warrior walk into your tent when that happens but instead David walks in and you can see Saul is kind of upset he disregards him but David response I may just be a shepherd but when a lion or a bear came to take sheep I killed him with my tools in my bare hands verse thirty six You see I've done this both till lions and bears I'll do it to this pagan Philistine to various defy the armies of the

Living God David has killed a bear and a lion with his bare hands I guess one of my favorite descriptions the Bible says He grabs the lion by the beard and beats it with a stick until the Lions dead. One awesome moment. That weird right that's where all the teeth are he grabs that was one hand he's got a stick in the other one and he knocks out lying around to the lions done. He says just like I've took taking care of those animals I will take care of this man who is outside of God's Covenant as well for he is defying the armies of. The Living God this is not about David. DAVID It's upset that this man has the audacity to defy his God verse thirty seven the Lord who rescued me from the claws of the Lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine David understands where salvation is coming from this day and it's not from Saul. It's from God. David understands that he is no match physically for Goliath. I mean there is no way that this fifteen year old kid is any match for the seasoned champion in pure physicality but he understands that this is not a battle between David and Goliath but this is a battle between. God and Goliath and David understands that those are good odds every time. Every single time there is no confusion in David's mind who is doing the hard work here. There is none he says it is clear Isabel the Lord who rescued me will rescue me from this Philistine after a few years after all this David wrote lots of songs OK And I want to read part of one of them right now Psalm twenty five you can turn there if you want keep a finger in First Samuel seventeen if you do but song Chapter twenty five David says Oh Lord I give my life to you I trust in you my God. David knows where his trust is it's not in himself it's not in Saul it's not in his training those are all good things those aren't necessarily bad things but David's trust is in God Do not let me be disgraced or let my inner enemies rejoice in my defeat first three no one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others David feels that first hand a little later in his life verse for show me the right path the Lord point out the road for me to follow lead me by your truth and teach ME FOR YOU are the God who saves me all day long I will put my hope in you. David understands who's going to win this day his trust is not in themself it is in God in this in the nation's second king they finally found a man who understood what the nation of Israel was really all about. Who understood what they were really supposed to be doing. What you'd imagine the scene though. As these armies are separated apart from each other and down in the middle is Goliath this champion this warrior. Screaming his defiance and out walks David to find out we already know the end of the story if you've been in church so a lot of times we don't think about how ridiculous this really is. That this seasoned A warrior is standing there this nine six warriors out there and a kid whose walk going through puberty as the story is happening is walking out. The fifteen year old David Watts how can you imagine the laughter on the Philistine side I mean like what in the world are these people thinking Is this really what Saul is all about right I mean the the mocking the laughter the joy in their army. As they see David come out because in just a second we're talking about a good on Israel on the Israelites side can you imagine the confusion for most of the army most of the army isn't standing into an Saul's tent and they didn't broadcast it over the radio that David is coming out because they didn't have radios most of them probably learned there was a kid in camp who was going to take on the life as the kid is walking out. How confused they must be how angry they probably were how much fear they probably felt because Goliath's taunt included the deal. Whoever wins the other nation is your slaves. There's a lot at stake in having this fifteen year old walk out onto the field representing you. Because if he loses it's a fifteen year old loses your slave that's the deal those are the terms. Goliath yells as taunts at David and then verse forty five U.C. Davis reply. David replied to the Philistine you come to me was sword spear and javelin but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's armies. God of the armies of Israel whom you have defied today the Lord will conquer you and I will kill you and cut off your head. Tough talk from a fifteen year old. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals and the whole world will know. There is a God in Israel. That is what this is all about for David it is not about personal accolades it is about the fact that there is a God in Israel and the scales are so tilted in Goliath's favor that there is no explanation other than God for David walking off of that field alive. David knows that and that's where is trust his verse forty seven and everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescued his people but not was sword and spear This is the

Lord's battle and he will give you to us and then David kills Goliath and he instantly becomes the most popular man in Israel. And the most feared man in Philistia. Because even though David said all those things and even though David knew where the hope and salvation lived from people still look to him instead of God. But they did was not confuse and then the Philistines made a terrible mistake they ran. And that's a bad thing to do in this kind of warfare. To break ranks and run the Israel caught them. And there was a slaughter. But Israel won the day not because. Of the strength of a fifteen year old kid. But because a fifteen year old kid knew where his salvation lie and trusted in his god. To win the day. Be like David isn't to run into a battlefield screaming you understand that that's not what being like David is being like David is realizing you can't control the outcome. There are too many variables for you to control every outcome in your life. Too many variables that are outside of your ability to influence for your life David couldn't control the whole battlefield he couldn't control if Iraq turned in the wrong spot me fell he couldn't control whether or not to lie it was going to throw that that spear David could not control the outcome and he knew it. You trust in God to control the outcome and you do the work he asks you to do. That's what it means to be like David. That's what it means to face like a lion. It's not to scream your defiance it's to know that the outcome is beyond your ability to control. You're going to do what God has asked you to do and trust that he will control the outcome for you. Good bad scary exciting. Doesn't matter. Our hope and. Needs to be secure so I have two questions for you we're going to get we're going to do a few more but I have two questions for you right now we're going to come back. And one. Of the circumstances of your life stolen your hope. Have the circumstances that have happened to you stole in your home. And number two have the circumstances in your life both good and bad made you put your hope in the wrong place. Sometimes it's really easy when good things happen to put our hope in the wrong place just like when bad things happen right. All of us when we start killing to work and we stop giving glory to God like Man I'm really good at this. Right or you you start raising a child and you're doing a good job the kids listening doing all these amazing things you're like man we could write a book. Write every first parent like a parent the first child usually feels that way by the way when you have one you're like Man who are so awesome at this. When you have two or three and you're like wow we need help. But it's so easy to take our eyes off of God and put it on ourselves or on somebody else when good things are happening and it's so easy to lose track of God when hard things are happening in life. So good or bad it doesn't matter is there something that is taking your eyes and cause you to put your hope in the wrong place.