

Day 46 – Apr. 3

Today we have two extremely different sections to read together. The first is the account of David's victory over the giants (yes, I said giants), and the second is a psalm that isn't in the Psalms. It's a strange pairing for today, or is it?

Throughout the Old Testament, there are accounts of giants fought by the Israelites. These giant warriors are part of many different clans including the Amorites, the Emim, the Zuzim, the Raphaim, the Nephilim, and the Anakim. From the story of the Nephilim in Gen. 6 that has confused interpreters for years to the report of the spies looking through the Promised Land for the first time, giants are not uncommon in the Old Testament. The most famous is, of course, Goliath who's name has passed into our cultural stories representing an obstacle, an unbeatable foe, or a force standing against a much smaller resistance. But whether these giants are giants as we think of them or just a race of very large warrior mercenaries who show up battling against Israel, the image of fighting a giant and winning is compelling. And ultimately it doesn't matter whether these were actual human giants (no archaeological evidence has yet to be found) or simply mighty warriors of unusual size. God can defeat any enemy that comes our way should He choose to. Giant, army, sickness, sin... whatever our enemy, we have both faith (trust in God's power) and hope (expectation of the future) that God can overcome any of them.

And that leads us to David's song. David's songs are so very real, so very varied, and so very God-shaped that we often call the Psalms, "The Bible's Worshipbook". And here we find another Song of David with the same themes, the same wording, and the same author as a number of our Psalms. This song moves back and forth between God's salvation from a mighty foe to David's mighty victory through God's power. David is both rescued victim and mighty conqueror, recipient and bringer of God's rescue. But through it all, God is the ultimate recipient of all praise.

Today I encourage you to write out a simple psalm of your own. Think of the giants you have faced in life, or are facing, or anticipate facing in the future. Then think of God's promises of victory over them. And then write a song of praise to God for them. If you're willing, share them with us in a comment on this blog.