

## David the King

David had seven brothers; three of them were men of war. These were the older brothers. There was a fight between people of Israel and the people of Palestine. Saul prepared his army and gathered his men to fight. The two armies faced each other. One army stood on a mountain one side and the other army on a mountain on the opposite side. Days passed by and the two armies did not have the courage to fight. One day, Saul's men trembled in fear when a champion came out from the camp of the Philistines whose name was Goliath. He was very tall and wore bronze armour that weighed about fifteen pounds and a bronze helmet. He carried a bronze javelin slung over his shoulder. A soldier walked in front of him carrying his shield. He was walking proudly (*Describe how he walked*).

Goliath stood and shouted at the Israelites: "Who dares to fight me? Choose one of your men to fight me. If he wins and kills me, we will be your slaves; but if I win and kill him, you will be our slaves." Goliath challenged the Israelites every morning and evening for forty days. No one of King Saul's men dared to challenge him. What then? Is there a way out?

One day David got up early, left someone else in charge of the sheep, took the food and went to find out how his brothers were doing. He hoped to hear good news about the army, as he loved his people. He saw Goliath speaking rudely and making the soldiers angry. He also made fun of the Israelites and their God. David was not afraid of him. King Saul had promised to give a big reward to the man who would kill Goliath. The king would also give him his daughter to marry and would not require his father's family to pay taxes. David said: "Who is this heathen Philistine to defy the army of the Living God?" The soldiers gathered around David the brave boy. David's brothers heard David talking to the men and they were angry with him and said: "What are you doing here? Who is taking care of those sheep of yours out there in the wilderness?" David said calmly: "My father is anxious about you and

he has sent me to see if you are well and I have brought you food and I left the sheep with a guard". One of the soldiers ran to Saul and said: "There is a young man in the camp who is not afraid of Goliath." Saul said: "Bring him to me." David came and stood before Saul and this conversation ran between them:

+ David: Your Majesty ...No one should be afraid of this Philistine! I will go and fight him.

- Saul: No, how could you fight him? You are just a boy and he has been a soldier all his life!

+ David: I am sure of the power of God. The Lord is more powerful than any Amalek. I have killed lions and bears. The Lord has saved me from lions and bears; He will save me from this Philistine. Let me go and fight him and rescue the people.

- Saul: Go, and the Lord be with you, but you have to wear the tools of war... a coat of armour, a helmet, etc.

David wore his armour but he could not walk because he wasn't used to wearing it. So he took it all off and he was sure that the Lord would help him. David took his shepherd's stick and then picked up five smooth stones from the stream and put them in his bag. With his catapult ready, he went out to meet Goliath. Saul's soldiers watched David while he was walking towards the Philistine and they were afraid. On the other side the Philistines were laughing. A little boy was coming to fight their hero. David drew near Goliath... Goliath laughed loudly as he saw David without a sword. He said to David: "What is that stick for? Do you think I am a dog? Come on and I will give your body to the birds and animals to eat." David steadily and bravely walked towards Goliath and said: "You are coming against me with sword, spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the Israelite armies, which you have defied. This very day the Lord will put you in my power. I will defeat you and cut off your head. Then the whole world will know that Israel has a God, and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save His people."

Goliath started walking towards David again and David ran quickly towards him. He put his hand into his bag and took out a stone, which he slung at Goliath. It hit him on the forehead and broke his skull, and Goliath fell face downwards on the ground. And so without a sword, David defeated and killed Goliath with a catapult and a stone. David's men shouted loudly. David ran to him, stood over him, took Goliath's sword out of its sheath, and cut off his head and killed him. The Philistines were afraid... their hero died... they ran away... Saul's men ran after them and took their belongings... Thus the Lord rescued His people by David's hand. David carried Goliath's weapons to his own tent and carried his head to Jerusalem.