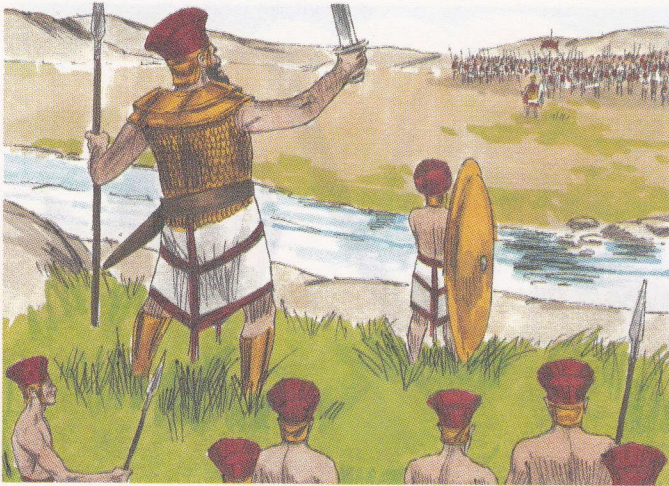
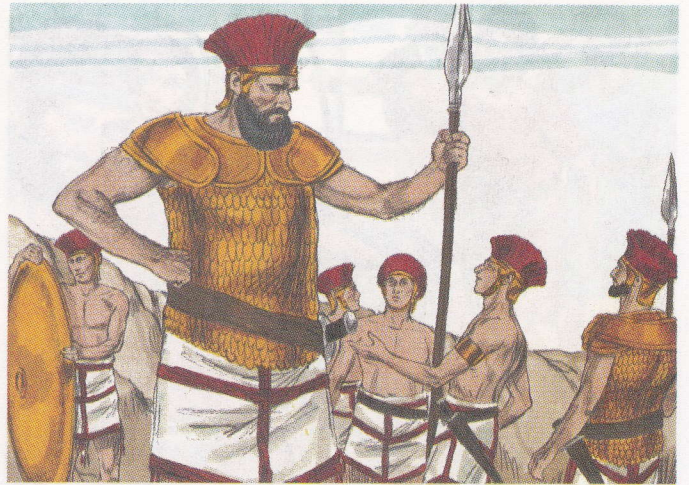


David and Goliath



1 The Philistines again came to fight against the Israelites. The Philistines were lined up on a hill, and across a valley on another hill were the Israelite soldiers.



2 One of the Philistines was a giant named Goliath. He was over nine feet tall and wore heavy bronze armor. His spear had an iron point that weighed fifteen pounds.



3 "I challenge any one of you to fight me!" Goliath shouted. "Whoever loses, his people will be the others' slaves." Every morning and evening for forty days, the giant yelled this challenge.



4 Now Jesse was worried about his three oldest sons, who had gone off to help Saul fight the Philistines. So he sent his youngest boy, David, to find out if they were safe.



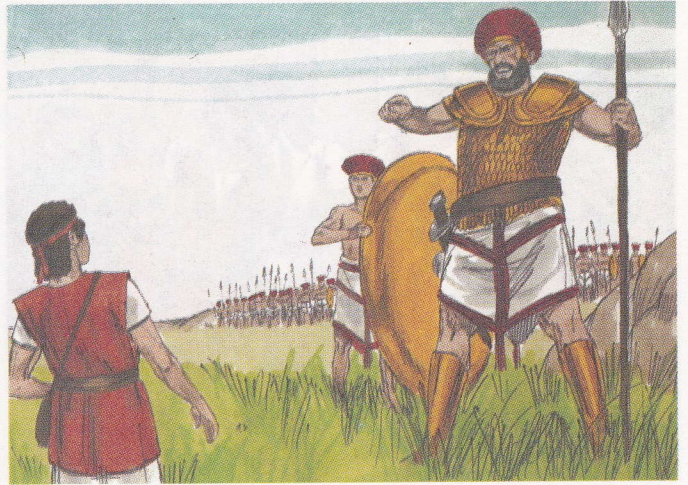
5 On arriving at the Israelite camp, David was surprised to find everyone afraid to fight the giant who challenged the army of the living God. So he said, "I will go and fight him myself."



6 But Saul said, "No, you are just a boy and he has been a soldier all his life." David replied, "I have killed lions and bears to save my father's sheep. I will do the same to this Philistine."



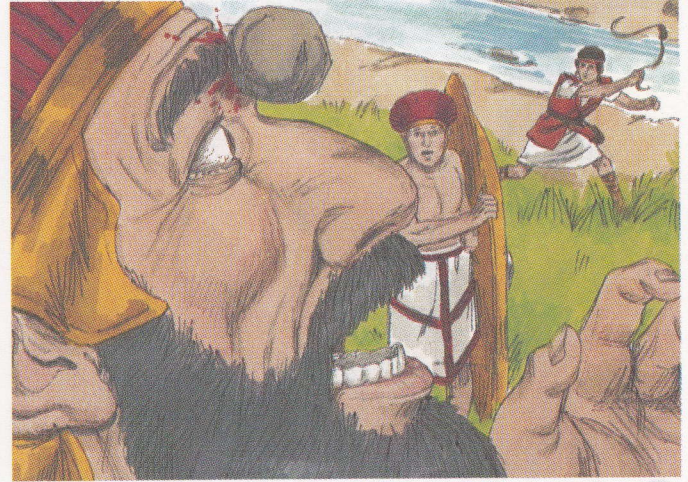
7 Finally Saul agreed. He gave David his own armor, but the young man was not used to it and took it off. He took his shepherd's stick, his sling, and five stones. He went to meet the giant.



8 When Goliath saw David he was filled with scorn because David was just a boy. He yelled curses at David and shouted, "I'm going to feed your body to the birds and animals!"



9 "You come with a sword and spear," David replied, "but I come in the name of the God of Israel. Today everyone will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people!"



10 Goliath started toward David. The young man ran quickly in the direction of the giant, taking a stone from his bag and slinging it. The stone struck Goliath in the forehead and broke his skull.



11 Then David ran to where Goliath had fallen to the ground and, using the giant's own sword, cut off his head!



12 Seeing their hero dead, the Philistines turned and ran. The Israelites chased the Philistines all the way back to their own country. David had won a great victory for Israel.