

behind which the warrior could be protected while hurling his weapon.

42. Looked about. Looked around for the champion who was to contend against him. **Disdained him.** Looked upon him with contempt. **But a youth.** See notes on last lesson, ver. 12. He was now two or three years older, and changed somewhat in appearance from a boy to a man, yet youthful for a soldier. **3.** The world is very apt to think lightly of the forces in God's cause because they are not always visible.

43, 44. Am I a dog. A common manner of contemptuous speech in the East, where dogs are foul, worthless, and without owners. **Camest with staves.** Or, "with sticks." **Cursed....by his gods.** This was the great contrast: on the one side a giant in behalf of gods which were "emptiness," and nothing; on the other a youth who had the Almighty with him. **3.** May we not find how worthless is profane language? **I will give.** See the self-confidence, the absolute trust in human power. **4.** Those who lean on themselves alone will be brought to naught. **Thy flesh to the fowls.** "To the birds." Such threats are to be read all through Homer's Iliad, and may today be heard between Bedouins in the East.

45. Thou comest. David was not ashamed to admit that he was inferior in weapons and in physical power. **A shield.** Probably this should be "a javelin." **In the name of the Lord.** He had learned the lesson of faith, and trusted not in his sling, though he knew its power, but in his God. **The Lord of hosts.** "Jehovah of armies." God, who rules the armies of heaven. As if David realized "legions of angels" arrayed on his behalf. **The God of Israel.** He who is worshipped by Israel alone, and who recognizes Israel as his peculiar people. **5.** The secret of power is insight into God and faith in him.

46. Will the Lord deliver. Goliath had said, "I will give." David said, "The Lord will deliver;" one trusted in his gigantic spear, the other in an Almighty God. **Into mine hand.** He looks upon himself only as the instrument of God's power. **I will give.** By God's power winning the victory. **Carcasses of the Philistines.** The slain in ancient battles were left on the field to be devoured by wild beasts and birds of prey. **All the earth.** All the nations of earth who may hear of the event. **A God in Israel.** A God who is living, and mighty, and who will not suffer his name to be mocked by enemies.

47. All this assembly. David speaks as if it were a gathering for worship instead of a battle array. **The Lord saved not with sword.** His faith was wondrous in such an age and such surroundings. **The battle is the Lord's.** 6. Well for us all if we could ever in our strife with temptation and endurance of ills keep this in mind! **Give you into our hands.** Bold words to use against enemies who had many times shown that they were masters of the Israelites.

48. David hasted. He ran to anticipate the action of the unwieldy giant, and hurl his stone before the enemy could strike with his spear. This timeliness was the means of winning the victory. **Ran toward the enemy.** The Philistine army.

49. Put his hand in his bag. Unnoticed by his adversary. **Slang and smote.** He acted at the right instant, just in time, when near enough for good aim, and still too far to be in danger. **In his forehead.** No accident, but by a well-directed aim at a vital part, and the only part not protected by armour. He knew where the stone would strike before it left his sling. **Sunk into his forehead.** Showing the mighty force with which it was hurled, and the strength of the youthful arm that sent it. A small stone, but it could slay a giant. **7.** So with many a little act for good or for ill, bringing to pass great results. **Fell upon his face.** Perhaps not instantly killed, but stunned by the blow.

50, 51. Prevailed. Won his victory with weapons that seemed so slight in comparison with his adversary's. **No sword.** He was not a soldier, and unused to the sword, therefore carried none. "One sword can serve both Goliath and him." **David ran.** Another instance of courage and promptness to take advantage of opportunity. **Stood upon the Philistine.** In triumph over his fallen foe. **Took his sword.** Which he afterward carried as his own weapon. (See Chap. 21. 9). **8.** So God turns the forces of evil against themselves, and makes the arms of his enemies do his work. **Cut off his head.** Just as he had predicted while as yet he had no sword. **The Philistines....fled.** Overwhelmed with a panic, such as sometimes falls upon modern and disciplined armies. The Israelites pursued them as far as Gath.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The battle is the Lord's. 1 Sam. 17. 47.

OUTLINE.

1. The Weapons, v. 38-40.
2. The Meeting, v. 41-48.
3. The Victory, v. 49-51.

HOME READINGS.

- M. David and Goliath. 1 Sam. 17. 38-51.
 Tu. David in the camp. 1 Sam. 17. 12-25.
 W. David's courage. 1 Sam. 17. 26-37.
 Th. David's victory. 1 Sam. 17. 52-58.
 F. The Christian warfare. Eph. 6. 10-20.
 S. The good fight. 2 Tim. 4. 1-8.
 S. The reward of victory. Rev. 2. 7-11.

Time.—B.C. 1063.

Place.—The valley of Elah, in the tribe of Judah.

Connecting Links.—1. Saul troubled by an evil spirit. 1 Sam. 16. 14. 2. David brought before Saul. 1 Sam. 16. 15-23. 3. David's return to his home. 1 Sam. 17. 15. 4. The challenge of Goliath. 1 Sam. 17. 1-19. 5. David's offer to fight with the giant. 1 Sam. 17. 20-37.

Explanations.—*Helmet*—A metal covering for the head. *Coat of mail*—Literally, "coat of