

GNITN

#1,088

Slings, Stones, and Your Story: How We Overcome Satan

A Powerful Weapon

The history of man is full of stories about men and their weapons. Some see weapon creation as a way of surviving animal attacks while others see these weapons as a means to win wars. Others simply see weapons as a way to hunt for food to survive. Here is how an [article](#) from *Wikipedia* describes all things weapons:

*Major innovations in the **history of weapons** have included the adoption of different materials – from stone and wood to different metals, and modern synthetic materials such as plastics – and the developments of different weapon styles either to fit the terrain or to support or counteract different battlefield tactics and defensive equipment.*

People have used weapons in warfare, hunting, self-defense, law enforcement, and criminal activity. Weapons also serve many other purposes in society including use in sports, collections for display, and historical displays and demonstrations. As technology has developed throughout history, weapons have changed with it.

The use of weapons is a major driver of [cultural evolution](#) and [human history](#) up to today, since weapons are a type of tool which is used to dominate and subdue autonomous agents such as animals and by that allow for an expansion of the cultural niche, while simultaneously other weapon users (i.e., agents such as humans, groups, cultures) are able to adapt to weapons of enemies by learning, triggering a continuous process of competitive technological, skill and cognitive improvement ([arms race](#)).^[1]

As you can see weapons have played and continue to play a huge role in our history. From a playground skirmish to battles between super powers, the person with the best weapons usually wins the fight. But when we turn to the Bible, the underdog has their day a lot.

A Boy And His Sling

The story of the young boy David and the hulking giant Goliath has fascinated both young and old and for good reason. As they say, everyone likes a good story about the little guy overcoming against big odds. In this extremely popular narrative, the stakes couldn't have been bigger. The nation of Israel was facing defeat against the Philistines. For some reason, rather than overrunning them, the Philistines trotted out this mountain of a man, Goliath and offered the Israelites a simple challenge: send out your best soldier to fight him and if you beat him, you win the war. However, if you don't do well you have to surrender right then and there. Every day Goliath came out and taunted the Israelites and every day they scrambled to figure out a way to beat him. Here is how this seminal moment in both the nation of Israel and the man who would be king David is described in commentary from the *Bible Hub* starting with where you can find the account in the Bible:

The account of David and Goliath is primarily found in [1 Samuel 17](#). Additional references to David's prowess and his encounter with Goliath can be found in [1 Samuel 18:6-7](#), [2 Samuel 21:19](#), and [1 Chronicles 20:5](#). The account of David and Goliath is one of the most well-known narratives in the Bible, illustrating themes of faith, courage, and divine intervention. This account is found in 1 Samuel 17 and serves as a pivotal moment in the life of David, who would

later become the second king of Israel. The encounter between the young shepherd and the Philistine giant is emblematic of the triumph of faith over brute strength and human arrogance.

A Little Context

The commentary then sets the stage:

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The key characters are listed:

David: The youngest son of Jesse, David was a shepherd from Bethlehem. Despite his youth and inexperience in battle, David was chosen by God and anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the future king of Israel ([1 Samuel 16:13](#)). His faith in God and his experience protecting his flock from predators prepared him for the encounter with Goliath.

Goliath: A champion of the Philistines, Goliath hailed from Gath and was described as a giant, standing over nine feet tall. His armor and weaponry were formidable, and he challenged the Israelites to send a warrior to fight him in single combat, a common practice in ancient warfare to decide the outcome of a battle without mass bloodshed.

Then the overall setting is set:

For forty days, Goliath taunted the Israelite army, instilling fear among Saul's troops. David, sent by his father to deliver provisions to his brothers in the army, heard Goliath's defiance and was stirred to action. Despite King Saul's initial reluctance, David convinced him to allow him to face the giant, declaring, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" ([1 Samuel 17:37](#)).

Rejecting Saul's armor, David approached Goliath with only a sling and five smooth stones. As Goliath mocked him, David proclaimed, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied" ([1 Samuel 17:45](#)). With a single stone, David struck Goliath on the forehead, causing the giant to fall face down to the ground. David then used Goliath's own sword to behead him, securing a decisive victory for Israel.

And there you have it. It's a story that is still being read and told all around the world and for good reason. But, for the Christian it is more than a story.

We Can Overcome Giants

Just like David and the nation of Israel, we come up against challenges where we aren't expected to survive let alone win. But in the case of David, he had more than a sling and five stones going for him. He had the God of creation as one of his weapons:

The account of David and Goliath is rich with theological implications. It underscores the power of faith and the belief that God empowers those who trust in Him, regardless of their apparent weaknesses. David's victory is seen as a testament to God's sovereignty and His ability to use the humble and lowly to achieve His purposes. The narrative also foreshadows David's future role as king and his reliance on God throughout his reign.

The story defined more than a military victory:

David's triumph over Goliath became a defining moment in Israel's history and a symbol of divine deliverance. It established David's reputation as a warrior and leader, paving the way for his eventual ascension to the throne. The account continues to inspire believers, serving as a reminder of the importance of faith and the assurance that God is with those who stand for His name.

I could cite a myriad of other stories from the Bible to illustrate this point, but this one speaks to us in a special way. However there is one verse in Bible prophecy that stands out for us because it speaks of our personal sling and stones.

How We Overcome

And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, for they did not love and cling to life even when faced with death [holding their lives cheap till they had to die for their witnessing]. ([Rev 12:11, AMPC](#))

In context the saints were fighting against a huge dragon who was thrown down to earth. We know who that dragon was because in verse 9, it tells us:

And the huge dragon was cast down and out—that age-old serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, he who is the seducer (deceiver) of all humanity the world over; he was forced out and down to the earth, and his angels were flung out along with him. ([Rev 12:9, AMPC](#))

So when we put it all together, the saints were up against Satan and his angels, or now demons and they won because of the blood of the lamb, Jesus, proclaiming what He's done in their lives, and their willingness to make any sacrifice even dying for their faith. I'm not belittling the other two weapons, but a third of their ability to overcome is their witness. Let that sink in. We tend to take our witness for granted, but it is a major part of how we fight the enemies of our life. When you think about it there is power in proclaiming the details of God's working in our lives, much like giving evidence in a court of law which is what the word [testimony](#) means in the Greek. The Greek meaning of the [word](#) in this verse points to a clear, articulate message, not vague sentiment. Just saying I was saved isn't enough. In a court of law, specifics are key. And in big cases they have experts helping you to refine your testimony for maximum impact. These tribulation saints had to rely on Holy Spirit to know exactly what to say for their defense. I guess the next question is, how strong is your ability to testify? Are you living a life that exemplifies God's power and love on a daily basis? If you had to stand up and tell others about what God has done and is doing in you could you do it? I guess the challenge I leave you with is to start that process which another commentary from the *Bible Hub* [details](#) for us:

- Speak plainly of Christ's blood and resurrection; avoid mere moralism.
- Share concrete moments of God's work in your life—answered prayer, freedom from sin, guidance.
- Show consistency: life and lips aligned ([Philippians 2:14–16](#)).
- Accept that courage may cost popularity, comfort, even safety—overcomers value eternal life more ([Matthew 10:32–39](#)).

You have your homework assignment, now. Study and prepare that testimony as if your life depends on it because it really does.

