

BUT WHAT IF

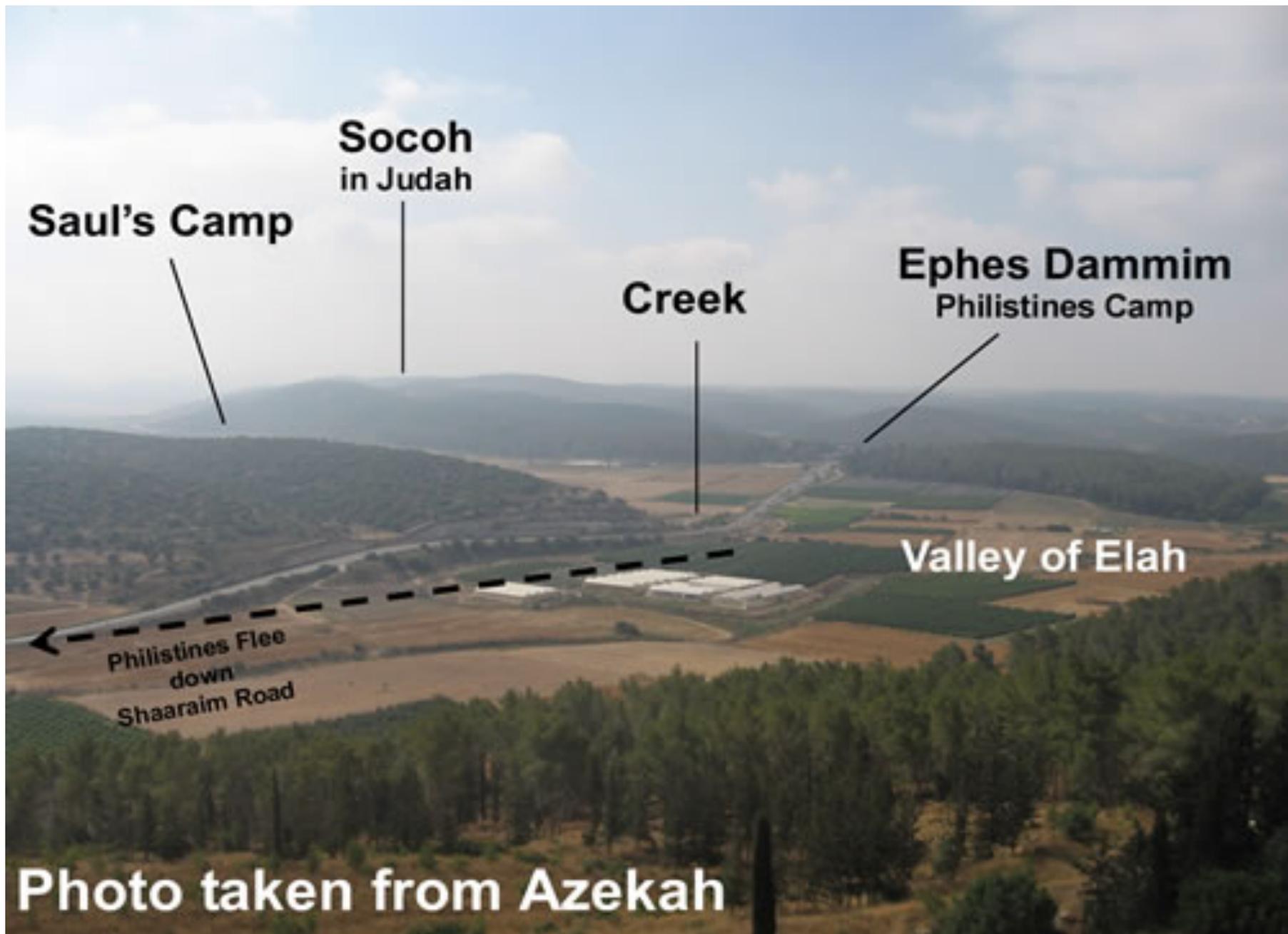


I FAIL

1 Sam. 17:1a-11 NLT

The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and ² Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. ³ So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them.





Saul's Camp

Socoh
in Judah

Creek

Ephes Dammim
Philistines Camp

Valley of Elah

Philistines Flee
down
Shaaraim Road

Photo taken from Azekah

⁴ Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall! ⁵ He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. ⁶ He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. ⁷ The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield..





⁸ Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. “Why are you all coming out to fight?” he called. “I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! ⁹ If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! ¹⁰ I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!” ¹¹ When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.



I. The Fear of failure can paralyze us.

1 Sam. 17:10-11, 16, 22-25 NLT

¹⁰ “I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!” ¹¹ When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.

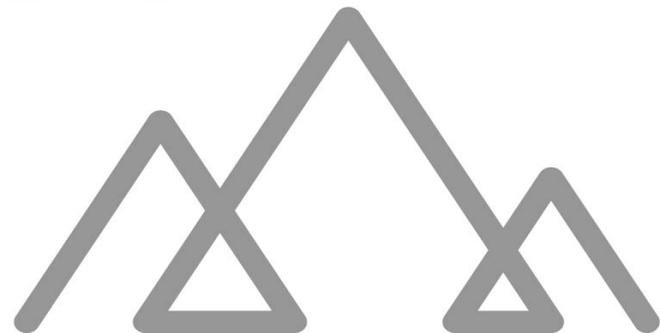
¹⁶ For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army.



²² David left his things with the keeper of supplies and hurried out to the ranks to greet his brothers. ²³ As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came out from the Philistine ranks. Then David heard him shout his usual taunt to the army of Israel.



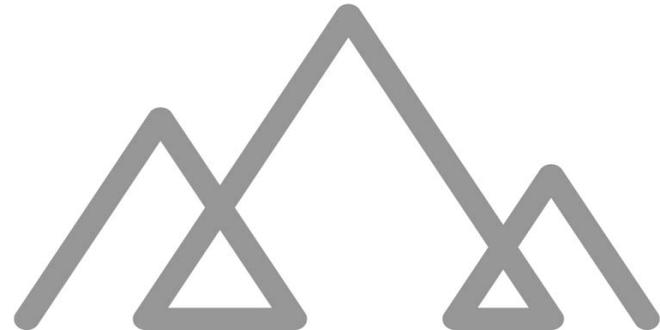
²⁴ As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright. ²⁵ “Have you seen the giant?” the men asked. “He comes out each day to defy Israel. The king has offered a huge reward to anyone who kills him. He will give that man one of his daughters for a wife, and the man’s entire family will be exempted from paying taxes!”



II. David had a different mindset.

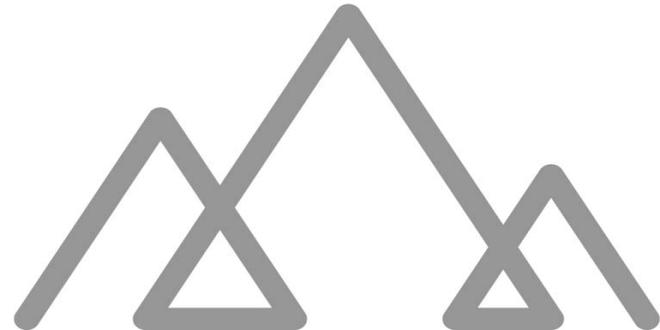
1 Sam. 17:26b

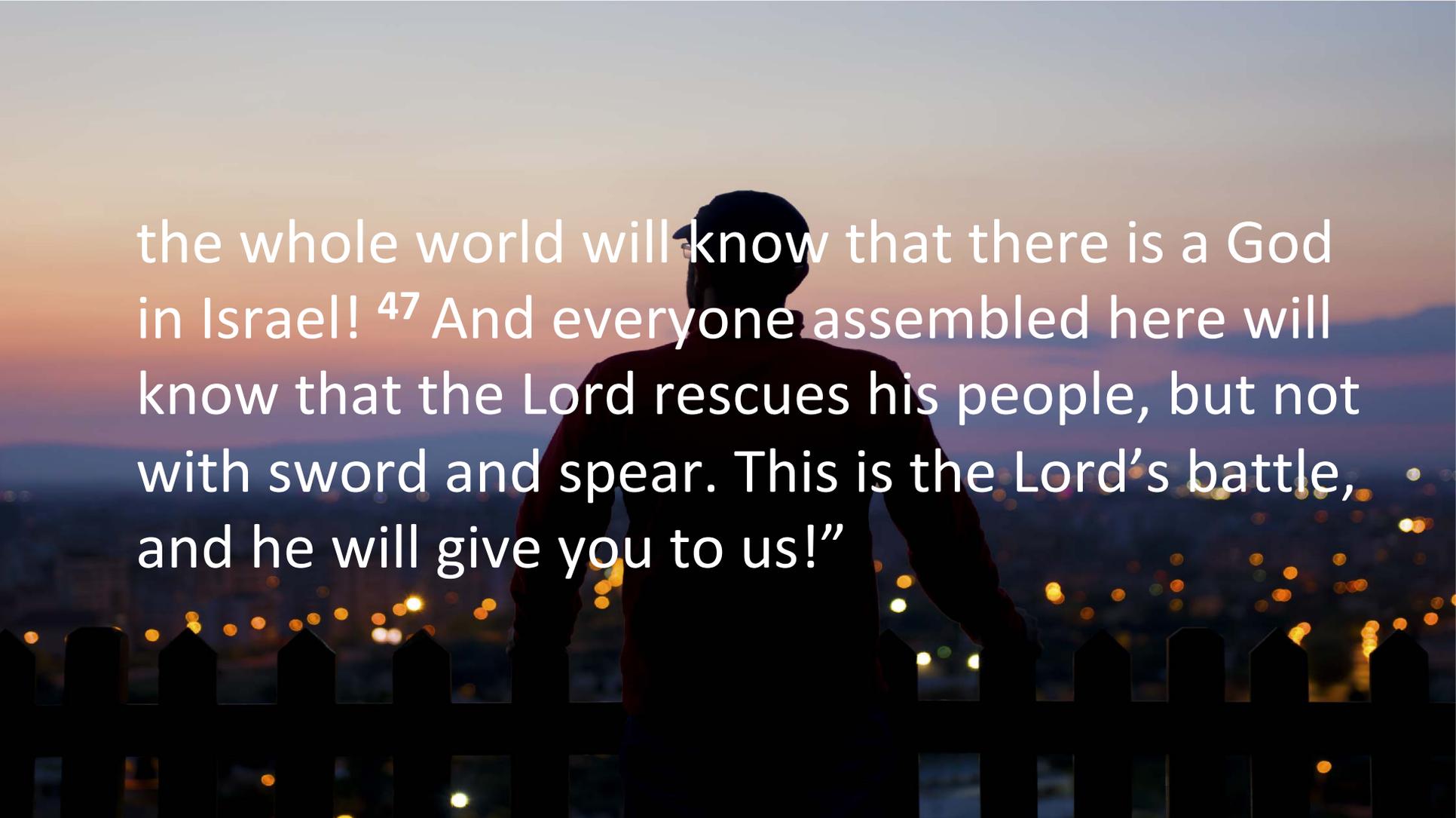
“Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?”



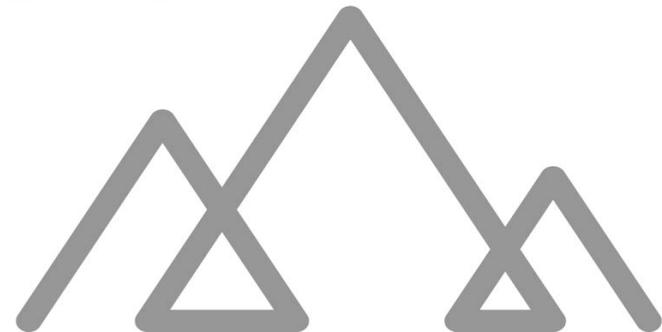
1 Sam. 17:45-47 NLT

⁴⁵ David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and



A silhouette of a man wearing a cap and a long-sleeved shirt stands on a balcony with a decorative railing. He is looking out over a city skyline at night, with numerous lights visible in the distance under a twilight sky.

the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! ⁴⁷ And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!"

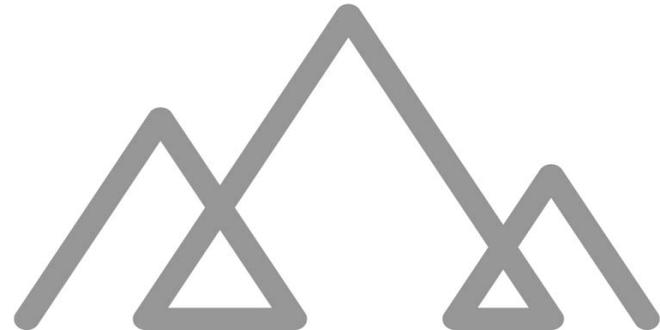


III. Be ready for opposition.

- Expect opposition from likely sources.

1 Sam. 17:41-44 NLT

⁴¹ Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, ⁴² sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. ⁴³ “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. ⁴⁴ “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled.

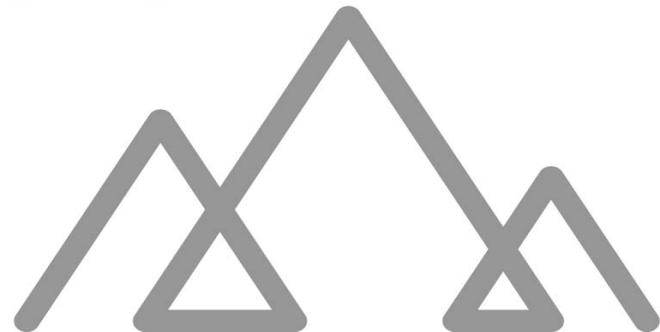


- Expect opposition from unlikely sources.

1 Sam. 17:28:29 NLT

²⁸ But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway?" he demanded. "What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to see the battle!"

²⁹ "What have I done now?" David replied. "I was only asking a question!"



IV. God wants you to use what is in your hands because that is all He needs.

1 Sam 17:38-40 NLT

³⁸ Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. ³⁹ David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before.



“I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul.
“I’m not used to them.” So David took them
off again. ⁴⁰ He picked up five smooth stones
from a stream and put them into his
shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his
shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across
the valley to fight the Philistine.

