

## Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare

### Week 9 – Thursday

Psa. 18:1-3

1 Sam. 17:34-37

Now we are going to go from the intimate relationship to warfare. In Psalm 18 is a kind of mingling of the intimate relationship with the Lord and fighting for and with the Lord. It starts, “I love You, O Jehovah, my strength” (v. 1). That is the intimate relationship. “Jehovah is my crag and my fortress and my Deliverer; My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my high retreat. I called upon Jehovah, who is worthy of praise, And from my enemies I was saved” (vv. 2-3). David experienced the Lord even as his shield. Why do you need a shield? You only need a shield when you are in a battle. David experienced that in his daily life he was in a battle with God's enemy. Even before he met Goliath he experienced the Lord as his shield. So he experienced the Lord exactly the way we are talking this weekend. He developed an intimate relationship with the Lord and He also learned how to fight with and for the Lord.

Let's look at the story about the slaying of Goliath. I want to point out some things to you, maybe some things that you never realized before. I understand the young people in London are going through the *Journey through the Bible* and you are just starting Samuel. Isn't that sovereign? You are going to start studying the person Samuel and David's story is coming very soon. 1 Samuel 17:26 says, “Then David spoke to the men who were standing with him, saying, What shall be done for the man who strikes down this Philistine and turns away reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the ranks of the living God?” I think that most of us know the story that David had seven older brothers; he was the youngest and was a shepherd. In this story the Philistines were fighting against Israel and some of David's brothers were in the army. David's father gave David some provisions to take to his brothers. The story tells us in detail how he made sure all the sheep were safe before he left. He was very detailed and very diligent. When he finds his brothers in the army and is approaching them, Goliath comes. Goliath used to come every day to defy the armies of Israel and blaspheme Jehovah. He says, “If anybody comes and fights against me and defeats me, then we will surrender to you all.” Of course, Goliath was pretty tall, so no one in Israel wanted to fight with him. But David, a teenager at this time, gets stirred up and he says, “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine who dares defy the living God?” When they tell him, David gets so stirred up that someone told king Saul about him.

Then Saul said, “Bring him here.” Verses 31 to 37 record their conversation: “And when the words that David spoke were heard, they were reported to Saul; and he had him brought. And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine. But Saul said to David, You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth and he has been a man of war since his youth. And David said to Saul, Your servant has been tending his father's sheep; and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I would go out after it and strike it and deliver the lamb from its mouth. And when it rose up against me, I would seize it by its beard and strike it and kill it. Both the lion and the bear did your servant strike; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he

has defied the ranks of the living God. And David said, Jehovah, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and may Jehovah be with you.”

David just talked about his experience while taking care of the sheep. He was saying that his experience has prepared me to fight against Goliath, so king Saul said, “Go and may the Lord be with you.” Then look at what happens next: “And Saul put his own garment on David, and he placed a bronze helmet on his head and put his armor on him. And David girded his sword over his garment and tried to go, for he had not tried the armor. Then David said to Saul, I cannot go in these because I have not tried them. And David took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand, and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook and put them into the shepherd's bag that he had, that is, in his pouch; and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.... Then David said to the Philistine, You come to me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come to you in the name of Jehovah of hosts, the God of the ranks of Israel, whom you have defied. On this day Jehovah will deliver you up into my hand, and I will strike you and remove your head from you” (vv. 38-40, 45-46a). David was saying, “You are coming with weapons. The only weapon I have is the Lord. I come with the name of the Lord.”

I want you to take one thing away from this part of the story and this is also for the older ones. Saul tried to give David his armour to fight but David said, “I can't fight in your armour.” Each of us must have our own personal experience of the Lord. We cannot wear somebody else's armour. I think that sometimes the serving ones really want the young people to enjoy the Lord, to experience the Lord. In essence, sometimes we try to give them our armour. We need to be careful; we want to encourage them but every one of us has to experience the Lord for ourselves personally. We can only fight the enemy with what we have experienced of the Lord. That is why I want to highlight the word *genuine* this afternoon. We need to be genuine in our fellowship with God. We need to have our own personal experience of the Lord. Only then will we be able to fight when the enemy comes to attack us.