

I SAMUEL 17: GOLIATH



The giant **Goliath** has a spear shaped like a **1** and an **Uncle Sam** (Samuel) head. David's hand holds a sling; the pocket forms the number **17**.

+ It is disheartening to see the hatred and evil intent of human beings toward each other. Sadly, the infighting and animosity of humanity are daily occurrences rather than exceptions. From little on some people see hatred modeled, while others see love modeled. Paul, the apostle of Jesus, admitted that prior to his being converted to faith in Christ he was, "a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man" (I Timothy 1:13). The Bible shows that both believers in God and the reprobate are capable of hatred and violence. We should not be so arrogant as to think ourselves incapable of great sin, such as violence acted out toward an "enemy", but we should quickly repent of hateful thoughts toward others.

+ The Lord can turn a seeming disaster into victory. He did so many times in the Old Testament, but the glory was always to go to Him, not the people involved. When you have a big victory the sinful flesh will prod you to take credit for yourself. Faith humbly says, "God is my salvation, the Lord has brought me this victory!"

+ We will encounter people who will doubt us, or even stand in our way. Sometimes they are members of our own family! We need to have enough confidence in who we are and what God wants us to do, so that we will not let the opinions of others keep us from accomplishing God's will. This doesn't mean arrogantly arguing with them, but quietly forging ahead in seeking to be obedient to God.

+ Taunting, or what would be considered "bullying" in modern terms, is universal. The sinful human condition does not allow for us to eliminate all prejudice, hatred and arrogance. The Christian, in whom the Spirit of God dwells, resists such impulses, but the wicked and ungodly give vent to such things, especially when they are upset. Attempting to teach children in classrooms about "sensitivity" does little to remove deep-seated disdain. Only in Christ can such hatred be removed.