David and Goliath Revisited
"The story of David and Goliath is the inspiration for fictional heroes from Jack and the Beanstalk to Rocky. The myth of the underdog who ‘beats the odds’ is woven into the fabric of our society. Think of the last ten movies that you’ve seen."

Indications of something deeper . . .

- David’s name
- David’s story
- Length of 1 Samuel 17

David is bigger than David – and his battle with Goliath is a tip off to what that means.

The Nature of God’s Kingdom

“If you follow his commands the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth . . . 3 You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. 4 The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock — the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. 5 Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. 6 You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. 7 The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you . . . 10 All the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord” – Deuteronomy 28:1-10

The Nature of Human Kings

“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.” – 1 Corinthians 2:14
Saul is an example of “the man without the Spirit” who . . .
- Didn’t take God’s Word seriously (1 Samuel 13:7b-14)
- Focused on building his own memorial (1 Samuel 15:12)
- Practiced surface worship (1 Samuel 15:22)

The essence of human rebellion isn’t that we want to be kings. It’s that we don’t want to be kings under God.

One of the reasons we find it difficult to fault Saul is that there is so much of him in us. He’s Adam, the natural man, me in my fallen nature.

The Nature of God’s Enemy

“And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. 2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. 3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. 4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?” – Revelation 13:1-5

The sea beast is a composite of all of Christ’s enemies throughout history

GOLIATH’S CHALLENGE (verses 4-11)

- Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the ranks of Israel! (v. 10)
- Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel (v. 25)
- What will be done for the man who . . . removes this disgrace [literally “defiance”] from Israel? (v. 26a)

- Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God? (v.26b)
- He has defied the armies of the living God (v. 36)
- I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty . . . whom you have defied (v. 45)
- “The Lord had said to Abram . . . ‘I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’” – Genesis 12:1-3
“Contrary to the typical ‘David and Goliath’ mythology, victory does not come through inner courage, or crafty wiles, or faith in our own power in spite of the odds. Victory does not come from earthly weapons or skills at all. Victory comes from the Lord and only from the Lord.”