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Issue

SEVEN

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EBC

Update



## Zoom Meetings

One of the most significant reminders during the COVID-19 crisis has been the value and importance of staying in touch and enjoying fellowship outside of regular church gatherings.

In the process, because we've also been unable to meet, many have learned to use new forms of technology which allow online fellowship through such media as Zoom and Skype.

As we continue to take advantage of these opportunities, the Friday Zoom Bible Study and Prayer Meeting has become weekly, starting at 7:00 p.m. To participate, please go to this [link](#) on your computer. The meeting ID is: 851 704 4556. You can call in by phone, if you prefer, to 778-907-2071, using the same meeting ID when requested.

Also continuing weekly is a Zoom Women's Prayer Meeting on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. To join, please go to this [link](#) and use meeting ID 349 890 420, or call 778 907 2071.

## Overcoming the Giant

*"David said to the Philistine, '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 . . . 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.'" (1 Samuel 17:45, 47)*

The story of David and Goliath is one of the most memorable in the Old Testament. For many, it is an object lesson in courage and determination.

According to 1 Samuel, the Israelites and their enemies, the Philistines, have effectively reached a stalemate in their war. They face each other on two hills with an open valley in between, when out steps Goliath as the Philistine champion.

He's a massive man and armed to the teeth. So when he challenges the people of Israel to send someone to fight him, there are no volunteers. In fact, we're told, "Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified" (1 Sam. 17:11) .

This rather embarrassing situation continues for no fewer than 40 days, as twice daily, every morning and evening, Goliath steps forth to taunt and challenge the Israelites, but gets no response. Then eventually, David finds the courage to ask King Saul and his entourage whether he can take on the giant.

He convinces them because of his past experience dealing with wild animals as a shepherd. But we already know how special David is. In the previous chapter we read how the prophet Samuel anoints him with oil as Saul's future successor and David is given privileged access to the King as his harpist.

Still, when David finally steps forward, having refused Saul's armour, we can understand the Israelites' nervousness about the outcome—until, that is, David proves victorious.

Facing Goliath's insults head on, he strikes him down with one well-chosen stone from his slingshot. Then he runs him through with his own sword.

We don't need to glory in the blood and gore of the battle for this story to serve as a powerful example of boldness in adversity. We all face our own "giants" and some, like the current COVID-19 virus outbreak, can affect whole communities.

Whenever we confront such a crisis, courage as well as caution are indispensable. What our reading also underscores is the importance of knowing where to find true and lasting strength. For it is not, ultimately, on his own resources and achievements that David relies in meeting Goliath.

"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," David tells the giant in verse 45. Then in verse 47, "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."

"I come in the name of the Lord Almighty . . . for the battle is the Lord's." It would be difficult to find a much more powerful statement of strength and confidence in God than this. And we can all learn from David's example.

We can't expect to succeed or pull through in everything we do or face in life. But God can give us courage and confidence, if we will only have trust. For Christians, "the battle is indeed the Lord's" and we can rest secure that all things will turn out for our good and God's glory, just as they did for David when he championed over Goliath.

*Pastor John Oakes*



## Prayer Needs

- Our sick & shut-ins
- Government leaders
- Doctors, nurses and care workers, especially those from our own community
- Our online services
- All who are anxious, depressed or lonely
- The complete defeat of COVID-19

## BCBA AGM



The BC Baptist Association of the NAB Conference will be holding its AGM on Saturday, May 16 at 11:00 a.m. Ebenezer is entitled to be represented by up to seven delegates plus Pastor John.

Registrations need to be made online by Monday, May 11. If any church member would be interested in serving as an Ebenezer representative, please call or email the church office ASAP at [office@rockofhelp.com](mailto:office@rockofhelp.com) for further information.

## News Brief

This newsletter is intended to be a source of community news and devotional materials. Please let Pastor John know of any updates, content ideas, or feedback.

- All our [online services](#) are available at this [link](#) on Youtube, which can also be accessed through our [Facebook page](#) and our [church website](#). The next will be Sunday, May 10, from 10:30 a.m.
- Our Prayer Chain remains fully functional. [Confidential prayer requests can be made by phone or email](#) to Sharon Iseli (604-244-1636) or Freda Ross (604-326-5123).
- Next week's "EBC Update" will include a brief update on church offerings since the COVID-19 crisis began. Watch this space!
- [Pastor John can be reached](#) in the event of an emergency at any time on 604-779-2356. His email is [seniorpastor@rockofhelp.com](mailto:seniorpastor@rockofhelp.com).