

Memorial Day Weekend – 2022

Saturday, 5/28 at 4:00 | Sunday, 5/29 at 9:00

Victory Components



+ Trust
+ Willingness
+ Courage

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Text: 1 Samuel 17 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This Monday is Memorial Day, a holiday that honors the men and women who died while servicing in our Armed Forces. What should we do?

- Thank God for ♦our nation, ♦the freedoms we enjoy, and ♦all who made the ultimate sacrifice for the USA!
- Fly our flags at half-staff from morning till noon – *to honor the fallen service members*; then, at noon, *raise our flags to full staff!*
- Observe the National Moment of Remembrance – *by pausing at 3 pm for one minute to remember those who died while serving in our Armed Forces!*

Let's understand our *present circumstances* in the USA: US war history (first 170 years): *We won the following wars:* ♦The American Revolution (1775-1783), ♦the War of 1812 (1812-1815), ♦many Indian Wars (1817-1898), ♦the Mexican War

(1846-1848), 📌 the Spanish-American War (1898-1902), 📌 WW I (1917-1918), and 📌 WW II (1941-1945)! **During that time in our nation's history:** 📌 *we were a much more God-fearing nation and* 📌 *our laws were much more in line with the Bible.*

What happened after WW II (last 70 years)? *We rejected God!*

- ☹️ 1962 **Banned** prayer from schools
- ☹️ 1963 **Banned** Bible from schools
- ☹️ 1972 **Right** to birth control for the unmarried
- ☹️ 1973 **Right** to abort babies
- ☹️ 1977 **Right** to birth control for 16-year-olds
- ☹️ 2002 **Right** to homosexual relations
- ☹️ 2015 **Right** to same sex marriage

All seven of those decisions *directly oppose the Almighty God!*

Therefore: We should not be surprised that since WW II, *except for Desert Storm (1990-1991), every war of US involvement has been either a stalemate or a loss* ☹️!

Today's Bible focus: Let's briefly consider the fight between the Philistines and the Israelites, which focuses on two people: *David and Goliath!* As we skim over the fight, take note of David's trust—*in the LORD God Almighty*, David's willingness—*to fight Goliath*, and David's courage—*to face Goliath, a great warrior, in the strength of the LORD!*

1. **The Setting:** ¹ **Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle...** ² **Saul and the men of Israel... drew up in battle array to encounter the Philistines.** ³ **The Philistines stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.** ⁴ **Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height**

was six cubits and a span [at least 9'-6" tall]. ⁵ *He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze [that is, 78 pounds]. // A giant of a man!*

2. **The Challenge:** ⁸ [Goliath] stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them... "Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us." // Good idea, *one on one!*
3. **The Fear:** ¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. ... ¹⁶ The Philistine came forward morning and evening for forty days and took his stand. ... ²⁴ When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were greatly afraid. // The Israelite army **lacked** 😊trust, 😊willingness, and 😊courage, so they were "greatly afraid." (Uvalde, TX)
4. **The Volunteer:** ³⁷ ...David said [to Saul], "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." And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you." // Saul, the tall and seasoned warrior was unwilling to go, *BUT he gladly gave David his blessing!*
5. **The Preparation:** ⁴⁰ ... [David] chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag... and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine. // A simple, effective weapon!
6. **gods Against GOD:** ⁴³ The... Philistine cursed David by his gods... ⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to

me with a sword, a spear, and 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 taunted. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you.... ⁴⁷ ...for the battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hands.”
// David was the LORD's instrument, *He worked thru him!*

7. **The Fight:** ⁴⁸ ...David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung *it*, and struck the Philistine on his forehead.... so that he fell on his face to the ground.... ⁵¹ Then David... took [the] sword [of Goliath] and... killed him, and cut off his head with it. //
With **trust**, **willingness**, and **courage**, *David prevailed!*

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – As our national sins continue to pile up, *so God continues to remove His blessing!*
- **Relevance** – Repentance is essential for our nation (*for a great example of repentance, read Jonah 3:4-10!*)
- **Inspiration** – God wants all people to repent and live!

Let Us Pray: LORD God Almighty: Thank You for many past blessings upon our nation and for all who gave their lives while serving in our Armed Forces! Now we pray for ☞Your hand of power to expose our sin, ☞Your hand of conviction to lead us to repent, and ☞Your hand of mercy to restore our nation to all that *agrees with Your word and brings You glory!*

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