

The Story of David's Victory in 1 Samuel 17:45-52 and Its Implications for the Attitude of Faith of Today's Christians in Facing Challenges

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Abstract

David's courage in fighting Goliath can be an example for us Christians today, so that we as Christians have the courage to face the challenges we will face in life. David had to fight the Philistines who came armed with swords, spears and javelins and also had to fight Goliath, a giant. However, he came in the name of the Lord of the worlds. David's victory was not only due to his strength or skill in fighting but because of his firm faith and also because of God's guidance. Therefore, we as Christians must have firm faith that we can overcome the challenges and problems we will face because God's presence is always there. The purpose of this writing is how David's victory in his faith contributed to the attitude of Christians in facing challenges today. The research method used is literature study, namely a research method that collects data from existing sources.

Keywords: *Courage, David, Faith.*

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays Christians are still faced with various challenges in life. One example is the dynamics of the faith challenges of today's young generation and pastoral strategies to encourage spiritual growth. One of the pastoral issues that is visible in church life today is the many challenges faced by the younger generation, such as challenges in finding their identity, failure to find their identity as young Christians, and even a loss of enthusiasm for being involved in fellowship. This challenge makes it easy for generations to avoid church fellowship, and often hinders spiritual growth. Responding to this issue, the church must carry out effective pastoral services as an effort to help youth face various challenges of faith and lead to full spiritual growth/maturity in Jesus (Rannu and Sari 2023). Even though Christians have responded to this, challenges still exist in life. True Christian faith is different because of its different content, which in integral unity with the structure of the human soul produces eternal values in his life (Anon n.d.-c). From the story of David's victory against Goliath recorded in 1 Samuel 17:45-52, this story tells of a simple young man, with courage and firm faith in God who succeeded in fighting Goliath. David did not rely on his strength to fight Goliath, but he relied on and asked God for guidance. The implication for the attitude of faith of Christians today is that this story teaches us as Christians to compare big problems and

challenges to Goliath. Big problems or challenges that we can't seem to overcome or overcome, such as education, economics, family, health, mental health and others that we think there is no way out. However, this story teaches us to have strong faith and rely on God no matter how difficult the problems we may face. This story teaches us to have firm faith in God and not to be afraid to face problems or challenges because God's inclusion and guidance is always there for us. Because God never leaves us alone. The goal is how does David's victory in his faith contribute to the attitude of Christians in facing challenges today?

METHOD

Our group uses the literature study research method, which is a research method that involves collecting and analyzing information from written sources such as the Bible, books, journals and other articles that can help us in compiling and creating this article.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE BOOK OF SAMUEL

a) Political Context

In the political context of the government system at that time, it is written in the book of Samuel 7:15-17 "Samuel ruled as judge over the Israeli people for the rest of his life (Kurniawan Gaho and Tampubolon 2025). In the book of

Samuel, the political context shows Samuel's role as a leader.

b) Social context

The social context at that time there were 2 nations, namely the chosen nation of God, namely Israel, who at that time also camped in the valley Tarbantine (1 Samuel 17:2) and the Philistines who at that time camped between Sokho and Azekah in Ephesus-Damim (1 Samuel 17:1)

c) Context of Belief

David's belief at that time depended on God and placed physical faith or hope in God, seeking God before deciding to act (Yose and Parulian S. 2023).

d) Cultural Context

This paper offers a contextual dialogical approach between traditions compound with text 1 Samuel 14:24-26. Tradition Collection It is not based on the belief that food brings a curse, but rather that food is a blessing for those who accept it and are grateful for it, and will not even bring disaster to those who reject it.

2. Text 1 Samuel 17: 45-52 (in Hebrew)

בְּחָרֵב אֲלֵי בָּאת אַתָּה וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי דָּוִד וַיַּעַן 45
אֱלֹהֵי צְבָאוֹת יְהוָה בְּשֵׁם אֱלֹהֶיךָ בָּאתִי וְאַנִּי וּבְכִידּוֹן וּבְחַנְיֹת
בְּיָדִי יְהוָה יִתְּנֶךָ הַיּוֹם 46 חֲרַפְתָּה אֲשֶׁר יִשְׂרָאֵל מִחַנְּה
אֶת־נַפְשֶׁךָ וְנַתַּתִּי מִמֶּךָ אֶת־רֵאשׁוֹךְ וְהַסַּרְתִּי וְהַכִּיתִי
כָּל־הָאֲרָץ וַיַּדַּע הָאֲרָץ וְלַחַיִּת הַשָּׁמַיִם עוֹף לַפְּלִשְׁתִּים
כִּי־לֹא יָדַע הַזֶּה וְכָל־הַקָּהָל 47 לְיִשְׂרָאֵל אֱלֹהִים כִּי־יָשׁ
אַתְּכֶם וְנָתַן הַמֶּלֶכְמָה כִּי־לִיהוָה יְהוָה יִשַׁע וּבְחַנְיֹת בְּחָרֵב
דָּוִד לְקִרְאֹת וַיִּקְרַב וַיִּלָּךְ הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי כִּי־קָם וַיְהִי 48 בְּיַדְּ
דָּוִד וַמִּקְחָת 49 הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי לְקִרְאֹת בַּמִּגְרָשׁ וַיִּרְוֹץ דָּוִד וַיִּמַּר
אֶת־ וַיִּכֶּה אֶת־הַקָּלֶעַ וַיִּשְׁלַח בְּיָדוֹ אֲשֶׁר אֶת־הַשְּׁלֹחַם
עַל־פְּנֵי וַיִּפֹּל בַּמַּצָּח הַקָּלֶעַ הַאֲבָנִי וַתִּבְרַח בַּמַּצָּח הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי
דָּוִד וַיַּעַן וַיָּמַת בַּקָּלֶעַ אֶת־הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי דָּוִד וַיִּכֶּה 50 אֲרָצָה
51 אֲרָץ עַל־פְּנֵי וַיִּפֹּל אֶת־פְּיָהּ וַיִּפְתַּח הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וַיִּרְצָה
– גְּבוּרָה וְהַפְּקִין בַּמַּצָּע אֹתוֹ וְהִכֶּה אֶת־חֲרָבּוֹ דָּוִד וַיַּחַזֵּק
הֵם, מֵת שְׁלֵהֶם שֶׁהִגִּיבּוּר הַפְּלִשְׁתִּים רָאוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר 52. בָּרַח.

Text 1 Samuel 17:45-52 (in Indonesian)

45 Then David answered the Philistine, saying, "You come to me with a sword, a spear and a spear, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the army of Israel whom you despise.

46 On this day, the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will defeat you. I will cut off your head and give your dead body and the dead body of the Philistine army to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the earth, so that the whole earth will know that God is in Israel.

47 Everyone will know that the LORD does not save with sword or spear, for the victory is in the hand of the LORD, and He will deliver you into our hands."

48 When the Philistine got up and approached David, David ran to the Philistine.

49 David took a stone from his pocket and shot it with a slingshot, hitting the Philistine in the forehead. The stone entered his forehead, and the Philistine fell to the ground. 50 So David defeated the Philistine with slingshots and stones, and killed him. David did not have a sword.

51 Then David took the sword of the Philistine and killed him with the sword.

52. When the philistines saw that their hero was dead, they fled.

3. Biblical Analysis of 1 Samuel 17:45-52

Samuel 17:45-52 describes an important part of the story of David and Goliath in which David, a young man with no experience in fighting, managed to defeat Goliath, a Philistine giant with faith in God.

(45) Evil people cannot stand before God. He acted to destroy those who rebelled against him. David shows that truth has power over evil. With God's help, Israel achieved victory over the Philistines. (46) He is a symbol of the evil power that seeks to oppress God's chosen people. He mocked the people of Israel as much as he was mocking the sovereignty of the God of Israel. He degraded the dignity of Israel in the same way that he degraded the authority of the Creator who was acknowledged by the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. GOD acts according to His sovereignty. He destroys those who rebel against Him. At the same time, GOD also shows His love and mercy for those who rely on Him like David, who live in faith and see GOD as having power

over everything in the world. (47) So, this story can grow their faith in Almighty God. That from an early age they were introduced to the power of God in the lives of believers, including them. (48) The devil has worked powerfully and subtly by deceiving humans by using reason, philosophy and religion to search for the truth. A peaceful and safe world has now become a world full of depression, disease, fear, oppression, injustice and persecution. As happened in the Middle Ages, scholars increasingly deified reason and removed the Bible from human life. In recent research, as stated by David Alinurdin, divine events are viewed from the perspective of the natural world. (49) He continued in expressing the rejection of modern science, represented by adherents of Newton's teachings, to submit to the principle of Newtonian mechanics that determination can apply to closed systems. (50) It is clear that the motives of those who adhere to a closed system will be to reject God's intervention in the empirical world. This study aims to reject the influence of modern science behind philosophical assumptions that attack the Christian faith, such as rejecting God's intervention in the reality of the world. (51) In other words, modern people are more interested in science (which adheres to close system) and reject the authority of God's word over human life and world history and live secularly. (52) It can be said that the devil works great to confuse humans into rebelling against God and prioritizing purely worldly interests. The Promised Victory later in the Old Testament, the prophets always spoke about the glorious Messiah. But before He was glorified, He would suffer and die, to bear the sins of humanity (Win et al. 2021a).

4. Dogmatic Analysis of 1 Samuel 17 :45-52

David is one of the Bible figures who is very famous and loved by God. He was one of the illustrious men of the faith mentioned in the book (Hebrews 11:1-2). David was the ancestor of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:1), because Jesus was also called the son of David (Sinaga et al. 2023). In this novel,

which retells the story of David and Goliath, Gauld does not depict Goliath as a fierce warrior, but as a gentle giant who is forced to act as a fearsome warrior. In line with Gauld's novel, Friedmann sees that in the Bible there is no mercy towards enemies, for example in the story of the plagues in Egypt, the conquest of Canaan, and the war with the Philistines (of which David and Goliath were part). The Bible teaches that God does not like it when humans rejoice in the suffering of others. When Goliath, the Philistine giant, challenged the Israelite army, everyone was afraid. However, David had confidence that God would be with him. Even though Goliath was bigger and more experienced, David was not afraid. David's faith and courage outweighed his physical fear. David chose five smooth stones and faced Goliath without armor. He knew that victory was not just due to his own skill, but because God fought for him. With one stone, David defeated the giant. This story teaches us that when we rely on God, we can overcome the giants in our lives. Don't let fear stop you. Believe that with faith and God's help, we can face all challenges with courage. Together with God, we will be victorious in facing all life's challenges. There are times when a problem cannot be answered logically, the Bible will answer it. Concretely, many Christians lose the spiritual battles they have to face because they forget that the Bible provides answers and help to deal with them. Winning with David's Strategy invites you to tap into David's principles of life and their implications for people's faith attitudes today. In the discussion it becomes clear that God has acted through David to achieve this victory. The Philistines who opposed God, mocked and humiliated the Israelites as a form of resistance to the power of evil, were conquered by David as a symbol of Christ who disarmed the power of evil. Thus, evil should have no place in the life of a believer. Because God has given believers spiritual armor to fight attacks and deception from the Evil One (Menang et al. 2021b). The teachings of the Christian faith explain the concept of redemption which ultimately

enables the culture to recognize the existence of God as the highest Person, and declare His glory (Tanuwidjaja and Uda 2020). Faith is an attitude of heart and complete obedience to God's Word in any situation and condition. This article focuses on the faith of believers when facing life's challenges and struggles, both internal and external. And how they face it calmly, relying on God so that in the end they will rise from these challenges and struggles and will experience victory with God (Theology et al. 2020). Reflection of the Christian faith is realized by being a witness or example for society, being wise in facing various differences, creating harmony between religious communities and building dialogue between religious communities (Anon n.d.-b). "If God is on our side, nothing is impossible. If God is on our side, there is no problem that has no solution. If God is on our side, we can bear everything with Him," said the instructor. When there is a problem, face it with ease. using these 4 David-style methods, first, don't focus on problems but focus on God, second, never lose heart, third, remember God's help in the past, and fourth, use the weapons you have.

CONCLUSION

It can be seen in 1 Samuel 17:45 that when David came to fight against Goliath he came with the name of the Lord of the Universe from there we can see David's faith which is very firm in God. David was a person who believed in God, until the Bible records him as a person after God's heart and his name is listed in the genealogy of Jesus Christ as the ancestor who begat the Messiah in human form (Zaluchu et al. 2017)). The way we respond to challenges, challenges can make our faith waver. However, belief in God will give us strength. Many Bible characters had to leave the comfort of their lives to follow God's call. Like David, we need a close relationship with God in order to have strong faith in God (Anon n.d.-a). From David we also learn in the book of Psalm 3:1-9 where David was able to sleep peacefully when facing life's difficulties and with faith still believed that tomorrow morning he would wake up with strong legs because he was supported by God even

though David was surrounded by thousands of enemies. We must be confident that God will hear our prayers. Knowing that God hears us is an encouragement in itself. We are not alone; we are never alone (Pekerti et al. n.d.).

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