
ISRAEL HAS MORE THAN ONE GIANT KILLER

by Daniel A. Brown, PhD

“But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; for His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation.” ~Daniel 4:34

2 SAMUEL 21:15-22; 22:29-37

Most of us have experienced competing in a fairly frequent contest that pits our bodily appetite against our better judgment; we battle back and forth as that extra dessert *“Oh-I-really-want-that,”* weighs in wearing the loose trunks in one corner, while *“You’ll-have-to-run-longer-tomorrow”* warms up in tight trunks in the other. Likewise, we sometimes *“favor”* one leg over the other because of a blister on our toe or an injury to our knee. Right hands don’t always know what left hands are doing.

But it would be ridiculous to live with the perspective that only a few good body parts come out on top, and that only one or two limbs really matter! If our stomach doesn’t make it for 82 years, neither will our left ventricle. A neck without a head isn’t really a pyrrhic victory. How bright would a brain be considered if it claimed to have no need of a lowly liver? It’s true, some of us have survived without our appendix, wisdom teeth, or gallbladder, but we wouldn’t do well missing our muscular or endocrine systems, limping along with a forced smile plastered over a grimace while exclaiming, *“At least my blood is circulating.”* (As long as you have your health...)

Anatomically speaking, we’re basically package deals. Our cells and organs are specialists, but they’re not separatists functioning independently of one another. Some parts of our being are more visible than others; some figure more prominently in *balance keeping*, while others have little to do with *memory recalling* or *infection-fighting*. Should the heart stop pumping in order to join the diaphragm and lungs in their measured breathing? Should the eye say to the ear, “Hey, Blind-One, we don’t need you? All you do is take up space. Do you know what I could see from where you are?”

A church body, like The Coastlands, is very much like a human body (1 Corinthians 12:12-30). Though our gifts and functions differ from one another, we do best and grow most as a whole body when each of us is doing everything we were designed to do (Ephesians 4:16). Ever notice how important your knee is once it's injured? When one part of the body ceases to function, the whole suffers. We all have vital roles to play in ministry service.

Most of us accept that as a fact, but what many of us do not quite grasp is that God does not rank-order the members of His body, the Church. He doesn't say this one is more important than that one, and even though He has established principles of order, submission, leadership, and spiritual government to keep His church well coordinated and healthy, He does not reserve great spiritual exploits for leaders alone. He doesn't field a team of super-star saints, and build bleachers for all the rest. Rather, He declares to each and every one of His children, "Follow Me, and I will use you to capture the hearts and minds of others for My Kingdom." (Reference Matthew 4:19.)

SLAY A GIANT

Our individual mistakes and temptations are "*common*" to all mankind (1 Corinthians 10:13), and our personal faith, confession and salvation are exactly the same as that of other believers (1 Timothy 3:16; Titus 1:4; Jude 1:3). Doesn't it make sense, then, that the exploits God calls us to do in His Name are going to be like those to which He calls others? As the Bible says,

*"Through God we will do valiantly, and it is He who shall tread down our adversaries."
~Psalm 108:13*

One generation gives way to the next; assignments change and new warriors step up in battle. It has always been this way in God's kingdom among His people. In each generation, He raises up leaders to shepherd His people. Each generation of believers gets to learn first-hand how to battle and conquer, in Jesus' Name (Judges 3:1-2). Goliath's burly offspring didn't perish when he died by David's hand, but each generation encountered a giant-killer among the people of God.

Not by one generation alone are conquests made, neither by one leader, giants slain!