

## Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

## Things Aren't Always What They Seem

### David vs Goliath

#### 1Samual 17:1, 4-9 (Goliath)

1Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which *belongeth* to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim.

4And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height *was* six cubits and a span.

Six cubits and a span = 9 ft. 6 in.

5And *he had* an helmet of brass upon his head, and he *was* armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat *was* five thousand shekels of brass.

Five thousand shekels of brass = approx. 125 lbs.

6And *he had* greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.

7And the staff of his spear *was* like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.

Six hundred shekels = approx. 15 lbs.

8And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set *your* battle in array? *am* not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.

9If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us.

#### I Samuel 16:12 (David)

12And he sent, and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, *and* withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this *is* he.

#### I Samuel 17:14, 32-33, 42-51

14And David *was* the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul.

32And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou *art but* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

42And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

43 And the Philistine said unto David, *Am* I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

44And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

45Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

46This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

147And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

48And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

49And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang *it*, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

50So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but *there was* no sword in the hand of David.

51Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

David came in the Name Of The LORD realizing that the battle is the LORD's, and a ruddy youth of a beautiful countenance with a sling shot was able to defeat a 9 ft. giant, a man of war carrying 125 lbs of armor and a spear whose tip alone weighed 15 lbs. *Things aren't always what they seem.*

How much can we accomplish if we come in the name of the LORD realizing the battle is His and we are to be obedient to the call.

## **Joseph from the Pit to the Ruler of Pharaohs House, and the land of Egypt**

### **Genesis 37:5-8, 11, 23-24,28**

5And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told *it* his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

6And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

7For, behold, we *were* binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

8And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

11And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, *his coat of many colors that was* on him;

24And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit *was* empty, *there was* no water in it.

28Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty *pieces* of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

### **Genesis 39:1-4**

1And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

2And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

3And his master saw that the LORD *was* with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

4And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all *that* he had he put into his hand.

## **Genesis 41:15, 25,28, 37-41**

15And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and *there is* none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, *that* thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

25 And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh *is* one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he *is* about to do.

28This *is* the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God *is* about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh.

37And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.

38And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find *such a one* as this *is*, a man in whom the Spirit of God *is*?

39And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, *there is* none so discreet and wise as thou *art*:

40Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

41And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

## **Genesis 50:18-20**

18And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we *be* thy servants.

19And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for *am* I in the place of God?

20But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

Joseph was betrayed because of hatred and envy and thrown into the pit and sold into slavery by his own brothers. From the depth of the pit and the bondage of slavery, Joseph arose to rule over Potiphar's house and eventually over Pharaoh's house and the land of Egypt. What was meant for evil against him God turned it to good and saved many people. Trust in the LORD, *Things aren't always what they seem.*

## **John the Baptists**

### **Matthew 3: 2-4**

2And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

4And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

**camel's hair:** not the fine hair of the camel from which our elegant cloth is made called camlet, nor the more elegant stuff brought from the East Indies under the name of "camel's hair," but the long shaggy hair of the camel, from which a coarse cheap cloth is made, still worn by the poorer classes in the East, and by monks. - *Barnes*

John the Baptists clothed in coarse cheap camels hair feeding on locusts and honey from wild bees that he gathered from the between the cracks of rocks in the wilderness. John was probably not much in appearance but faithful in his calling to proclaim repentance and the Kingdom of God. John wore not the fine linen of the rich or drank from a golden cup. His body knew not soft raiment but he was faithful to his calling where the LORD planted him. Let us be faithful in our calling where the LORD has planted us.

## Matthew 11:7-10

7And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

8But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft *clothing* are in kings' houses.

9But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.

10For this is *he*, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

## Matthew 11:11

11Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

A prophet, yes but according to Jesus more than a prophet, he is my messenger and in Jesus words "Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist". Don't let appearances fool you, "for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.' (**I Samuel 16:7**) Appearances can be deceiving. *Things aren't always what they seem.*

It will do us well to remember to trust in the Lord and allow Him to do His work in our lives. David faced Goliath and confronted him "in the name of the LORD of Hosts". Let us trust in the LORD when the giants of this life come against us, for there will be many. Joseph was hated and envied by his closest loved ones, yet the Lord was with him as the Lord is with all those that love Him. The Lord is faithful and has he not promised "**I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.**" (**Matthew 28:20**). John the Baptist a man in the wilderness dressed in cheap camel's hair eating locusts and wild honey. By his appearance he would probably be thought crazy today. However, he was faithful to his calling and to where the Lord put him, in the wilderness. May we be faithful where the Lord has us, remembering that through the ups and downs and the trials and tribulations in this topsy-turvy world we need to trust the LORD even when we don't always understand because...*Things aren't always what they seem.*

**Isaiah 55:8** for my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

## The Two Angels

There is a delightful little story of two angels who stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the guestroom. Instead they were given a small space in the cold basement.

As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, "Things aren't always what they seem."

The next night the two angels came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had, the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest.

When the sun came up the next morning, the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field.

The younger angel was perplexed and asked the older angel, "How could you have let this happen? The first man had everything, yet you fix a hole in his wall. The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let the cow die."

"Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied. "When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to

share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it. Then last night as we slept in the farmer's bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I gave him the cow instead."

You see, things aren't always what they seem. The Bible promises us that "all things work together for good, to those who love God and are called according to His purpose" ([Rom 8:28](#)). Surely you can trust the Lord to work things out for your good. Just remember, *things are not always as they seem*.

**JESUS SAVES**