



THE BOOK OF

2 SAMUEL



## Sermon Series Notes

“Giants, & Giant Killers” (II Samuel 21-23)

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### Chapter 23

vv.15-17 This story takes place later in David’s life. He has been a warrior for the Lord for many years, and now those years are beginning to catch up with him. His spirit is still the same, but his body will not function as it did when he was younger. How many can relate to this?

\* Illus: Flag football, church softball, basketball with my kids, etc.

This happens in ministry as well. And if leaders are not willing to pull back in some areas, letting others around them do what they no longer can do, then the “lamp” of that ministry will go out. David would have been killed had Abishai not come to his rescue.

Ministries that endure the longest are those who allow others to assist them in the battle.

Someone said, “The greatest leader is willing to train people and develop them to the point that they eventually surpass him or her in knowledge and ability.” Another said, “Success for leaders can be defined as the maximum utilization of the abilities of those around them.”

Legendary UCLA and NBA center Bill Walton said: “In basketball, you can be the greatest individual player in the world and still lose every game, because a team will always beat an individual.”

Note that verse 22 Gives the credit for the defeat of these four giants to “David and his men,” even though David never went back out on the front lines to face them. When one of us has victory over a giant, it’s for the team. What part might David have had while his men were out on the front lines? See II Cor.1:9-11a Col.4: 12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may **stand firm** in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. 13 I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

vv.18-22 The descendants of Rapha were giants. There is a valley named after these giants, and it is mentioned several times in the OT. It is called the valley of Rephaim, southwest of Jerusalem (II Sam.5:18, 22; II Sam.23;13). It got its name from some early giant inhabitants called the Rephaim. This is the most common term used to describe giants in the Bible. See Deut.3:8-11.

Anthropological forensic reconstruction of the skulls of some these ancient giants reveals they had strong faces, full smooth foreheads, narrow noses, and prominent chins. They also had large craniums (skulls, heads) which gave them a brain capacity far above average.

I don’t know if you realize how many times the OT references these giants, but it is more than you might think. They are referred to with different names, but they are all giants. See Gen.6:4; Numbers 13:27-28, 31-33; 21:23-26; Deut.2:10-11, 20-23; Amos 2:9; Joshua 11:21-22, noting that Goliath was from Gath. David’s closest personal allies were giant killers. A record of their exploits continues in I Samuel 23:8-23.

It is interesting to discover how these men ended up on David's team. See I Samuel 22:1-2; Distress = sorrow, pain, suffering; anguish = torment, agony; In debt = no explanation needed; Discontented = bitter, bitterness; see Gen.27:34; Ex. 15:23.

These are very unlikely heroes. But these are the kind of people that the Lord delights in making heroes out of. See I Cor.1:26-27.

Last week we focused on the terrible mistakes King David made later in life. But this section focuses on David during the time he was a great leader. It was David's influence in these men's lives that made them the giant killers they became, because David was a giant killer.

What are the characteristics of a biblical giant killer?

Faith

See II Samuel 22:1-4, 18-19, 30, 35, 47-51

There is no dependence on one's own physical makeup, or the physical makeup of the opponent a giant killer is facing, because the dependence is completely on the Lord. See I Samuel 17:34-37; 14:6.

Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

See Numbers 13:30; 14:5-9; What an awful thing to be a giant killer in the midst of a bunch faithless cowards! But Caleb would have his day, he just had to wait a few years before it came. See Num.14:24; Joshua 14:6-15.

Perhaps you've been hindered and held back because of lack of faith of those around you. Don't give up, be patient, and your day will come. Please note that Caleb confirms for us that it does not matter how old you are to be a giant killer. David was just a boy when he began killing giants, and Caleb was an old man. And Caleb did not allow his giant killer spirit to be crushed even during all those years of wandering in the wilderness with a bunch of faithless Israelites. Perhaps your greatest victories will come in the latter years of your life. They did for Caleb.

The opposite of faith is fear, so if faith is going to be exercised, we will have to overcome our fears. To do that, we will need:

Courage

The goal of life is not the elimination of fear. Satan wants to scare the heaven out of us.

"Courage is doing what's right regardless of circumstances or consequences." (In A Pit...p.53)

See Daniel 3:17-18

Read In A Pit, p.49 bottom; p.47

I thought today about some of the things we fear.

- Failure (In A Pit, pp.50-51)
- The unknown
- Pain
- Loss
- Death
- Fear itself

Proverbs 25:29 Fear of man will prove to be a snare.

Fear is contagious; See Deut.20:1-8; But just as fear is contagious, so is faith & courage; See I Samuel 17:51b-53; 14:13-17, 20-23; Phil.1:14.

Show clip of Aragorn encouraging the men in Lord of the Rings

Read from In A Pit, p.101, top, 102, middle, 104, bottom, 106, middle, 108, 114-15, 116.

#### CONCLUSION

What Giants Are You Facing? The definition of a giant varies depending on the age and maturity of the one facing him. My walk to B.C. Moore and Sons the day after I made public my commitment to Jesus Christ; my first sermon; decision to become the pastor of CCSP; Many things I've faced over the years as a pastor; giants in my personal life.