

# Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 23 June 2024

## PENTECOST 5 CONFIDENT IN GOD AND READY FOR ANYTHING

### Opening Prayer (please pray together)

Lord God, instill in our hearts, minds and bodies the strength to battle for the weak, the oppressed, the hungry, the down-trodden, please give us the confidence to be there, Amen.

### Welcome 🙏

**Q 1 How challenging was you week?**

**Were there any Goliath moments you needed to deal with? Share with your group**

### Worship 🎵

As the deer pants for the water 🎵

Be still for the presence of the Lord 🎤

**Then Pray this prayer together (alternative Psalm 23) God my shepherd.**

I don't need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows,

You find me quiet pools to drink from.

True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.

Even when the way goes through death valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.

Your trusty shepherds crook makes me feel secure.

You serve me a six- course dinner right in front of my enemies.

You revive my drooping head, my cup brims with blessing.

Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.

I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.

### Word; Psalm 9.9-20

<sup>9</sup>The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

<sup>10</sup>And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

<sup>11</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion. Declare his deeds among the peoples.

<sup>12</sup>For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.

<sup>13</sup>Be gracious to me, O LORD. See what I suffer from those who hate me; you are the one who lifts me up from the gates of death,

<sup>14</sup>so that I may recount all your praises and, in the gates of daughter Zion, rejoice in your deliverance.

<sup>15</sup>The nations have sunk in the pit that they made; in the net that they hid has their own foot been caught.

<sup>16</sup>The LORD has made himself known; he has executed judgment; the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands.

<sup>17</sup>The wicked shall depart to Sheol, all the nations that forget God.

<sup>18</sup>For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.

<sup>19</sup>Rise up, O LORD! Do not let mortals prevail; let the nations be judged before you.

<sup>20</sup>Put them in fear, O LORD; let the nations know that they are only human.

17 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim.

<sup>4</sup> And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was four cubits and a span. <sup>5</sup> He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. <sup>6</sup> He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. <sup>7</sup> The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron, and his shield-bearer went before him. <sup>8</sup> He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. <sup>9</sup> If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants, but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." <sup>10</sup> And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." <sup>11</sup> When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

<sup>19</sup> Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel were in the valley of Elah fighting with the Philistines. <sup>20</sup> David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. <sup>21</sup> Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. <sup>22</sup> David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. <sup>23</sup> As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

<sup>32</sup> David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." <sup>33</sup> Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." <sup>34</sup> But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father, and whenever a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, <sup>35</sup> I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth, and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has killed both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." <sup>37</sup> David said, "The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you!"

<sup>38</sup> Saul clothed David with his armour; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. <sup>39</sup> David strapped Saul's sword over the armour, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I am not used to them." So David removed them. <sup>40</sup> Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the wadi and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

<sup>41</sup> The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him.

<sup>42</sup> When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth,

ruddy and handsome in appearance. <sup>43</sup> The Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.” <sup>45</sup> But David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword and spear and 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. <sup>46</sup> This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head, and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel <sup>47</sup> and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear, for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give you into our hand.”

<sup>48</sup> When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. <sup>49</sup> David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

## **COMMENTARY**

**This Bible story embodies the hopes of everyone when they are faced with overwhelming and evil power, that there is a way to overcome that power and win. This story has been told and retold especially by the weak, the oppressed, the marginal, and the powerless - those who do not simply hope for a David but see themselves as David, faced with the giants of oppression, and who know that their only hope lies with a LIVING GOD.**

**Q 2 This well-known story of David and Goliath teaches us the importance of trusting in God. David makes use of his God-given resources. Do you feel that you use the gifts God has given you?**

**Q 3 An entire army fled the presence of Goliath but David armed with 5 stones and a sling knows who is with him. How big is your God?**

**Q 4 Our NT reading in Mark 4 also deals with fear and how Jesus calms a storm in front of his disciples. Share with your group a time you had to deal with a Goliath in your life. Often our Goliaths are a lot more manageable when we realise we are never alone and our God is an amazing shepherd who knows his sheep by name. Discuss**

## **Works**

Who can we reach out to this week? Visit these people, and pray with them.

## **Ending Prayer** (please pray together)

Lord God, may we leave here in the hope that you will be with us as we serve those who need your help. May we have the courage and strength to pray for them and ourselves as well, Amen.

**Shalom Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)**