

Synopsis

Dawidh King of Yisrael:

Choices

Who's your hero? Before all the heroes of legend and lore, there was one man, one hero, one legend, who inspired them all. This is the true untold story of the man, the hero, the legend: Dawidh, King of Yisrael.

He was the last thing Goliath expected to walk out into the valley and accept his challenge. Yet, when Goliath's shield bearer, Uriyah, saw the young shepherd approach, something told the renegade shield bearer that there was more to Dawidh that meets the eye. Even though he was working for the other side, simply the sight of Dawidh inspired the long jaded Uriyah with some undefined hope. It was a trait that many others shared.

Yet, Dawidh was the most unlikely candidate for being a hero. Spurned by his father, mistreated by his brothers and misunderstood by his community, this misunderstood outcast barely had reason himself to hope in the future. Yet, hope and faith he had, and it not only sustained him, but all those with whom Dawidh encountered.

It all began with a simple choice; a choice that was made several generations earlier. After simultaneously losing their husbands, the twin sisters, Ruth and Orpah stood at the crossroads of destiny with their mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth clings to her mother-in-law and follows her back to BethleHem, joining her mother-in-law's people, Yisrael.

Orpah begin her journey with Ruth, but rechecks her steps. Bitter and angry with the God of Naomi's people for leaving her a barren widow, Orpah decides, instead, to forge her own way. Embarking on her journey without any direction, she allows the path itself to guide her. On that path, she encounters Yisrael's Adversarial Angel, who leads her to a band of P'lishti soldiers, the mortal enemy of Yisrael. Orpah decides to make her break with Naomi and her people complete. She offers herself to the enemy camp, all hundred soldiers. They readily accept.

Swept along by the course of her choice, Orpah is brought back to the city of Gath, where she is transformed into an avatar of the goddess Asherah, the consort of Yisrael's Adversarial Angel. Orpah already sees the immediate reward of her choice. She feels the growing child in her womb, a child who will one day be the champion of her newly adopted nation. At the prompting of the Adversarial Angel, she names the child Goliyath. From the moment he is born, Goliyath proves to be an exceptional child, and a powerful enemy of the nation of Yisrael and its God.

Ruth's choice meets with expected hardship, as she and her mother-in-law struggle with poverty and difficulty in BethleHem. Yet, Ruth also encounters a quintessential and profound beauty in her adopted home. Despite her difficult situation, she finds happiness. Ruth's sacrifice is noticed, and appreciated. Boaz, the leader of the community takes the young woman as his wife. It would seem that Yisrael's God also takes notice. Ruth becomes pregnant with Boaz's child, ending her long years of being barren. She gives birth to a son, 'Oved, Dawidh's grandfather. © Copyright D. Avraham 2008

Goliyath grows into a mighty warrior, joining the military at a young age and proving himself to be a champion. Physically he develops faster and greater than all his peers, despite remaining emotionally a child. Orpah, his mother, is now fully

entrenched in the lifestyle of the Asherah cult, holding a place of respect in the P'lishti nation. Ruth watches her son `Oved follow in her husband's footsteps, growing to be a respected judge and leader of his people.

Around these two sisters, their two nations battle for dominance in the region. As a young officer in the P'lishti army, Goliyath is in attendance at the celebration of the capture of a troublesome "brigand" from the nation of Yisrael. When this brigand causes the temple to collapse around him, killing himself along with hundreds of celebrants, Goliyath is deeply affected, vowing revenge on the enemy and their God.

Seemingly blessed with an unnaturally long life, in peak physical condition, Goliyath has many opportunities to wreak his vengeance on the enemy nation, Yisrael. These opportunities culminate at the battle of Afeq/Even Ha`Ezer. There, Goliyath is able to deliver a devastating blow. Defying the very God of Yisrael, Goliyath violates and steals the very symbol of their God's presence amongst them, the Holy Ark of the Covenant. Yet, Goliyath's victory is only partial, as a young warrior from Yisrael, Sha'ul, finds the courage to confront him, stealing the Ark's treasure, the stone tablets, from out of Goliyath's hand. Sha'ul manages to escape the battlefield with the holy relics, While Goliyath, weakened from his encounter, is left with only the ark. Even so, he act devastates the nation of Yisrael, sending them into an emotional tailspin.

Dawidh, now seventeen, is left out of the battle, though his father and three older brothers are there. His father, Yishai, the son of `Oved, is a leader of the nation, fathering them through their successes and failures. Yet, he has little time or desire for fathering Dawidh. An outcast, Dawidh cares for his father's sheep far away from home, with only occasional companionship from his cousins. Only his great grandmother Ruth offers him the love and comfort that he needs.

While Yisrael is being defeated on the battlefield at Afeq, Dawidh and his cousins actually meet with success when they decide to aid the war effort. They embark on a little adventure to cause some trouble for a local garrison of the P'lishti. Their encounter gets out of hand, but somehow, Dawidh and his friends wind up on top. They recognized the unseen Hand that saved them.

Goliath's blow was devastating but he seemed to pay a heavy price for it and is mortally wounded. He is carted back to his mother's temple in hopes of finding a way to heal him. The P'lishti are overjoyed at their captured war prize, but it soon proves to be more trouble than it's worth and they are forced to return it to their enemy.

The nation, Yisrael, is devastated by its defeat, but through the new leadership of Sh'muel, they take honest stock of their direction and slowly recover. With Goliath wounded, and the nation of Yisrael under new leadership, the total P'lishti victory is short lived.

When Goliath does finally recover and returns to form, he requests and receives a commission to lead the P'lishti army against Yisrael. The upstart warrior, Sha'ul, who stole the tablets from his grip, is now Yisrael's king. Goliath wants revenge on both the nation and the king. With the help of his mother machinations, Orpah, Goliath wants to put an end to the nation of Yisrael.

Yet, Sha'ul has problems of his own. When the prophet Sh'muel tells him that he will lose the kingship to his fellow that "is better than him," he falls into fits of paranoia and depression. To relieve him of these bouts, his advisors send for a musician. Dawidh, the perennial outcast, is thrust into the center of attention, becoming the personal musician and shield bearer of the king. Yet, unbeknownst to even Dawidh, he is the very fellow of whom Sh'muel spoke.

Seemingly overnight, Dawidh's fortunes change, and his entire past is rewritten. His father Yishai, through the agency of Sh'muel, discovers that he had been mistaken about his wife's infidelity, and that Dawidh is really his son of twenty-nine years. The realization is devastating, but with the help of Ruth, now the wizened matriarch of the family, Yishai doesn't allow the past to cripple the future, and he tries to forge a relationship with his newly discovered son.

Goliath musters the army, wreaking havoc along the countryside hoping to draw Sha'ul and the nation of Yisrael into a final confrontation. His efforts are rewarded as Sha'ul musters the nation and moves them to Elah for the confrontation.

Yet, Goliath wants to defeat Yisrael morally as well as physically. He wants his victory to be total, so he bides his time. Goliath uses his fearsome size to undermine the will of Yisrael. He, along with his shield bearer, walk out to the middle of the valley of Elah, to challenge any "man" of Yisrael to single combat. The winner would take all. He hopes that the king will meet his challenge, so that he can personally teach him a lesson. Yet, his plan works better than expected as all of Yisrael cower in fear. He continues his challenge, morning and night, for forty days.

Dawidh was sent home from Sha'ul's side before the nation formed for battle. Now, his father, Yishai, sends Dawidh to the battle lines, ostensibly to check on the welfare of Dawidh's brothers who are part of Sha'ul's army. Yet, Yishai has a premonition that Dawidh's destiny awaits him there, and offers his son sage advice.

When Dawidh arrives at the battlefield and hears the audacious challenge of Goliath, he is filled with a spirit of vengeance for his nation's and his God's honor. Despite his inexperience in war, his confidence and faith inspire everyone around him. Dawidh is presented before Sha'ul, who, left with very little choice, allows Dawidh to answer Goliath's challenge.

Dawidh decides to confront Goliath with only a staff and a sling. Goliath scoffs at the young shepherd who walks out of the valley, but his shield bearer, Uriyah, a renegade from Yisrael, is inspired. Goliath charges Dawidh, but Dawidh defeats him with a simple stone slung from his sling. Dawidh cuts off Goliath's head, which causes the P'lishti army to route, the army of Yisrael giving chase.

After the battle, there is a celebration in the camp of Yisrael, but Sha'ul begins to suspect that Dawidh might be the "better fellow," who is destined to replace him, and seeds of suspicion are planted in his heart.

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