

Studies in Faith Rest Part 2

As a review, here is one of the best simple descriptions of faith rest.

“The first step in the faith-rest drill is to mix faith with a promise. The second step is to think through the doctrinal rationales that are embedded in that promise. We come to a certain conclusion, and the conclusion isn't simply a statement of that proposition. We come to the conclusion that God is in control.” [Robbie Dean, 3John lesson 13]

The key in faith-rest is our relationship with God the Father. Does our use of faith-rest activate a close relationship with God the Father.

Use of the Old Testament is very useful to illustrate this.

David develops the doctrinal rationale which results in his proclamation of the promise that “the battle is the Lord’s.” What we do in faith-rest is to use that promise to bring to mind the rationale which energizes our relationship with God by faith.

1 Samuel 17

The background of 1 Samuel 17 is that king Saul is faced with the Philistine enemy.

David, in chapter 16, was anointed as the future king and received the endowment of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit “rushed upon” him.

This study is about getting started with Faith-Rest, not an exegetical study of individual passages. However, there will be some verses that may need some correction or amplification.

1 Samuel 17:1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh which belongs to Judah, and they

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1 Samuel Chapter 17

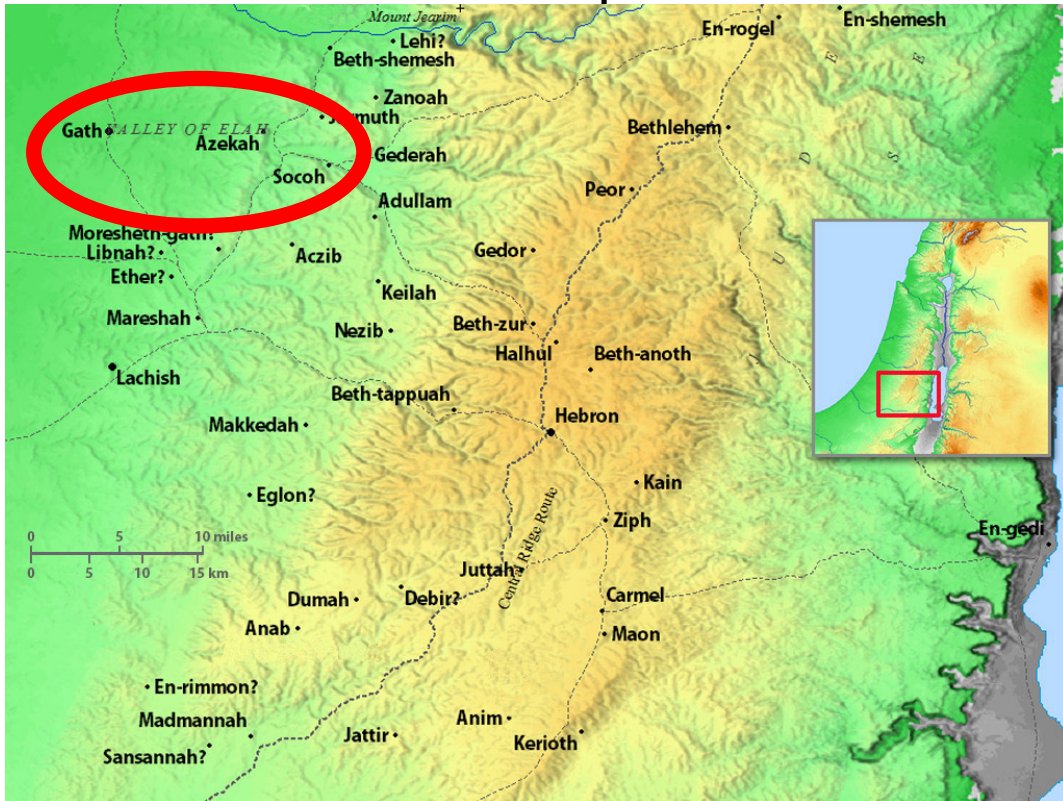
camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim.

1 Samuel 17:2 Saul and the men of Israel were assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah, and they drew up in battle formation to confront the Philistines.

1 Samuel 17:3 The Philistines were standing on the mountain on one side, while Israel was standing on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.

The Philistines had challenged Israel. The battle scene is familiar to those who study the book of Judges. The individuals in the nation reverted to living by their sin natures and no longer trust God. In some cases, they have abandoned God altogether. They are living like the Canaanites. God poses a challenge to get them back into walking by faith. God gives them promises. If they trust those promises which cause them to focus on their God, then they will be successful. If they continue to abandon God, then the challenges become greater and failure more likely.

Studies in Faith Rest Part 2 1 Samuel Chapter 17



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1 Samuel 17:4 Then a champion came forward from the army encampment of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath. His height was six cubits and a span.

1 Samuel 17:5 And he had a bronze helmet on his head, and he wore scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze.

1 Samuel 17:6 He also had bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze saber slung between his shoulders.

1 Samuel 17:7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear

weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-carrier walked in front of him.

The point of all this description is to portray the fierce countenance of Goliath from a human perspective. There was not a single man from the Israelite army that stood a chance against such an opponent using the same type of weapons. Goliath's weaponry was bigger, heavier, and the spear head was made of iron which is stronger than bronze. This was an impossible situation from a human perspective. The Israelites knew that from a human perspective. They were not looking at the situation from a divine perspective. They were not used to using faith to solve problems.

1 Samuel 17:8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them, "Why do you come out to draw up in battle formation? Am I not the Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man as your representative (literally "choose a man for yourselves") and have him come down to me.

1 Samuel 17:9 If he is able to fight 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."

1 Samuel 17:10 Then the Philistine said, "I have defied the ranks of Israel this day! Give me a man, so that we may fight together."

1 Samuel 17:11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and very fearful.

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Fear paralyzed the king and the army of Israel.

When Dr. Dean taught this passage, he used a list of five tests that produce champion believers:

1. The Test of Preparation 1 Samuel 17:34-36
2. The Test of Discernment 1 Samuel 17:25-27
3. The Test of Humility 1 Samuel 17:28-30
4. The Test of Authority 1 Samuel 17:31-37
5. The Test of Human Good 1 Samuel 17:38-39

Note that the first point appears out of sequence. The preparation came before the rest of the narrative chronologically but it is not mentioned until it was needed to logically provide background information.

1 Samuel 17:12 Now David was the son of the Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, the man whose name was Jesse, and he had eight sons. And Jesse was old in the days of Saul, advanced in years among men.

1 Samuel 17:13 The three older sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who had gone into the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and second to him, Abinadab, and the third, Shammah.

1 Samuel 17:14 So David was the youngest. Now the three oldest followed Saul,

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1 Samuel 17:15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's flock at Bethlehem.

Note: There are two verses from chapter 16 that figure into chapter 17.

1 Samuel 16:3 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God does not see as man sees, since man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

We only see the outward appearance with our eyes. Doctrine plus the faith reliance on the Holy Spirit provides us with a spiritual vision.

1 Samuel 16:13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel set out and went to Ramah.

Prior to the encounter with Goliath, the Holy Spirit had been bestowed upon David. This is sometimes called enduement. The word “rushed” in conjunction with the Holy Spirit is used of Gideon as well as Saul previously.

1 Samuel 17:16 And the Philistine came forward morning and evening, and took his stand for forty days.

1 Samuel 17:17 Then Jesse said to his son David, “Take now for your brothers an ephah

of this roasted grain and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to your brothers.

1 Samuel 17:18 Bring also these ten slices of cheese to the commander of their thousand, and look into the well-being of your brothers and bring back confirmation from them.

1 Samuel 17:19 For Saul and they and all the men of Israel are in the Valley of Elah, fighting the Philistines.”

They are not actually engaged in battle. They are waiting for something to get the battle started. In God’s Plan, He has everyone waiting for His faith warrior, David.

1 Samuel 17:20 So David got up early in the morning and left the flock with a keeper, and took the supplies and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the entrenchment encircling the camp while the army was going out in battle formation, shouting the war cry.

1 Samuel 17:21 Israel and the Philistines drew up in battle formation, army against army.

1 Samuel 17:22 Then David left the baggage in the care of the baggage keeper and ran to the battle line. And he entered and greeted his brothers.

1 Samuel 17:23 As he was speaking with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine from Gath named Goliath, was coming up from the army of the Philistines, and he spoke these same words; and David heard him.

1 Samuel 17:24 When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were very fearful.

These are soldiers who are fleeing. They are fleeing a battle. Would you call this cowardice?

In our spiritual battle, we do not seek out a spiritual battle against the forces of evil. But we do stand our ground, using doctrine plus faith, as David will do.

The Test of Discernment

1 Samuel 17:25 And the men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to defy Israel. And it will be that the king will make the man who kills him wealthy with great riches, and will give him his daughter and make his father’s house free in Israel.”

High Risk, High Reward from a human perspective.

1 Samuel 17:26 Then David said to the men who were standing by him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and rids Israel of the disgrace? For who is this

uncircumcised Philistine, that he has dared to defy (piel, i.e. intensive form of the verb) the armies of the living (plural) God (Elohim)?”

The believer walking by faith will have a relationship with God. That believer will know God is alive. In the narrative to this point, God was not mentioned a single time. Now David, with spiritual discernment brings in the spiritual aspect of this battle.

There are some theologically charged words in this verse.

Uncircumcised Philistine. Circumcision was a sign of the covenant between God and Israel.

Genesis 17:11 And you (Abraham) shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.

So David is saying that the Philistine is not an Israelite and is not included in the covenant. And yet, he dares to blaspheme against the living God.

Living God. Surprisingly, this is plural which matches Elohim which is also plural.

Defy. This is a word that sometimes means “blaspheme.”

David had correctly identified the spiritual component in this event. Yes, there is a huge, well-armed, well-trained soldier that would be impossible for a normal Israelite to bring down. But we all live in a world that is both physical and spiritual. We cannot see the spiritual. Yet, for a Christian, it is more important than what we can actually see.

David is beginning to build up the rationale that culminates in his declaration, “The battle is the Lord’s.”

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1. The enemy was not under the covenant with God.
2. The enemy was not an Israelite.
3. The enemy has blasphemed God.
4. The God that the enemy blasphemed is not made of wood and stone. He is a living God who will take action.

1 Samuel 17:27 The people answered him in agreement with this statement, saying, “This is what will be done for the man who kills him.”

The Test of Humility 1 Samuel 17:28-30

1 Samuel 17:28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard him when he spoke to the men; and Eliab’s anger burned against David and he said, “Why is it that you have come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I myself know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle.”

Notice the concentration of mental attitude sins based upon human viewpoint.

1 Samuel 17:29 But David said, “What have I done now? Was it not just a question?”

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In gathering information about the situation, which his father would want to know, David expressed divine viewpoint. Today, those who express divine viewpoint are criticized or worse. Same human viewpoint.

1 Samuel 17:30 Then he turned away from him to another and said the same thing; and the people replied with the same words as before.

There was no one, not even one, person who had divine viewpoint like David. Once again in the Bible, we have the actions of a single person with divine viewpoint impacting history.

The Test of Authority 1 Samuel 17:31-37

1 Samuel 17:31 When the words that David spoke were heard, they informed Saul, and he sent for him.

Apparently, David's questions and comments caused a stir. This is possibly due to the fact that in the Israelite family, the father was charged with ensuring that the sons were taught history and Jewish culture which is based upon God acting in history. They soldiers knew David was right, but no one was willing to use faith in this situation. Only David.

1 Samuel 17:32 And David said to Saul, "May no one's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight this Philistine!"

For forty days there was no one willing to use faith. So David must have said in his heart. I know God. I know the character of God. I am a believer and under the covenant to God. I am prepared mentally and physically to take on the challenge.

1 Samuel 17:33 But Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight him; for you are only a youth, while he has been a warrior since his youth.”

Again, human viewpoint. This battle is not strictly a battle in the physical world.

The Test of Preparation 1 Samuel 17:34-36

1 Samuel 17:34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant was tending his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a sheep from the flock,

1 Samuel 17:35 I went out after it and attacked it, and rescued the sheep from its mouth; and when it rose up against me, I grabbed it by its mane and struck it and killed it.

1 Samuel 17:36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God.”

David describes his killing of wild animals from a human perspective that Saul will understand.

1 Samuel 17:37 And David said, “The Lord who saved me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear, He will save me from the hand of this Philistine.” So Saul said to David, “Go, and may the Lord be with you.”

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David develops the faith rationale further by describing the incidents from a divine perspective. It was the Lord who saved him. So another point can be added to the rationale. David is a man of faith, under the covenant with God, who has trusted God with the result that God acted on David's behalf. Now, David is prepared mentally and physically to attack a blaspheming enemy of God.

Saved me. The verb is used many times in the book of Exodus for Moses being delivered from the Egyptians and the Israelites being delivered from the Egyptians. This should have struck a chord with Saul. He would know the narrative of the exodus.

The Test of Human Good 1 Samuel 17:38-39

1 Samuel 17:38 Then Saul clothed David with his military attire and put a bronze helmet on his head, and outfitted him with armor.

1 Samuel 17:39 And David strapped on his sword over his military attire and struggled at walking, for he had not trained with the armor. So David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, because I have not trained with them." And David took them off.

At this point in his life, David has not trained with armor. He has used the tools of the shepherd. Don't try to imitate someone you are not. God prepared David differently than his brothers who were in the army.

1 Samuel 17:40 Then he took his staff in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, that is, in his

shepherd's pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine.

Others have taught that Goliath had four brothers. Others suggest Goliath had four sons. The idea is that David picked up five stones to kill five giants. He did not pick up extra stones in case he missed.

1 Samuel 17:41 Then the Philistine came and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him.

So now the odds are two against one.

1 Samuel 17:42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he was contemptuous of him; for he was only a youth, and reddish, with a handsome appearance.

Human viewpoint.

1 Samuel 17:43 So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

Interesting irony all through this conversation between Goliath and David. Dogs are often considered dirty animals in that culture. Gentiles have at times been referred to as "dogs." Kaleb, the hero of the Exodus was likely not originally a Jew, but a non-Jew. His name means, "dog."

Now Goliath goes to the spiritual when he curses David using a Philistine god. This should alert the reader that David has entered the spiritual warfare.

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1 Samuel 17:44 The Philistine also said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the wild animals.”

1 Samuel 17:45 But David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a saber, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of armies, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.”

1 Samuel 17:46 This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I will strike you and remove your head from you. Then I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,

1 Samuel 17:47 and that this entire assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and He will hand you over to us!”

The battle is the Lord’s. This is the culmination of David’s divine viewpoint rationales.

1 Samuel 17:48 Then it happened, when the Philistine came closer to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

1 Samuel 17:49 And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone penetrated his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

Shades of king Eglon in Judges chapter 3. Goliath falls on his face, perhaps with his hands outstretched as if in subservience to David.

Have you ever trusted God for something big. And God acted. In the moment that God's actions become evident, there is that realization that God indeed acted in response to your faith. It is a "wow" moment. In your heart you want to kneel down to God right there and give thanks. Unfortunately, we have to often just give thanks in our minds and quickly follow up with additional actions.

1 Samuel 17:50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with the sling and the stone: he struck the Philistine and killed him, and there was no sword in David's hand.

1 Samuel 17:51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine, and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and finished him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

The tables were turned due to a single man who knew Scripture and was empowered by the Holy Spirit. That is the point of faith-rest. Doctrine plus faith.

1 Samuel 17:52 Then the men of Israel and Judah rose up and shouted, and they pursued

the Philistines as far as the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the Philistine dead lay along the way to Shaaraim, even to Gath and Ekron.

1 Samuel 17:53 Then the sons of Israel returned from their close pursuit of the Philistines, and plundered their camps.

1 Samuel 17:54 And David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his weapons in his tent.

There are many other passages that use similar terminology. David did not originate the concept that God will fight for Israel.

Deuteronomy is considered by some to be the "covenant" document. Often in covenants or treaties between two parties in ancient times, especially when one party has conquered another, the conquerer promised to defend the lesser party if the lesser party obeys the terms of the treaty.

Deuteronomy 1:30 The Lord your God, who goes before you, will Himself fight for you, just as He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,

Deuteronomy 1:31 and in the wilderness where you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as a man carries his son, on all of the road which you have walked until you came to this place.'

During the Exodus, Moses reiterated God's protection of Israel.

Exodus 14:13 But Moses said to the people, “Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will perform for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again, ever.

Exodus 14:14 The Lord will fight for you, while you keep silent.”

Exodus 14:25 He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians each said, “Let me flee from Israel, for the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians.”

Other statements in Deuteronomy that God will fight for Israel.

Deuteronomy 3:22 Do not fear them, for the Lord your God is the One fighting for you.’

Deuteronomy 20:1 “When you go out to battle against your enemies and see horses, chariots, and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, is with you.

Deuteronomy 20:2 When you are approaching the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the people.

Deuteronomy 20:3 He shall say to them, ‘Hear, Israel, you are approaching the battle against your enemies today. Do not be fainthearted. Do not be afraid, or panic, or be terrified by them,

Deuteronomy 20:4 for the Lord your God is the One who is going with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

Historical statements that God did fight for Israel from the book of Joshua.

Joshua 10:14 There was no day like that before it or after it, when the Lord listened to the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.

Joshua 23:3 And you have seen all that the Lord your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the Lord your God is He who has been fighting for you.

Joshua 23:10 One of your men puts to flight a thousand, for the Lord your God is He who fights for you, just as He promised you.