

# Christ's Victory Foreshadowed: The Typology of David and Goliath

Apr 8, 2026

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## Summary

### David & Goliath – Typology and the Gospel

#### Scripture References

1 Samuel 17; Genesis 3:15; Psalm 119; Hebrews 2:14; Romans 8:37–39; 1 Chronicles 20; Numbers 21

#### Introduction

- Final session in a 12-week survey of Old-Testament typology.
- Purpose tonight: trace how the David–Goliath narrative functions as a multilayered type that points to Christ's victory and the believer's sanctification.
- Repeated caution: “Not everything in the Old Testament is a type; don't force it.”

#### Key Points

1. Historical Setting (1 Sam 17:2-3, 16)
  - Forty days of stalemate in the Valley of Elah.
  - Goliath issues morning-and-evening taunts; Israel retreats.
2. Main Figures and Their Typological Roles
  - A. Saul – Man's self-rule
    - Chosen for height and prowess, yet “dismayed and greatly afraid” (v. 11).
    - Offers wealth and a daughter instead of leadership – a picture of fallen humanity's impotence.
  - B. David – Christ figure
    - Likely 16-19 years old; already anointed (1 Sam 16).
    - Rejects Saul's armor; trusts in the Lord, not human means (vv. 32, 45-47).
    - Past victories over lion & bear prefigure Christ's mastery over chaos and destructive powers.
  - C. Goliath – Satan / Sin / Death
    - “Six cubits and a span”  $\approx$  9 ft 9 in; coat of scale-mail evokes serpent /Leviathan imagery.
    - Champion combat introduces a representative battle—one life standing for many.

### 3. The Confrontation (1 Sam 17:45-47)

- David declares the battle “the Lord's,” forecasting divine, not human, deliverance.
- One stone fells Goliath; David then decapitates him with the giant's own sword.

### 4. Gospel Parallels

- Genesis 3:15 – Stone to the head = promised skull-crushing Seed.
- Hebrews 2:14 – Christ uses “death to destroy him who had the power of death.”
- Romans 8:37-39 – Believers become “more than conquerors” after the Champion's victory.

## Theological / Exegetical Points

- Representative combat: ordinarily ends a drawn-out war; here it opens the conflict, underscoring its theological intent.
- Goliath's armor (Hebrew kaskaith) doubles as “scales,” linking him to the dragon /serpent motif and the Philistine sea-god Dagon.
- Height debate: Masoretic 6 cubits vs. some Greek MSS 4 cubits; broader OT evidence for giants (Num 13; Deut 3; 1 Chr 20) favors the taller measurement.
- Five stones: not allegorical virtues; practical preparation for Goliath's four brothers (1 Chr 20).
- David keeps Goliath's sword—symbol of Christ's total spoils (cf. Col 2:15).

## Interaction & Group Responses

- Question: “Was Saul trusting David as a sacrifice?” – Leader: Saul sought an expedient escape, not faith; his offer shows folly that sees gospel means as “foolishness.”
- Question: “Did Philistines become slaves after defeat?” – No; Israel pursued and struck them down (v. 52); later skirmishes prove no servitude resulted.
- Participant reflection: marvel at God's unfolding plan from OT to Christ and our present witness.

## Practical Applications

1. Identify with the Israelite army, not with David; Christ alone wins ultimate victory.
2. Engage in “mortification of sin” (John Owen): believers fight remaining battles on ground already won.
3. Face personal fears by preaching the finished work of Christ rather than summoning self-confidence.

4. Guard against over-spiritualizing texts; let Scripture's own patterns define true typology.

### **Prayer / Intercession Items**

- Ricky – neck procedure next Wednesday; successful surgery and three-week brace period.
- Jennifer – ongoing health concerns.
- Ronnie Pennell – recovery from recent fall.
- Graduating high-school & college seniors – wisdom and gospel impact as they transition.
- All congregants with physical or spiritual needs.

### **Next Meeting / Future Arrangements**

- Next Wednesday: open Q&A session on the entire typology series; small-group format if numbers allow.
- Following week: new study on the Beatitudes (running late April through early June); curriculum to be distributed in advance.