

**Thursday, January 14, 2021**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David,  
David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.  
And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it  
and struck the Philistine on his forehead.  
The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground."  
*1 Samuel 17: 48-49***

I'm sure you recognize this passage. It's obviously from the story of David and Goliath. We all know about David's slingshot and the stone that he used to kill Goliath, or at least to knock him out until he could finish him off with Goliath's own sword. If someone only read selective sections of this story, they might come to the conclusion that David was the one who killed Goliath and that David might, therefore, develop a sense of pretentious pride because of his accomplishment. But there's more to the story.

David had no misconceptions about who it was that brought about this victory over Goliath. As far as David was concerned, it was God Himself. David had said to Goliath, "You come against me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day THE LORD WILL DELIVER YOU INTO MY HAND." Then David said, "For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand."

So, as of now, we are standing on the precipice of a vaccine for the COVID-19 pandemic. It is being dispersed. You might say that the medical world has reached into its pouch and has pulled out a vaccine to sling at the "Goliath" virus. We welcome this accomplishment. And we are thankful that God has given such giftedness and knowledge to the scientific community.

But as the people of God, we know where the victory will come from. It will come from the Lord. It's as though the virus has advanced against us like Goliath. But our response is like David's response: "You come against us with mystery and contagion and sickness, but we come against you in the name of the Lord of hosts." A syringe and a vaccine may still be used, just as David used a slingshot and a stone. But God is the one who provides the victory. "For the battle is the Lord's."

So, what's the point of this devotional? I'm not sure. Maybe just to help God's people to always give credit where credit is due. Credit always belongs to God. He is the One who provides for our needs even when it looks like we are doing it. To God be the glory for my job. To God be the glory for my home I live in. To God be the glory for my material blessings. It may look as though we are the ones who bring about these things, but we know that God is the director of all things.

God directed the stone to strike Goliath right where it did. God is the one who has provided the materials that created the vaccine for COVID-19. And God is the one who has given us the salvation that is ours through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

God's Peace!  
Pastor Jim