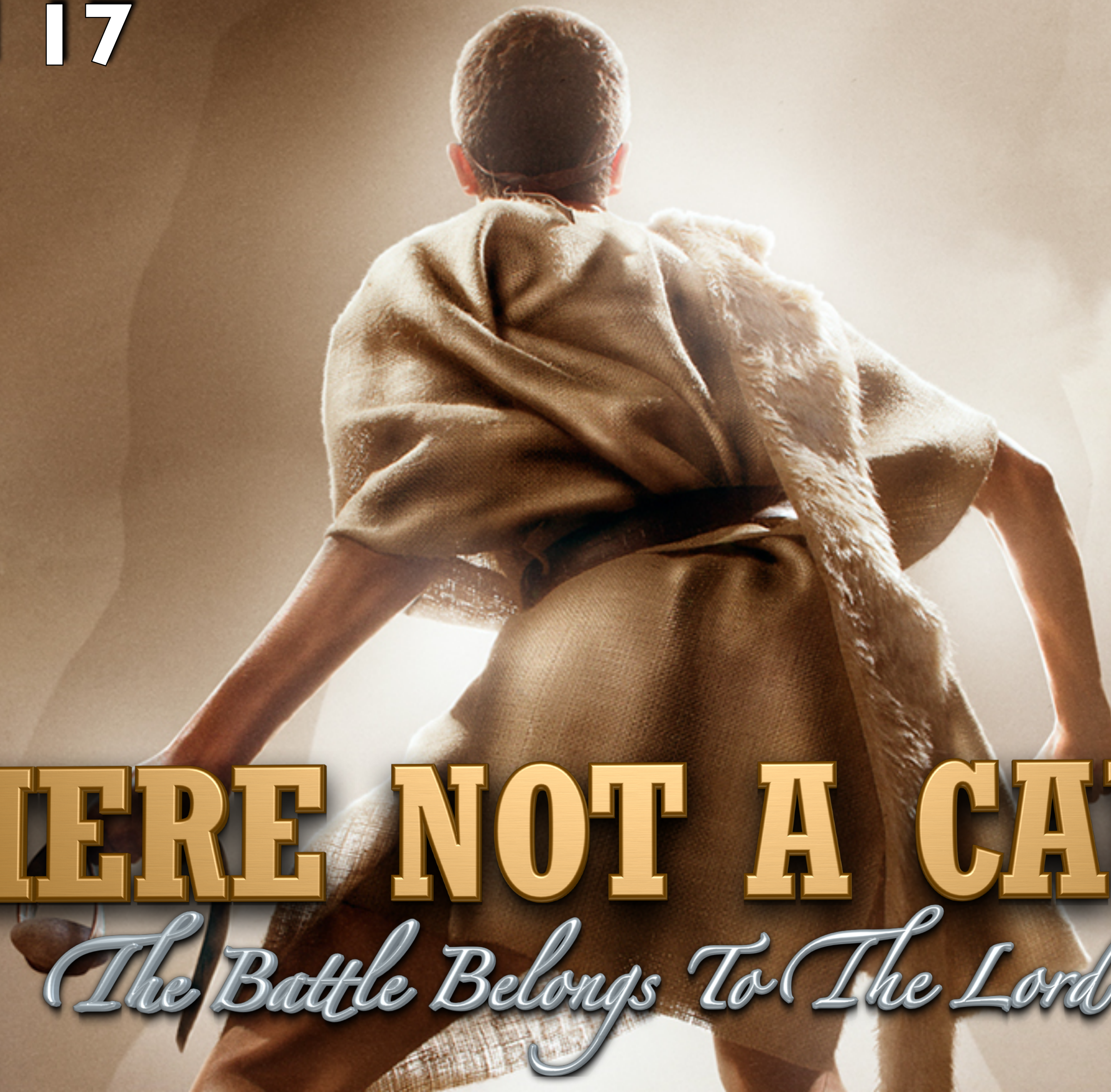


I Samuel 17



IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

The Battle Belongs To The Lord

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

DAVID & GOLIATH

One of the most well known stories in the Bible

**THE
MAIN
LESSONS
ARE
NOT:**

- Underdogs can win?
- Small things are better than big things?
- If we believe WE can — WE can?
- The art of getting our best life now against overwhelming odds?
- We can conquer the giants in our lives, such as fear, doubt, addiction, temptation, etc. IF WE JUST BELIEVE IN OURSELVES?

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

DAVID & GOLIATH

One of the most well known stories in the Bible

**SOME
MAIN
LESSONS
FOR US
ARE:**

- Worldly giants CANNOT defeat God's purposes, word, or people!
- God's will can be accomplished by those who TRUST HIM enough to obey Him!
- Our PERSONAL GIANTS NEED TO DIE (Pride; Selfishness; Sinful desires; Worldly desires; Earthly priorities; etc.) through trusting in God and His provisions in Christ!

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

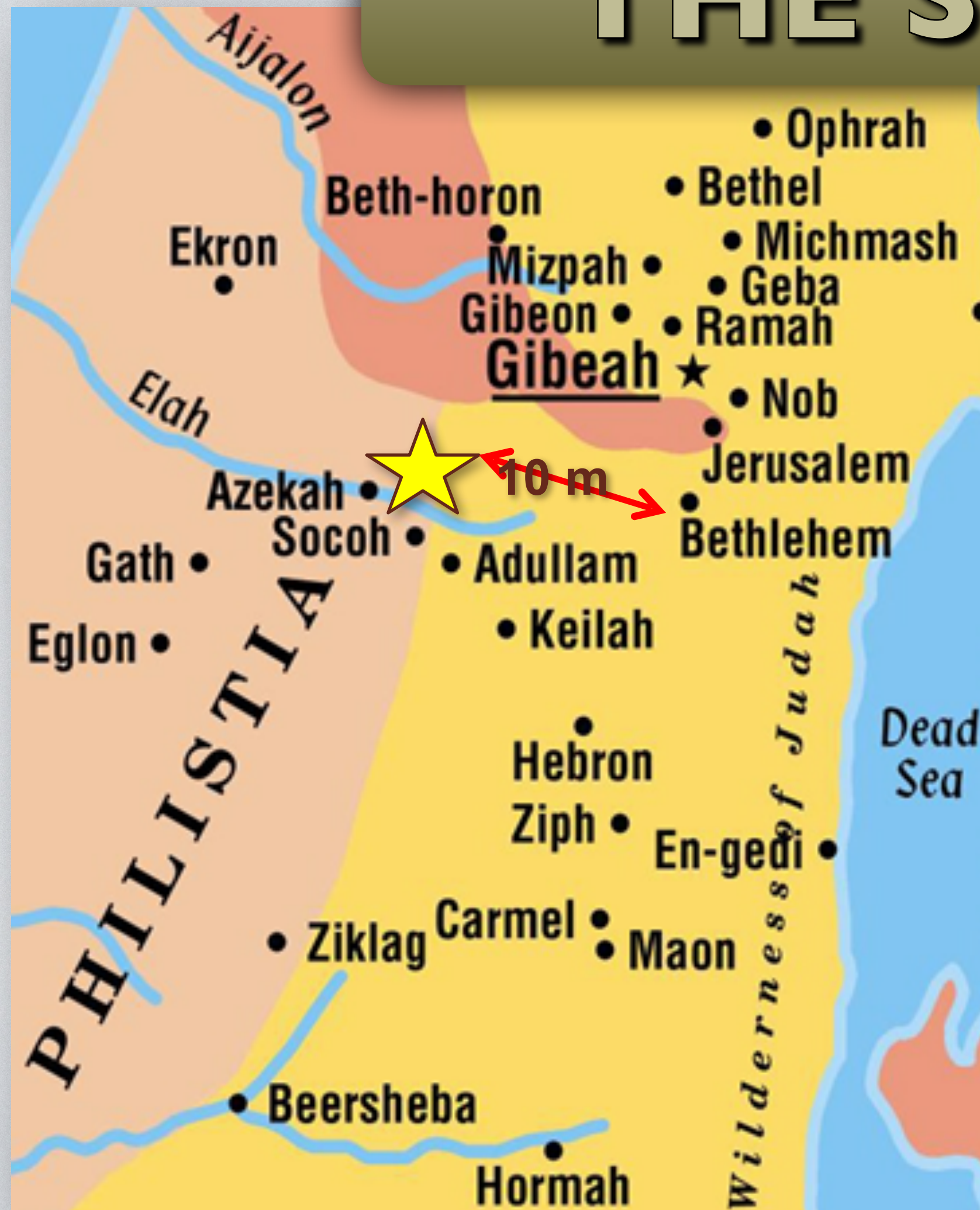
THE STORY IN CONTEXT



- God tells Saul he would be removed from being king due to his disobedience (1 Sam. 15)
- Samuel anoints David as king over Israel (1 Sam. 16:1-13)
- A troubled Saul calls for a musician to help calm his nerves (1 Sam. 16:14-17)
- David is called and finds favor in Saul's eyes — David intermittently serves the king (1 Sam. 16:18-23)

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

THE STORY IN CONTEXT



- Philistines encamped between Sochoh and Azekah to battle Israel (1 Sam. 17:1)
- Saul and Israel encamped in valley of Elah (1 Sam. 17:2)
- Goliath challenges Israel and defies Saul's army "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." (1 Sam. 17:3-10)

GOLIATH

9'6"

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

SHAQ

6'11"

Goliath challenges Israel and defies Saul's army "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."
(1 Sam. 17:3-10)

- Goliath - (about 9'6" tall!),
- Bronze helmet, coat of scale armor weighing 5,000 shekels, i.e., about 125 lbs.
- A bronze javelin, and a long spear with an iron tip weighing over 15-pounds!



IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

ISRAEL'S REACTION



- Saul & Israel's reaction – (*they were dismayed and greatly afraid*) (17:11)
- David sent to Israel's camp and hears Goliath's challenge (*Goliath ... spoke according to the same words. So David heard them.*) (17:17-23)
- “All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid ...” (17:11,24)

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

ISRAEL'S REACTION



- David did not compare the enemy to himself or any man – but to the living God – (“*who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?*”) (17:26; Ps. 18:1-3; 28:7; 46:1; Isa. 12:2; 45:24)
- David faces rebuke from Eliab his brother – (“*I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.*” - 17:28)

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

ISRAEL'S REACTION



- David viewed the cause worth fighting for! –
““**What have I done now? *Is there not a cause?***” (spoke the same to others)
(17:29,30)
- David tells the king he would fight Goliath
(17:31,32; Psalm 27:1-3)
- King Saul tries to discourage David! (“*You are not able . . . you are but a youth, . . . [He is] a man of war from his youth.*”) (17:33)

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

DAVID'S CONFIDENCE



- **Previous Victories** – God delivered the lion & a bear into his hands (17:34-37)
- **Proven Methods** – Wasn't a soldier, but a shepherd – He used what he had and was familiar with (17:38-41)
- **Faith in God** - David KNEW God's enemies always lose and cannot stand before those who trust and serve God. (17:36,37)

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

DAVID'S CONFIDENCE



Psalm 18:1–4 (NKJV)

³ I will call upon the Lord, *who is worthy* to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies. ⁴ The pangs of death surrounded me, And the floods of ungodliness made me afraid.

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

DAVID'S CONFIDENCE



Psalm 18:17 (NKJV)
17 He delivered me from
my strong enemy, From
those who hated me, For
they were too strong for
me.

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

DAVID'S CONFIDENCE



Psalm 28:7 (NKJV)

⁷ The Lord *is* my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

DAVID'S CONFIDENCE



- Did not waver in the face of intimidation, mockery or insults (41-44, cf Num. 13:28-33; 14:8,9)
- David's God is SO much bigger and stronger than his adversary — it wasn't a fair fight (45-47)

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

DAVID'S CONFIDENCE



1 Samuel 17:45–47 (NKJV)

⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with 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 defied. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you.

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

DAVID'S CONFIDENCE



1 Samuel 17:45–47 (NKJV)

And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle *is* the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands.”

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

DAVID'S CONFIDENCE



■ David's trust was in God

- ▶ Goliath had a “sword” and “spear” David had the Lord of host (17:45)
- ▶ David was going to fight for the God of Israel whom this giant defied (17:45,46)
- ▶ David KNEW the Lord defends and makes victorious those who trust in Him (17:47)

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

DAVID'S CONFIDENCE



- **David's confidence in the Lord was more than mere words:**
 - ▶ David ran toward the enemy (17:48)
 - ▶ He used the weapon familiar to him, a sling, to bring down his enemy (17:49)
 - ▶ David killed Goliath with Goliath's sword, and all the Philistines fled – just as David said (17:50,51)

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

DAVID'S CONFIDENCE



- God's cause is worth fighting for regardless of the material cost or reward (Titus 1:2; Jude 3)
- David's trust in the Lord could NOT be shaken by doubt, or fear of failure!

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

SOME OF OUR EXTERNAL GIANTS



■ Satan & His Evil Forces

- ▶ We **CANNOT** overcome him alone but he can be resisted and overcome with God's provisions (Eph. 6:10-17; Ja 4:7-10)
- ▶ Through God's word, we are made aware of his devices (2 Cor. 2:11)
- ▶ Satan **CANNOT** destroy the faithful (Rom. 8:28-39)
- ▶ **THERE IS A CAUSE! (1 Pet. 5:8-10)**

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

SOME OF OUR EXTERNAL GIANTS



■ The world – Persecution

- ▶ The immoral defy God and those who follow Him (John 15:20)
- ▶ Academia ridicules God and His people – they do everything they can to suppress the truth (Rom 1:18,28,32; 2 Thes 2:10)
- ▶ Through faith in Christ we can and WILL overcome the world (1 John 4:4)
- ▶ JESUS, and all in him, will be victorious (1 Cor. 15:57; 1 John 5:4; Revelation)

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

SOME OF OUR EXTERNAL GIANTS



- **Error, false teachers, denominationalism**
 - ▶ There are more erroneous and unbiblical teachings than you can shake a stick at (Matt. 7:13,14; 15:7-9)
 - ▶ Denominationalism is the result of false teaching and **MUST** be opposed and exposed (Rom. 16:17)
 - ▶ The cause of truth is worth fighting for (Matt. 13:44-46; Jude 3)

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

SOME OF OUR EXTERNAL GIANTS



■ Naysayers / Pessimists

- ▶ Our Enemies! (2 Cor 12:7)
- ▶ Our family (Job 2:9)
- ▶ Our friends (Mat. 16:22,23)
- ▶ Our Brethren! (2 Cor 11:26; Gal 2:4)
- ▶ Our Leaders! (Num. 13,14; Matt. 26:3–5; 27:1,2,20; Acts 20:29,30; 3 John 9)

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

SOME OF OUR EXTERNAL GIANTS



■ **Life** – (things happen to us)

- ▶ **Injustice** – suffering for righteousness (2 Tim. 3:12; Jam. 1:2)
- ▶ **Material loss** / Accidents / Tragedies
- ▶ **Loss of friends and family:** To death /Sickness / Disabilities / To the world / Facing death...
- ▶ There is a cause greater than anything bad we may experience in this world (Mat. 6:19-33; Rom. 8:17-39; 2 Cor. 4:16–18)

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

SOME OF OUR EXTERNAL GIANTS



- A **temptation** that seems unconquerable (Mat 17:20; 21:21)
- A **sin** which seems insurmountable? (Heb 12:1-3; 1 Cor. 10:13)
- A **command** of God that seems undoable (1 John 5:1-4; Phili 4:13)
- **Discouragement / worry?** (Mat. 6:25-34; Phili 4:4-13)
- **WE CAN FACE OUR GIANTS WITH UNWAVERING TRUST IN GOD!**



WHEN WE FACE
OUR FEAR WITH
FAITH, WE FIND
OUT HOW SMALL
THE OBJECT OF
OUR FEAR IS
COMPARED TO GOD!

I Samuel 17

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?
The Battle Belongs To The Lord



The Battle Belongs To The Lord

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

God, His truth, His Son, and His people are causes worth fighting for!

(1 Tim 3:15; 6:12; Jude 1:3; Acts 4:29,31)

I Samuel 17



The Battle Belongs To The Lord

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

To be victorious over sin in our own
life and in the lives of others

(Is 59:1,2; Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:9,10;
Rom 6:23; Gal. 6:1,2; James 5:19,20)

I Samuel 17



The Battle Belongs To The Lord

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

David trusted God, and his faith enabled him to defeat his Goliath.

SO CAN WE!



The Battle Belongs To The Lord

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

Charts by Don McClain

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Ephesians 6:10–18 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:10–18 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—