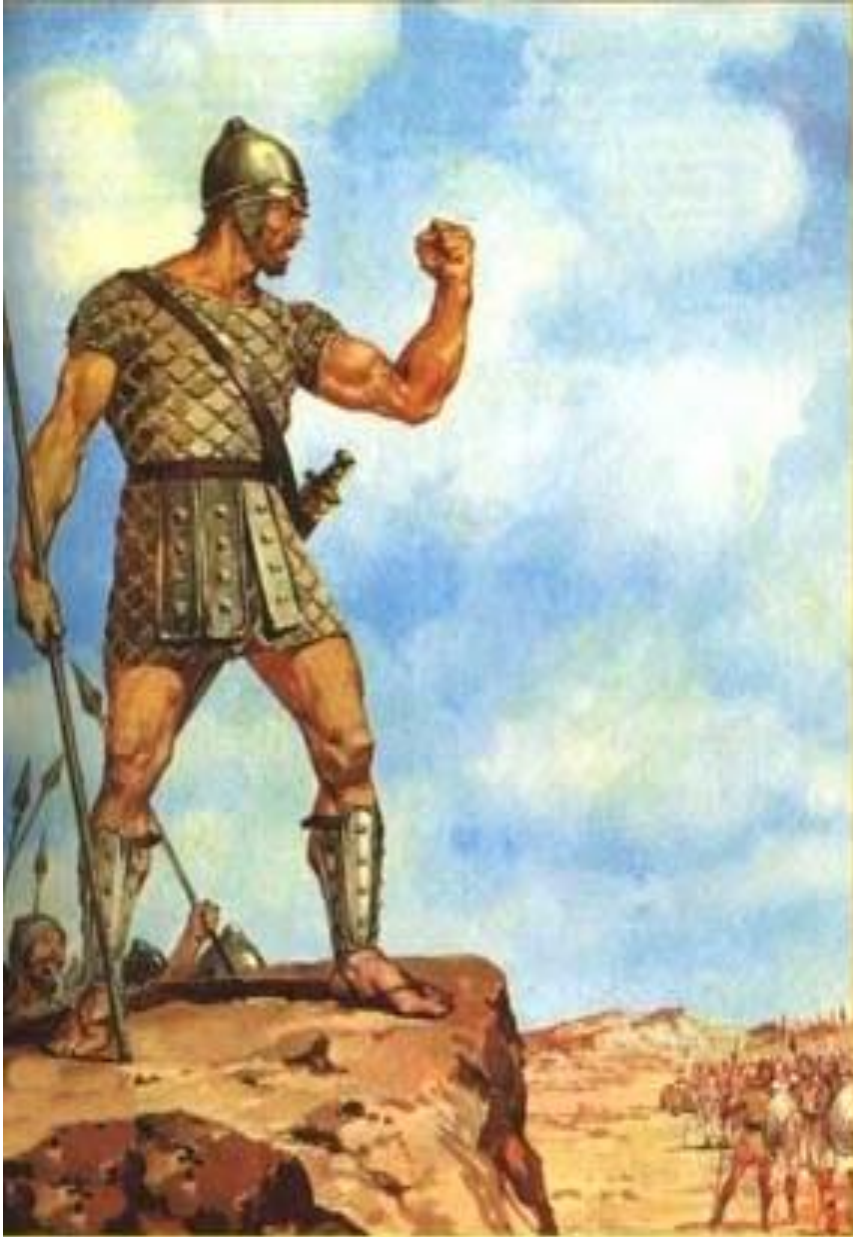
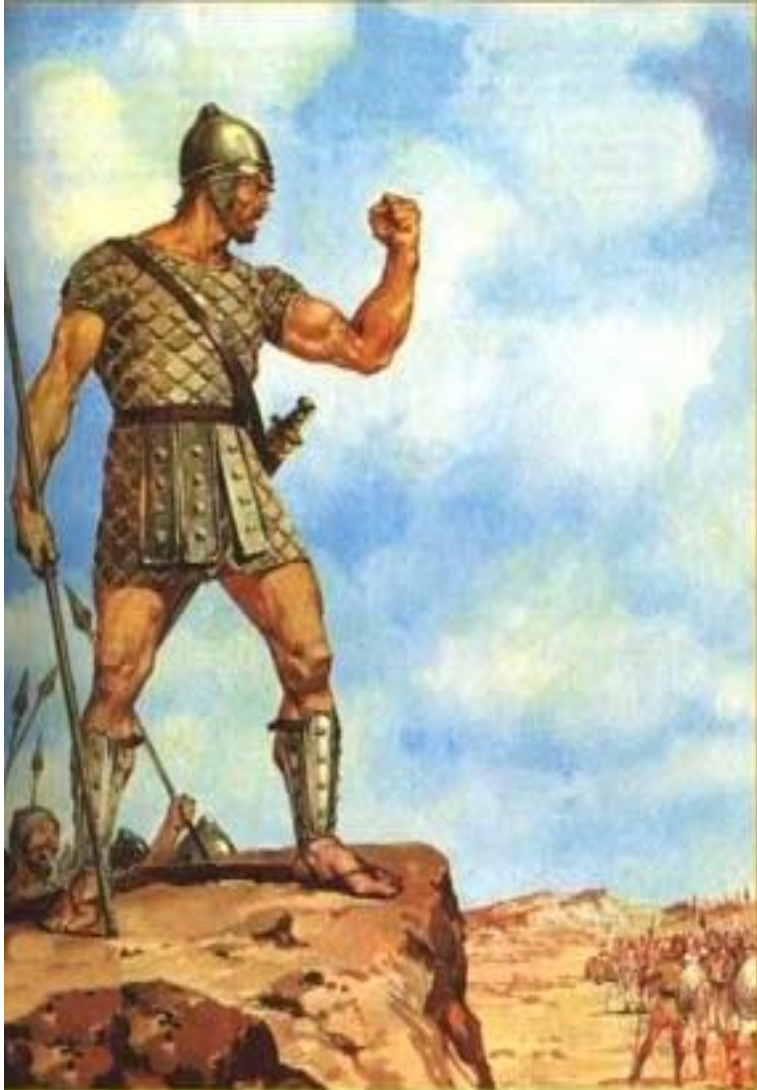




King Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.



A champion named Goliath came out of the Philistine camp. He was about 9 ½ feet tall! He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armour of bronze; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and had a bronze spear.

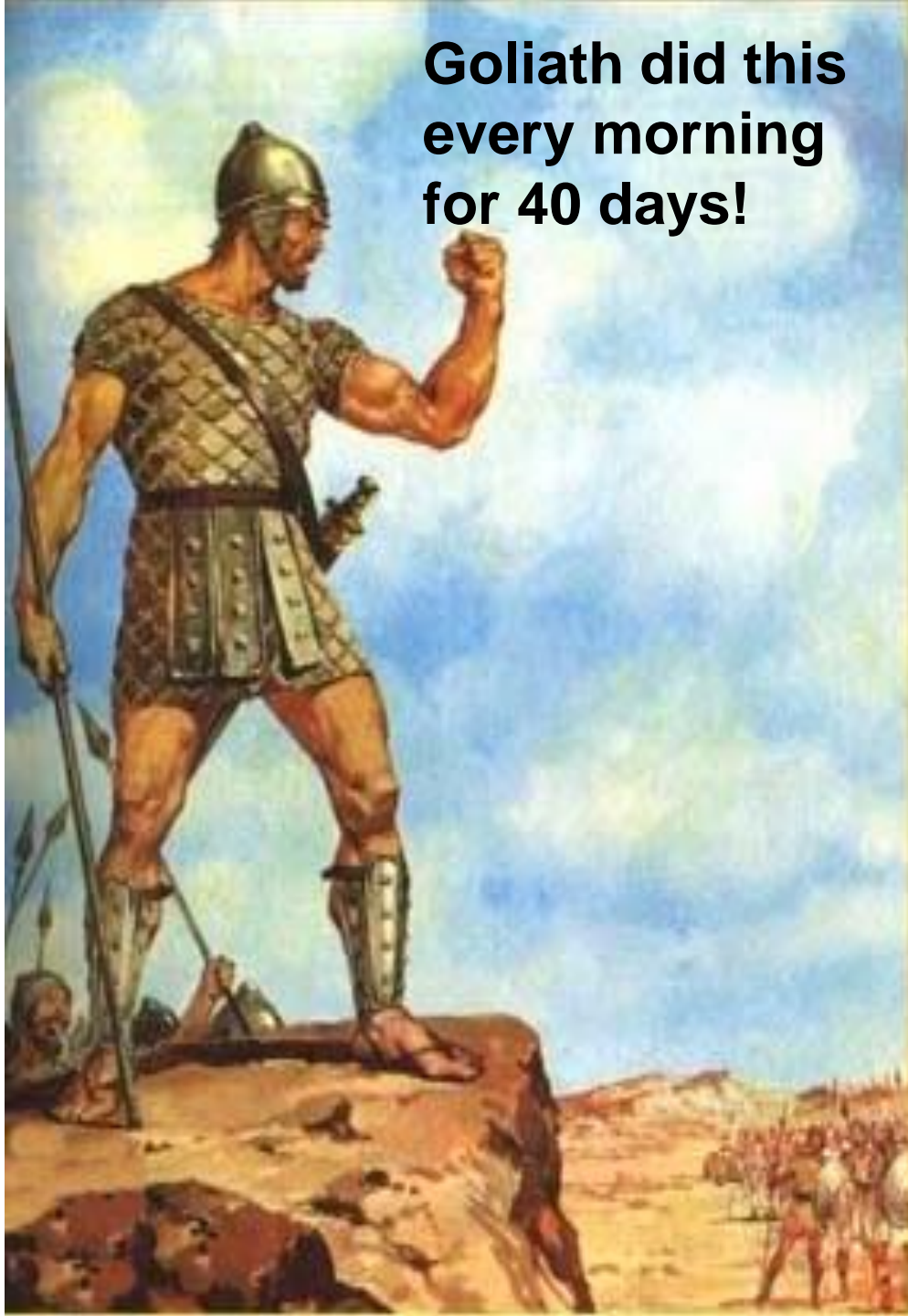


Goliath stood and shouted to the Israelites,

“ Choose a man to come down to me. If he is able kill me, we will become your slaves; but if I kill him, you will become our slaves.”

**On hearing Goliath’s words,
King Saul and all the Israelites were terrified.**

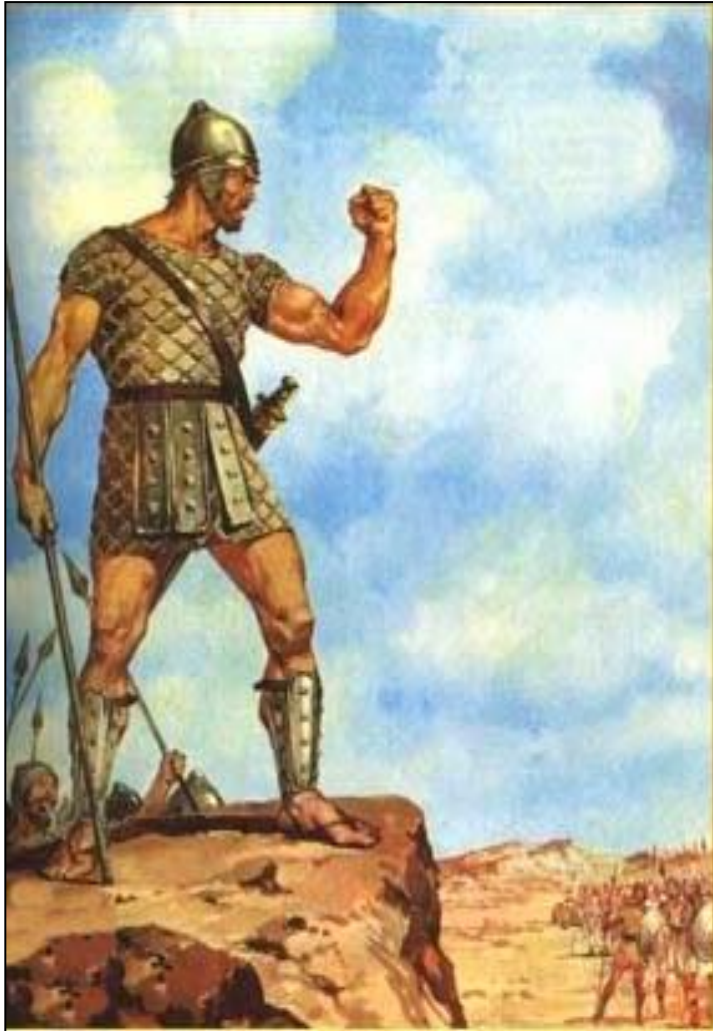
**Goliath did this
every morning
for 40 days!**



Meanwhile a few miles away



David's dad said , "Take this food to your brothers and hurry to their camp. See how your brothers are getting on. They are with Saul and the army of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."



David arrived just as Goliath
was challenging the army again.

But today was going to be
DIFFERENT!

**David said to Saul,
“Don’t let anybody worry about this Philistine;
I’ll go and fight him.”**

**Saul replied,
“You can’t do that! You’re only a young man,
and he has been a fighter from his youth.”**



But David said to Saul,
“I’ve been looking after my father’s sheep.”



When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth.

When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.

**I've killed lions and bears;
this Philistine will be like one
of them, because he has defied
God's army.**

**The Lord who rescued me
from the paws of the lion
and the bear will rescue
me from this Philistine.**





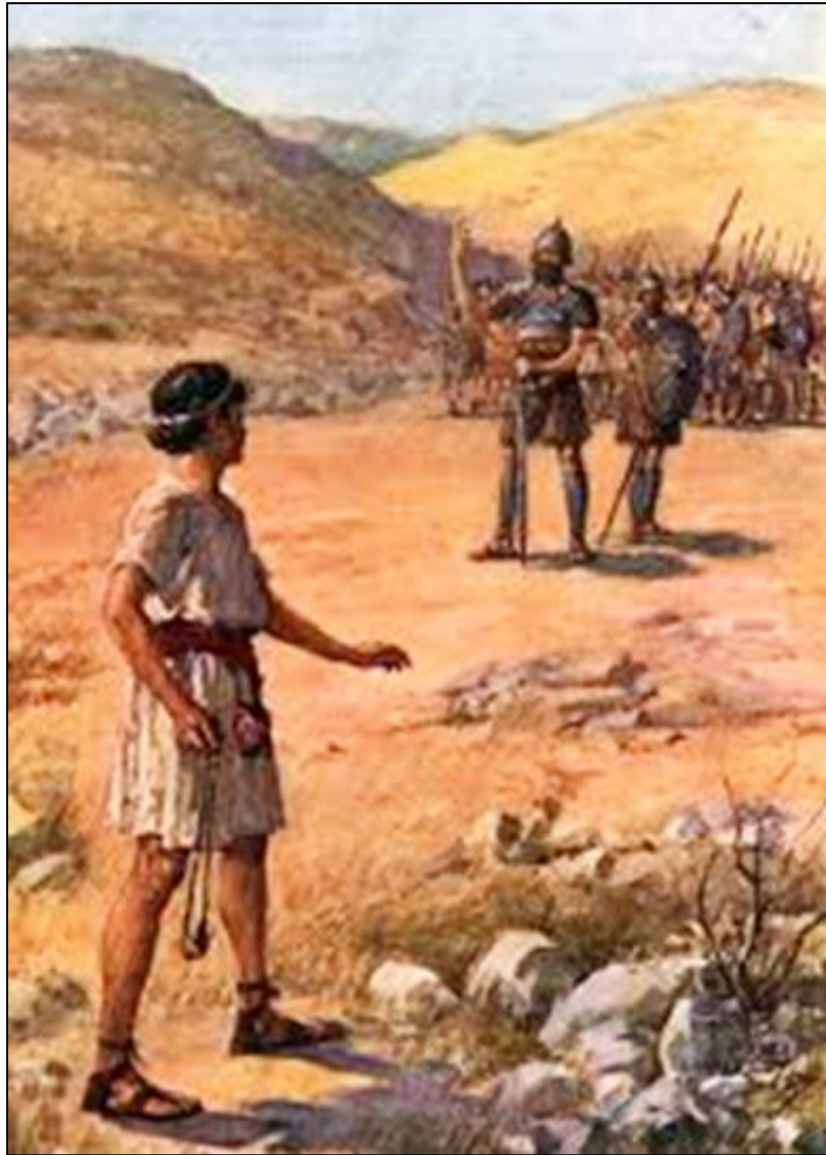
Then Saul put a coat of armour on him and a bronze helmet on his head.

David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he wasn't used to them.

"I can't go in these," he said, so he took them off.

Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached Goliath.

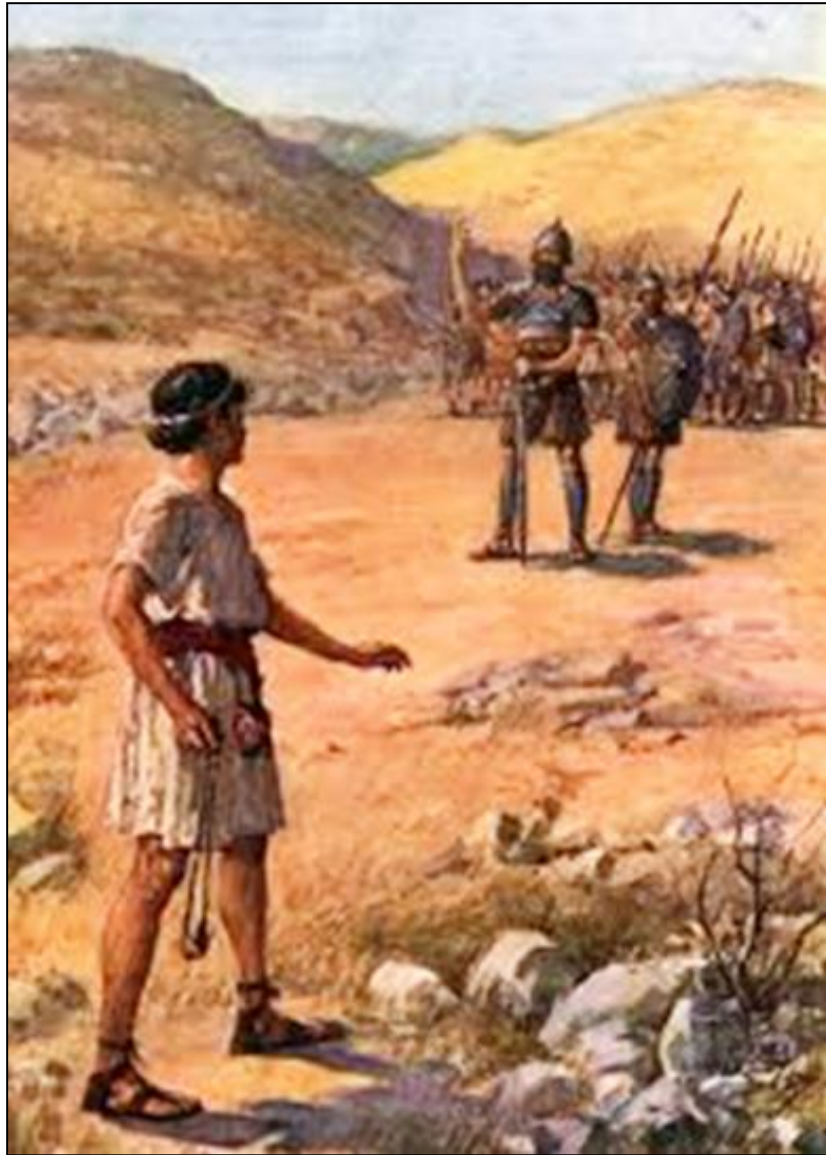




Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. He looked at David and saw that he was just a ‘boy’, and he despised him.

He said to David, **“Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?”**

And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. **“Come here,”** he said, **“and I’ll feed you to the birds and the wild animals! ”**



David said “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the bodies of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals.”

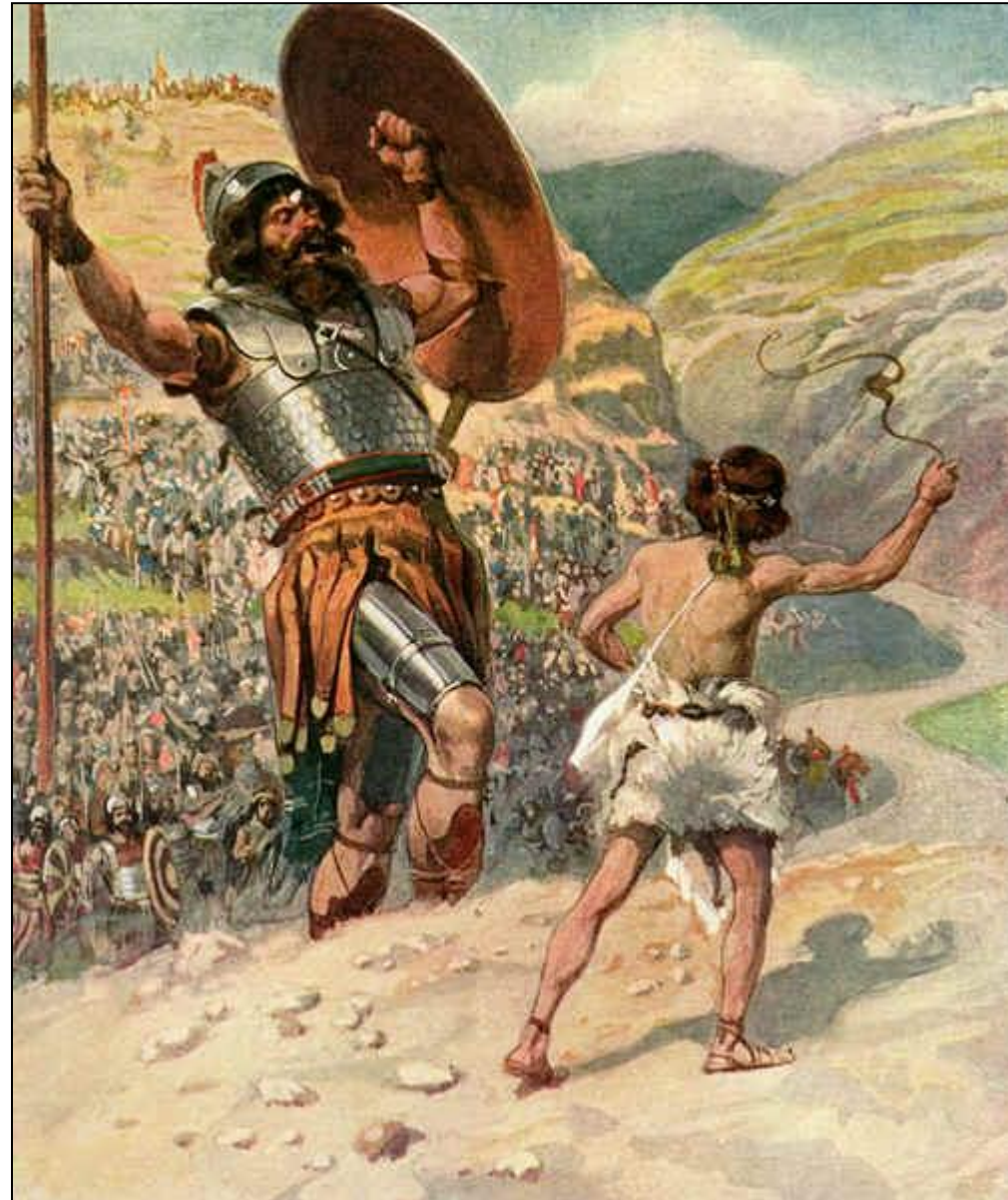


and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.
All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or
spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and
he will give all of you into our hands."



**As Goliath moved closer to attack him,
David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.**

Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. So David defeated the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck him down and killed him.





David ran and stood over him.

He took hold of Goliath's sword and drew it from the sheath.

After he had killed him, he cut off his head.



When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and chased the Philistines.

Their dead were strewn all along the road to Gath.

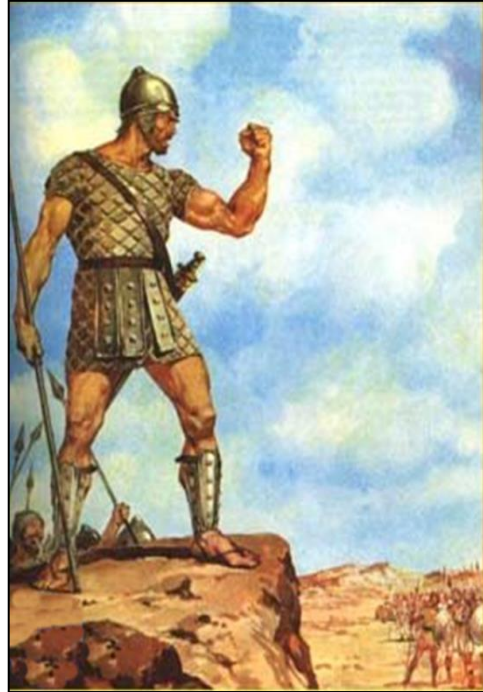


How do you think David got to know God so well?

When David was attacked by the lion and the bear that were after his father's sheep, do you think he was scared?

What had happened to David so that he was less afraid of Goliath than the soldiers were, even though he was smaller and younger?

Why doesn't God just stop bad experiences?



**Where would David have been
if Goliath hadn't threatened the soldiers?**