

17.37 More Philistine Wars; Praising God (2 Samuel 21:15–22; 22; 23:1–7; 1 Chronicles 20:4–8; Psalm 18)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [. . .] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- Six-fingered glove (This can be made out of a pair of cotton gardening gloves. Sew an extra finger to the glove and stuff that finger with fiberfill. Or use the picture of one found below.)
- Weight of 7.5 to 9.5 pounds (22 rolls of pennies weigh 7.6 pounds and fit in a Velveeta® cheese box)
- Weaver’s beam (a beam 10 cm (about 4 inches) thick and 125 cm (about 49 inches) long; cover a 4-inch aluminum pipe (see inset) with wood-looking Contact® paper to make a “beam.”)



Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:

- *to avenge*: to exact satisfaction for (a wrong) by punishing the wrongdoer; to take revenge for someone

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Samuel 21:15 There was war again between the Philistines and Israel, and David went down together with his servants, and they fought against the Philistines. And David grew weary. 16 And Ishbi-benob, one of the descendants of the giants, whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of bronze, and who was armed with a new sword, thought to kill David. 17 But Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to his aid and attacked the Philistine and killed him. Then David’s men swore to him, “You shall no longer go out with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel.”

[This paragraph is repeated in 1 Chronicles 20:4–8; differences from 2 Samuel 21 are shown by brackets.] 18 After this there was again war with the Philistines at Gob [Gezer]. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down Saph [Sippai], who was one of the descendants of the giants. 19 And there was again war with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, the Bethlehemite, struck down [Lahmi the brother of] Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver’s beam. 20 And there was again war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number, and he also was descended from the giants. 21 And when he taunted Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimei [Shimea], David’s brother, struck him down. 22 These four were descended from the giants in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

22:1 [Identical to Psalm 18] And David spoke to the Lord the words of this song on the day when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. 2 He said, [Psalm 18:1 “I love you, O Lord, my strength.”] “The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, 3 my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. 4 I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

5 “For the waves of death encompassed me, the torrents of destruction assailed me; 6 the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.

7 “In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I called. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears.

8 “Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations of the heavens trembled and quaked, because he was angry. 9 Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. 10 He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet. 11 He rode on a cherub and

flew; he was seen on the wings of the wind. 12 He made darkness around him his canopy, thick clouds, a gathering of water. 13 Out of the brightness before him coals of fire flamed forth. 14 The Lord thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered his voice. 15 And he sent out arrows and scattered them; lightning, and routed them. 16 Then the channels of the sea were seen; the foundations of the world were laid bare, at the rebuke of the Lord, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

17 “He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters. 18 He rescued me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. 19 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my support. 20 He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

21 “The Lord dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me. 22 For I have kept the ways of the Lord and have not wickedly departed from my God. 23 For all his rules were before me, and from his statutes I did not turn aside. 24 I was blameless before him, and I kept myself from guilt. 25 And the Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight.

26 “With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless; 27 with the purified you deal purely, and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous. 28 You save a humble people, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down. 29 For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. 30 For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. 31 This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

32 “For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? 33 This God is my strong refuge and has made me blameless. 34 He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights. 35 He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. 36 You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your gentleness made me great. 37 You gave a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip; 38 I pursued my enemies and destroyed them, and did not turn back until they were consumed. 39 I consumed them; I thrust them through, so that they did not rise; they fell under my feet. 40 For you equipped me with strength for the battle; you made those who rise against me sink under me. 41 You made my enemies turn their backs to me, those who hated me, and I destroyed them. 42 They looked, but there was none to save; they cried to the Lord, but he did not answer them. 43 I beat them fine as the dust of the earth; I crushed them and stamped them down like the mire of the streets.

44 “You delivered me from strife with my people; you kept me as the head of the nations; people whom I had not known served me. 45 Foreigners came cringing to me; as soon as they heard of me, they obeyed me. 46 Foreigners lost heart and came trembling out of their fortresses.

47 “The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation, 48 the God who gave me vengeance and brought down peoples under me, 49 who brought me out from my enemies; you exalted me above those who rose against me; you delivered me from men of violence.

50 “For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations, and sing praises to your name. 51 Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his offspring forever.”

23:1 Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel:

2 “The Spirit of the Lord speaks by me; his word is on my tongue. 3 The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, 4 he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.

5 “For does not my house stand so with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. For will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? 6 But worthless men are all like thorns that are thrown away, for they cannot be taken with the hand; 7 but the man who touches them arms

himself with iron and the shaft of a spear, and they are utterly consumed with fire.”

Introduction/Review:

You all remember the story of David’s killing the giant Goliath. Do you suppose Goliath and his wife had any children before David slew him? ✓Well, he did, and by the time David grew old, Goliath’s sons grew to become giants too. ✓Maybe they knew about how some Israelites had not been loyal to David. Maybe they thought that, now that David was old, he could be whipped in battle. Maybe they thought, “We will avenge the blood of our father, Goliath.” What nation was Goliath’s? Philistia, west of Israel.

Story:

A close call

Whatever their reason, the sons of Goliath and the Philistines came to fight against Israel. David and his soldiers went to meet them in battle. (1) One of the giants, whose spearhead weighed 7.5 to 9.5 pounds [pass around the weight prepared], declared that he would slay David. He almost did, for David, being older, couldn’t fight as he used to. In fact, as he fought, he became exhausted. It must have been at that moment that the giant thought he would surely slay David. But, just in time, along came David’s nephew, good old Abishai, and struck down this Philistine, killing him. Whew! That was a close call!

“My lord, King David,” declared David’s men. “Never again will you go out with us to battle. You are like a lamp to our nation. We don’t want your light put out. You must stay home from now on!”

David followed this advice, but the Philistines came to war against Israel again.

(2) This time another giant was slain. The Philistines still wouldn’t give up. When they came against Israel in another battle, (3) a man from Bethlehem slew Goliath’s brother, whose spear handle (shaft) was as big as a weaver’s beam.

Once more the Philistines came against Israel. How many fingers do you have on each hand? [Five.] (4) This time the Philistines brought a huge son of Goliath who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot—24 in all. Just as his father had done, this son of Goliath made fun of Israel: “We are greater than you. Your God can’t protect you against me!” And on and on he went, just like Goliath. David’s brother Shimeah had been afraid when Goliath had ranted and raged against David and his god. But now, Shimeah’s son, Jonathan, unlike his fearing father, went after that twelve-fingered giant and slew him.

A praising rest

No more did the Philistines come out against Israel. God had now given David rest from all his enemies. Was David grateful to God? [Yes.] What did David do when he was grateful (or even when he was feeling sad)? What did he write? [Psalms.] That’s what he did again. The whole chapter 22 of 2 Samuel is a song of praise to God. Here are some of the ways David describes God: “My Rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my shield, the horn (strength) of my salvation, my stronghold, my refuge, my saviour.”

David also told how he had been about to die, but God had rescued him. “God is faithful to the faithful,” he said. Rather than calling himself a lamp as his men had, David said, “*You* are my lamp, O Lord. . . . It is God who made me strong. . . . The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! . . . He is the God who avenges me.”

✓I wonder if David jumped up and shouted after writing these words of praise to God. Let’s stand and sing some songs of praise to God. Let’s sing loudly to honor Him. [Sing songs of praise that your children know. Some suggestions are “The Doxology,” “Thou Art a Wonderful God,” “All Creatures of Our God and King,” and “My God Is So Big.”]

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

David called God his “horn of salvation.” “Christ is spoken of as the horn of salvation in the house of

David, Lu. 1:69” ([2 Samuel 22 Commentary - Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible \(Complete\) \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

“He is called “an horn of salvation”, because he is a powerful Saviour. “Horn” denotes power; it being that to a beast, as the arm is to a man, by which it defends itself, and pushes down its enemies; and “salvation” is the work Christ came to effect, and for which he was raised up, and sent: and a Saviour he is, and a mighty one, as appears from his doing and suffering what he has; as bearing all the sins of his people, and making reconciliation for them; obeying all the precepts of the law, and undergoing the penalty of it; being made a curse, and becoming obedient to death, even the death of the cross: as also, from his delivering them from sin, Satan, and the law, which no other could have done; and from his grappling with, conquering, spoiling, and destroying all his, and our enemies. Moreover, the word “horn” signifies regal power, honour, and dignity; see (Daniel 7:24) and so may not only denote the work of Christ as a Saviour, but his office also as a King, who in the discharge of that is likewise a Saviour; for he not only rules, and governs, but protects, defends, and preserves his, people, by his power; see (1 Samuel 2:10) (Psalms 132:17)” ([Luke 1:69 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

Activities:

- Play dough: spearhead; spear shaft; giant
- Snack: Sugar cookies in the shape of a lamp
- Try on a 6-fingered glove; lift the 7.5-pound “spear” weight
- Play-act the soldiers’ telling David not to fight anymore.
- Create a psalm: “God is _____.” Perhaps find a word for each alphabet letter.
- Say Psalm 100 lustily.
- Discuss *revenge*. Notice that David said, “[He is] the God who gave me vengeance.” It is good to remind ourselves again of Romans 12:19: “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’”
- Have older students read all or part of Psalm 18 (identical to 2 Samuel 22:2-51).
- Review questions: (Game: Obtain a candle that does not blow out. Using all caution to put in a safe place, light the candle. Students who answer a question correctly get one puff to blow out the candle.)
 1. Who had been the main enemy against Israel since David’s early days as a soldier? [The Philistines.]
 2. Who saved David from being killed by a giant relative of Goliath? [Abishai.]
 3. Why did David’s men not want him to fight anymore? [Because they didn’t want “the lamp of Israel” to be put out—didn’t want him to die.]
 4. What was the name of the most famous Philistine? [Goliath.]
 5. The shaft of the spear of one of the Philistine giants looked as large as what? [A weaver’s beam.]
 6. One of the giants had an unusual physical characteristic. What was it? [He had six fingers on each of his hands and six toes on each of his feet.]
 7. What was one way David had to praise the Lord? Hint: it had to do with writing. [Wrote psalms.]
 8. What does the Bible say about getting even with someone? [Let God take revenge.]

Memory Verse[s]: I heartily recommend the song and visual at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](#).

- Psalm 139:1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. 5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

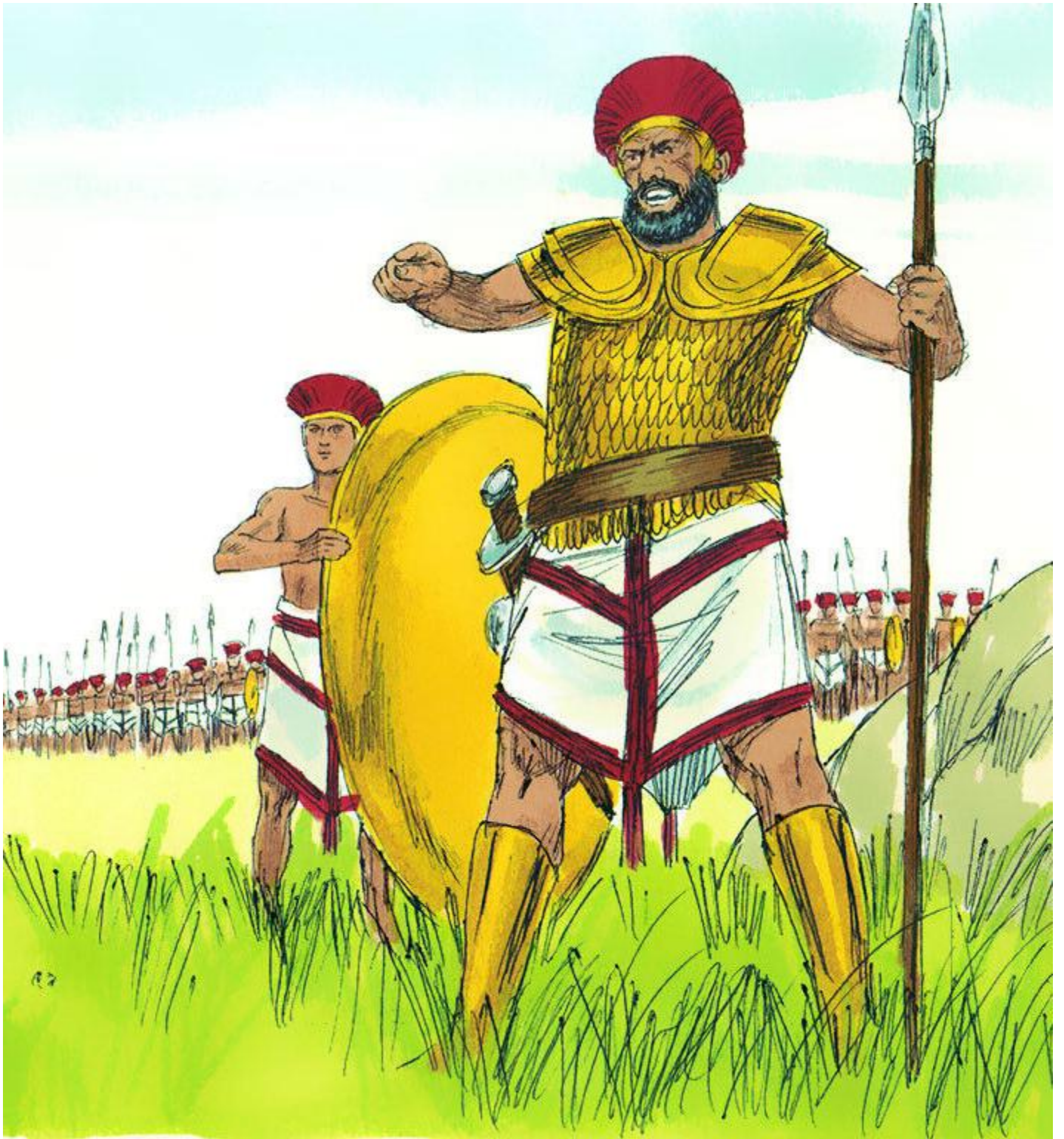
17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

Handwork:

- Print on card stock, cut out, and play a memory game. (See visuals at end of this lesson.)

to avenge



014-david-goliath.jpg (1024×768) (freebibleimages.org) (cropped)



