Heb. 11:32-38; I Sam. 17:31-54; By Faith David I. Overcame the Enemy II. Received Promises

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, there are few events in the OT that capture the imagination of children like the story of David and Goliath. We sing songs about this event- we color pictures and make our own slings- because everyone loves the story of the underdog boy going up against the mean, old Goliath. Even in society, David verses Goliath has become a symbol of the powerless taking on the mighty! But as much as this event captures the imagination, it is important to remember that David’s actions were motivated by faith! This is not just a kid standing up to giant! No, David was the special recipient of God’s promises, and he would be used by God to perform a great deliverance. David was a shepherd boy who turned warrior king. As a shepherd, he battles both lion and bear as I Sam. 17:37 reveals. Stopping the mouth of a lion as Heb. 11 puts it. But as great as this work was- what makes David worthy of remembrance today is that he was a man of faith! By faith, David received promises and overcame the foe as he looked to the coming King. So David find his place here in the Heroes of Faith- David had an assurance and conviction of things not seen. So we consider this theme: by faith, David received promises and overcame the foe as he looked to the coming King.

**I. Overcame the Enemy**

In our first point, we can see the faith of David as he overcame the enemy. Specifically in Heb. 11 we read that by faith, these enforced justice, became mighty in war and put foreign armies to flight. The act of David as we read in I Sam. 17 was in fact a clear act of faith. Now we know that at this point in David’s life, he was relatively young. A ruddy, handsome and athletic 20-year-old young man. And he went to battle against this giant without the benefit of armor. No sword or spear was in his hand. Now what would motivate a young man to go out and stand up against the giant of the Philistines? Well, even though he was relatively defenseless and the underdog- David had something that Goliath did not have! David had faith! God was for him! Now what specifically did Daivd believe- and how do we know that he had faith? Well, remember that back in I Sam. 16 David had been anointed. So David had been anointed by Samiel in 16:13- and the Spirit of the LORD had rushed upon David. So David was the anointed and equipped king in waiting. God had promised David that he would be the future king! It was this promise that David held onto! David could know that he would be kept safe in battle because God had promised him- David- you will be king! David, you are the chosen and anointed one! So by the Spirit, David had the promise of a future kingship! So David believes that God will keep His word! David will be king- and no giant can stand in his way! This faith of David is clear in chapter 17 as well. In v. 37 David declared- the LORD who has delivered me from the lion and the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. And again in v. 46 in speaking to Goliath- I will strike you down! The LORD will deliver you, Goliath, into my hands so that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves! The battle is the LORDS! So for David, this battle was a moment to prove something to the people of Israel! There is a God in Israel- and He fights for His people- and the battle belongs to Him! He will protect, deliver and defend His chosen people from their foes! Stand fast and look for the salvation from our God! Now remember exactly who David is facing! Goliath was no small threat! Standing at 9 foot tall- carrying a flagpole for a spear. The tip of the spear weighing 15 pounds alone! Covered in armor from head to toe! This would not be a fair fight! But David is not looking at Goliath with the eyes of the flesh- rather David sees this battle with the eyes of faith! With only a shepherd’s staff in one hand- and a sling in the other- David advances. Now David had taken up 5 smooth stones. We find out later that Goliath had 4 other brothers as well- so David is ready to take them all on! David does not shy away from the battle because the battle belongs to the LORD! He goes forth in the confident assurance- God will fight for His people! He knows the promises of God- and he trust that God will do what He says! By faith, David overcame the enemy, defeated the foe, became mighty in war and put foreign armies to flight! As you can see, faith trusts in God for the victory in spite of the apparent strength of the foe. Even though our enemies appear to be stronger, by faith we know that in Christ we shall overcome! Temptation would have us believe that it is hopeless- you cannot resist. But sin is not supreme- death is no longer the stronger! God will provide a way out! The Devil has been defeated! So then, if God has promised us something, we can trust that it will come to be! We can be bold and courageous- because the final victory over our enemies is secure! So to be clear, it was the promise of God that David hold on to- that makes him bold in battle! David- you will be king! So Goliath must fall before you! God has promised and He will do it- the battle belongs to the LORD! One such promise we have is this- our God will never leave us nor forsake us! That not one of His chosen sheep can be snatched from the good shepherd’s hands! Let this promise calm our fears and encourage us to face our enemies as well!

**II. Received Promises**

So David received a promise of kingship- and he goes to battle in the light of promised victory! As you know, David wrote many of the Psalms that we sing today. God used him to write sacred scripture- such as Psalm 59- God will let me look in triumph on my enemies. And again in Psalm 23- even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for you are with me! Great Psalms of comfort and promised protection for God’s people. But David also received specific revelations as well. David was a man after God’s own heart- and the LORD covenanted with Him. Not only did David, by faith, overcome the foe, David also obtained promises. As Heb. 11:32 puts it, by faith, David received promises. And also in 11:39- these did not receive what was promised. So what promise did David receive but not see the fulfillment of that promise? Well, David was the recipient of many promises and prophesies. Some of them- like his becoming king- were fulfilled. But there are promises that God’s people receive that are not fulfilled in this life! By faith we live- and die- without seeing that promise fulfilled. David trusted that the promises of God would be fulfilled- even if he never saw that promise fulfilled during his lifetime! One such promise is found in II Sam. 7:12-17. Notice here in II Sam. 7, that the covenant made with David is one that has various components. The LORD speaking through Nathan the prophet promised that He would make the name of David great. In II Sam. 7:11, the LORD promises to make David a house- to make his name great and lasting- and to raise up offspring after him. It would be this son of David who would then build the house of God or the temple. And the throne of his son would be lasting- his kingdom would be forever. Now when it comes to prophecy, it is very common that there would be both a lessor and a greater fulfillment. A partial and a perfect execution of the promise would cone. God would keep his promise made to David concerning his son, Solomon. Solomon was the child blessed by God- raised up to be king on David’s throne- and it would be by Solomon’s hands that the temple would be build. Although the promise was given to David that these things would come to be- David did not see them! David died before they would be fully accomplished- so David had to have faith that God would do this world. Notice again- there is an unrealized aspect to this promise. David died without seeing this promise completely fulfilled. We read in I Kings 1, that David lived to see his son, Solomon become king. However, the building of the temple and the establishment of a lasting kingdom would take place after David died and was gathered together with his fathers. More than that, Solomon was not the king that David was looking for. Solomon started off strong- he prayed for wisdom and was granted great insight! But Solomon would soon be led astray by the many woman that he married- his love of gold and foreign woman would become the undoing of his reign. He would come to the end of his life living in idolatry and adultery. Solomon would fall into sin- and the kingdom would be divided and greatly reduced under the rule of Solomon’s son, Rehoboam. Added to this, the fact remains that the earthly temple that Solomon built is no longer standing. And another point is clear- there is no king in Israel today! No Davidic throne in Jerusalem can be found! So then- did God break His promise? Is the house of God, the lineage of David, and the eternal kingdom aspects of a promise that God made but has failed to keep? Stated another way, who is this son of Daivd who would build the house of God and rule as king on His throne forever? Yes, Solomon would bring about a partial fulfillment, but the true, perfect and lasting fulfillment would come much later. In fact, David would write about his coming son who would be king in Psalm 110. Who is this man- the one who is Daivd’s son but also David’s Lord? The one who would be a king and whose kingdom would have no end? Well then, it is clear that David lived by faith- and that faith was looking forward to his coming son and his present Lord- Jesus Christ! So David lived and died by faith- having received the promise without receiving that which was promised! David was promised an heir- a son who would sit on his throne who would build the temple of God. And it over this kingdom that Jesus now rules and reigns forever! David had to live by faith- with eyes of faith that believed in things and having a conviction for that which he had not yet received! A conviction of things not seen! For this, he is commended! To apply this point, we too are called to live by faith! Trusting that God will give us what He promised- especially when we do not yet have the things that have been promised to us! Like David- we have received the promises of God! The promise of forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. We do not now have all these- we cannot see what will be one day! David saw the day of Jesus his son from afar- are rejoiced at it! God kept his promise to David! Now we see the coming fulfillment from afar- and we must also believe that God will keep His word! God does not break His promise! As Heb. 10:23 puts it, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful! He will do it!

To conclude, waiting for God to keep His promises is a challenge- we are tempted to doubt! Where is this promised return? Everything goes on as it always has been. Do not doubt His word- only believe! Jesus is sitting on the throne right now- just as it was promised to David! He is ruling overall, and His kingdom will have no end! By faith, we too look forward with confidence for what God has promised! By faith, David received promises and overcame the foe as he looked to the coming King. So when it comes to the promises of God- promises like rest from all our enemies- of a peaceful dwelling in our own place- of victory over every foe- of eternal life in glory- of a home in the house of God- do not doubt that Jesus will do it! God is faithful- and the return of Jesus will bring all of God’s promises to completion! So do not doubt- only believe!