



A Tour of Bible Battlefield Commanders - Part Two

Ever read the Old Testament and wanted to be there during some of the great military victories of God's people? Ever wanted to see God's power wash over armies and battles? Well, here is the second part of a quick guide to some of the Lord's greatest battlefield commanders. It is suggested you use it for group bible study.

Sampson – Flawed Champion

NASA was never going to employ Sampson! Not the sharpest instrument of God's will, he nevertheless shows us that God can use us for powerful ends despite our flaws.

- † Read Judges 14: 1-4. Sampson wanted a Philistine woman as his wife, contrary to Israelite law and custom. How was God going to use this to His ends?
- † Read Judges 15:1-15. Sampson might have been lacking many qualities but certainly not courage. In what state was the nation of Israel? Why did they need a man like Sampson to lead them, despite his faults?
- † Read Chapter 16:23+. What was God's purpose in Sampson? How did this lead to eventually lead to Israel's deliverance from the Philistines?
- † Sampson was headstrong, jealous, quick to anger, foolish, vain, and greedy. Why did God choose to use him? What does that teach us about our faults?

Saul – Anointed Hero or Faithless King?

In 1 Samuel we read of Saul's anointing by Samuel and appointment as King. He has many victories whilst he struggles with following the Lord's directions. The end is good for Israel but things start to go wrong for Saul...

- † Read 1 Sam 13: 1-15. Saul was to wait for Samuel but he acted in fear and trusted to his own timetable not God's. What did he do wrong? How often do we have the patience to wait for God's plan? What were the consequences of his faithlessness?
- † Read 1 Sam 14:15-23. Saul starts to seek God's will as to when to attack but in the end makes the decision to attack himself. Whilst they were victorious who is given the credit for the victory? How often do we start with good intentions to follow God's will but end up living off our own judgment and insight?
- † Read 1 Sam 15: 1-11. Now Saul really starts to follow his own plan, not God's. Why did God order genocide against the Amalekites (see Ex 17:8-14)? How does Saul disobey God? What was God's response? Bearing in mind Saul's history how patient is God with us?

David – God’s Greatest General

Famine to feast, rags to riches, small to huge, shepherd to King, God has never had a more faithful General than David.

- † Read 1 Sam 17:25-37. Why is David so sure he can fight Goliath and win? Is it just his faith alone or also experiences that God has given him? Does God expect us to show great leaps of faith or does he prepare our hearts too?
- † Read 1 Sam 17:38-40. How does David prepare himself for battle? Does he go unprepared? If David so trusts the Lord why doesn’t he go unarmed?
- † Read 1 Sam 17:45-47. David gives God credit for the victory even before it won. Not just confident in his own victory over Goliath what other improbable event does David promise? What would the Philistines have thought of these comments from a shepherd-boy? Jesus tells us that our lack of faith stops us from moving mountains (Matt17:20), but how faithful are we?

As God’s people of the New Testament He does not expect us to fight other nations to claim our inheritance; but He does expect us to have the same courage, determination and faith as the Israelites.