

# Jehovah of hosts

1 Samuel 17: 1-47

## Introduction

You are currently listening and learning about the different names of God in the scriptures. The different names of God is a topic that is rarely discussed from the point of view of redemptive history.

That is, each name of God is related to a part in the story of God and his redemption, that is, the story of creation, fall, redemption and restoration.

When God's people needed to understand that their God was the creator of all things, they called him Elohim. When God's people needed to understand that God was all in all, they called him Jahova which means I Am.

This is how today, we will see that Jehovah Sabaoth or Lord of Hosts in the history of redemption in the midst of problems and wars of the people of God. For this I will concentrate on the story of "**David against Goliath**" in **1 Samuel 17**.

I want us to look at three things why God's people called the Lord, Lord of hosts:

1. **They were afraid**
2. **They felt insecure**
3. **They must have known they had the victory.**

### I. **They were afraid**

"Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. <sup>9</sup> If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." <sup>10</sup> Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." <sup>11</sup> On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified. Vr. 8-11

Many times we think that because we are Christians we should not be afraid. We should not fear anyone or anything, after all God is with us. However, this

name of God; Jehovah of hosts, is mentioned more than 280 times in the bible because God's people were afraid when they were in exile, slavery or wars.

The history of God's people was full of stories where the people were afraid of what was happening. They were God's people and yet they hesitated to walk in the wilderness, they hesitated when God allowed them to be enslaved, **they were trembling in the face of Goliath.**

Yes, being afraid is part of our life even as Christians. **We should not be afraid if we are sure of God, if we believe in God or if we believe God.** But fear, doubt, is inherent in our sinful nature because we forget who God is.

We easily see the enemy armies, the threats that beset us, the problems that hurt us, but we struggle to remember who our God is as the God of hosts who is on our side.

Goliath says very well. **"I challenge "the armies of Israel."** Because he knew that Israel was trusting in their own power. They trusted in themselves.

But when they saw Goliath, they said; this one is different, we can't and they fell apart in fear. Even King Saul was terrified.

In reality, fear of our circumstances is a war between two armies, our own army and the God of armies. It is not against our circumstances, it is against our doubts, weaknesses of not seeing the Lord of hosts with us.

And this brings me to my second point, they were unsure of themselves.

## II. They were insecure

**"Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear. Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel." Vr. 24-25**

This is very interesting, God's people went out to war against the Philistines. They were not afraid at first, they said; we are the army of Israel, yes we can against the Philistine army; **"The Israelites and the Philistines lined up face to face." Vs 21.**

The army of Israel were confident as they were facing other equals. But when Goliath came out to challenge them, they trembled with fear. They were confident that they had enough swords against the Philistines, but not against Goliath.

This gave them security. But when they saw Goliath and saw his armor, his gigantic sword, everything changed for them.

So it happens to us, as long as we think that we can face all our difficulties alone, we are secure, but when we see that what is around us is bigger than our swords, our security vanishes.

**The world tells us, there is no problem we can't solve if you trust yourself.** But trusting ourselves will ultimately lead to insecurities.

Bulling among young people affects the personal insecurity of the children. Bulling is very difficult to eradicate, but what we can do is to ensure that the identity of the children is not in whether they are bullied or not.

Our identity as Christians is not in what happens around us. Our problems, failures and difficulties do not define us. It defines us that we are God's children and that same God is the God of armies.

Understanding this will give us victory in our situations, which is my third point of this sermon. We have already seen that we are people with fears and that we need to feel secure to have peace. But then what do we need to enjoy this peace?

### III. They had to know that they had the victory

**"David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup>This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup> All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."Vr.45-47**

The concept of Jehovah of hosts brings us the idea of power, the great power of God for us. But David was not a warrior, he did not represent the power his people needed to see. In fact, he was quite the opposite.

But David did not see what the rest of the people saw, **he did not see a Goliath with a gigantic sword, he only saw a gigantic God at his side**, the owner of everything, the all powerful one who was with him.

When David indignantly asks; who dares to challenge the armies of Israel? David is not talking about his own army. He is talking about God's true army.

He asserts that **Goliath is NOT challenging the army of Israel, Goliath was challenging the Lord of hosts.** And, therefore, Goliath already lost. Israel already had the victory before the battle began, but how could the people be sure of this?

Even though David was so thin and small, he was representing someone much greater than Goliath, David was representing that God of hosts.

**He said to Goliath, you come against me with swords and spears, I come against you in the name of the God of hosts.** David never trusted in what his people or himself could do, he trusted in what God would do.

A descendant of David long afterward said the same thing; **"I have come in the name of the Lord."** Christ came riding on a donkey, Christ came and by going to the cross he destroyed all dominion of the armies of wickedness in the name of the Lord of hosts.

Christ was facing the Romans, the greatest imperial force of his time. But Christ did not see them as giants, indeed Christ said, **do you not know that my father can send a legion of angels to defend me?**

He did not have to see God's army, Christ knew that it was the God of all armies who was with him. David was only a shadow of Christ because he did not have to die for us. Christ did, not only did he know about Jehovah of hosts, but he did not hold on to this and wanted to die for you and me.

On the contrary, **God's people cowering before Goliath is representing us.** We often just look at the enormity of our challenges and cower.

But in this passage God is NOT giving us a role model like David, that is not the purpose of this passage, but to tell us that the LORD of hosts is standing before us.

Our fears are so great that God is not telling us, look, I know how David is, but on the contrary, he is telling us, I have sent my David and he knows who I am. He is the one who fights the battles that we cannot fight,

Christ not only understood the power of God, Christ is the power of God at our side. He does not need legions of angels to come and defend us, he wanted to do this job by going to the cross for us.

## **Conclusion**

Even if you are a Christian, whether you are a mature Christian or just getting to know the Lord, you should know that there is hope for your fears, that there is security for your weaknesses and problems. Know that even before the battles begin, if Christ is your Lord, he is the God of hosts. But like David, Christ does not come with swords, he came giving his life and there is no sword that can resist this. Christ is the God of hosts. **Amen!**