

CMCS Houston Tea and Texts

Saul, David and Goliath

1 Samuel 4-7

4: **1**And the word of Samuel came to all Israel.

Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. They encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. **2**The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle spread, Israel was defeated before the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle. **3**And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, “Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, that it^a may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.” **4**So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

5As soon as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. **6**And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, “What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?” And when they learned that the ark of the Lord had come to the camp, **7**the Philistines were afraid, for they said, “A god has come into the camp.” And they said, “Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. **8**Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. **9**Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, lest you become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight.”

10So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. **11**And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

5: **1**When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. **2**Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. **3**And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. **4**But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him. **5**This is why the priests of Dagon and all who enter the house of Dagon do not tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

6The hand of the Lord was heavy against the people of Ashdod, and he terrified and afflicted them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory. **7**And when the men of Ashdod saw how things were, they said, “The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for his hand is hard against us and against Dagon our god.” **8**So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, “What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?” They answered, “Let the ark of the God of Israel be brought around to Gath.” So they brought the ark of the God of Israel there. **9**But after they had brought it around, the hand of the Lord was against the city, causing a very great panic, and he afflicted the men of the city, both young and old, so that tumors broke out on them. **10**So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. But as soon as the ark of God came to Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out,

“They have brought around to us the ark of the God of Israel to kill us and our people.” **11**They sent therefore and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, “Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it return to its own place, that it may not kill us and our people.” For there was a deathly panic throughout the whole city. The hand of God was very heavy there. **12**The men who did not die were struck with tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

6: 1The ark of the Lord was in the country of the Philistines seven months. **2**And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, “What shall we do with the ark of the Lord? Tell us with what we shall send it to its place.” **3**They said, “If you send away the ark of the God of Israel, do not send it empty, but by all means return him a guilt offering. Then you will be healed, and it will be known to you why his hand does not turn away from you.” **4**And they said, “What is the guilt offering that we shall return to him?” They answered, “Five golden tumors and five golden mice, according to the number of the lords of the Philistines, for the same plague was on all of you and on your lords. **5**So you must make images of your tumors and images of your mice that ravage the land, and give glory to the God of Israel. Perhaps he will lighten his hand from off you and your gods and your land. **6**Why should you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? After he had dealt severely with them, did they not send the people away, and they departed? **7**Now then, take and prepare a new cart and two milk cows on which there has never come a yoke, and yoke the cows to the cart, but take their calves home, away from them. **8**And take the ark of the Lord and place it on the cart and put in a box at its side the figures of gold, which you are returning to him as a guilt offering. Then send it off and let it go its way **9**and watch. If it goes up on the way to its own land, to Beth-shemesh, then it is he who has done us this great harm, but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that struck us; it happened to us by coincidence.”

10The men did so, and took two milk cows and yoked them to the cart and shut up their calves at home. **11**And they put the ark of the Lord on the cart and the box with the golden mice and the images of their tumors. **12**And the cows went straight in the direction of Beth-shemesh along one highway, lowing as they went. They turned neither to the right nor to the left, and the lords of the Philistines went after them as far as the border of Beth-shemesh. **13**Now the people of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley. And when they lifted up their eyes and saw the ark, they rejoiced to see it. **14**The cart came into the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh and stopped there. A great stone was there. And they split up the wood of the cart and offered the cows as a burnt offering to the Lord. **15**And the Levites took down the ark of the Lord and the box that was beside it, in which were the golden figures, and set them upon the great stone. And the men of Beth-shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices on that day to the Lord. **16**And when the five lords of the Philistines saw it, they returned that day to Ekron.

19And he struck some of the men of Beth-shemesh, because they looked upon the ark of the Lord. He struck seventy men of them,^a and the people mourned because the Lord had struck the people with a great blow. **20**Then the men of Beth-shemesh said, “Who is able to stand before the Lord, this holy God? And to whom shall he go up away from us?” **21**So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kiriath-jearim, saying, “The Philistines have returned the ark of the Lord. Come down and take it up to you.”

7: 1And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the ark of the Lord and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill. And they consecrated his son Eleazar to have charge of the ark of

the Lord. **2**From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.

3And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroath from among you and direct your heart to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” **4**So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroath, and they served the Lord only.

1 Samuel 8

4Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah **5**and said to him, “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.” **6**But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the Lord. **7**And the Lord said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. **8**According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. **9**Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

10So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking for a king from him. **11**He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. **12**And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. **13**He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. **14**He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. **15**He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. **16**He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men^a and your donkeys, and put them to his work. **17**He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. **18**And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.”

19But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, “No! But there shall be a king over us, **20**that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.” **21**And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. **22**And the Lord said to Samuel, “Obey their voice and make them a king.” Samuel then said to the men of Israel, “Go every man to his city.”

1 Samuel 17

1Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. **2**And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. **3**And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel

stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. [4](#)And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six^a cubits^b and a span. [5](#)He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels^c of bronze. [6](#)And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. [7](#)The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. [8](#)He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. [9](#)If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." [10](#)And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." [11](#)When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

[12](#)Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years.^d [13](#)The three oldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. [14](#)David was the youngest. The three eldest followed Saul, [15](#)but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. [16](#)For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

[17](#)And Jesse said to David his son, "Take for your brothers an ephah^e of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. [18](#)Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them."

[19](#)Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. [20](#)And David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and took the provisions and went, as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the encampment as the host was going out to the battle line, shouting the war cry. [21](#)And Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. [22](#)And David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the ranks and went and greeted his brothers. [23](#)As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

[24](#)All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid. [25](#)And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel." [26](#)And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" [27](#)And the people answered him in the same way, "So shall it be done to the man who kills him."

[28](#)Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle." [29](#)And David said, "What have I done now? Was it not but a word?" [30](#)And

he turned away from him toward another, and spoke in the same way, and the people answered him again as before.

[31](#)When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul, and he sent for him. [32](#)And David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” [33](#)And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth.” [34](#)But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, [35](#)I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. [36](#)Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” [37](#)And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!”

[38](#)Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, [39](#)and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, “I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them.” So David put them off. [40](#)Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd’s pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

[41](#)And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. [42](#)And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. [43](#)And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. [44](#)The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.” [45](#)Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. [46](#)This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, [47](#)and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give you into our hand.”

[48](#)When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. [49](#)And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

[50](#)So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. [51](#)Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. [52](#)And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath^f and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron. [53](#)And the people of Israel came back from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. [54](#)And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

55As soon as Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, “Abner, whose son is this youth?” And Abner said, “As your soul lives, O king, I do not know.” 56And the king said, “Inquire whose son the boy is.” 57And as soon as David returned from the striking down of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58And Saul said to him, “Whose son are you, young man?” And David answered, “I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.”

Surah Baqara 2:246-253

Yusuf Ali

٢٤٦- أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الْمَلِئِكِ مِنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مُوسَى إِذْ قَالُوا لِنَبِيِّ لَهُمْ ائْتِنَا مَلِكًا نُقَاتِلَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ قَالَ هَلْ عَسَيْتُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ عَلَيكُمْ الْفِتْنَةَ أَلَّا تُقَاتِلُوا قَالُوا وَمَا لَنَا أَلَّا نُقَاتِلَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْ أُخْرِجْنَا مِنْ دِيَارِنَا وَأَبْنَانَا فَلَمَّا كُنْتُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْفِتْنَةَ تَوَلَّوْا إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّنْهُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالظَّالِمِينَ ○

246. Hast thou not turned thy vision to the chiefs of the children of Israel after (the time of) Moses? They said to a Prophet (that was) among them: “Appoint for us a king that we may fight in the cause of God.” He said: “Is it not possible if ye were commanded to fight that ye will not fight?” They said: “How could we refuse to fight in the cause of God seeing that we were turned out of our homes and our families?” But when they were commanded to fight they turned back except a small band among them. But God has full knowledge of those who do wrong.

٢٤٧- وَقَالَ لَهُمْ نَبِيُّهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ بَعَثَ لَكُمْ طَالُوتَ مَلِكًا قَالُوا أَنَّى يَكُونُ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ عَلَيْنَا وَنَحْنُ أَحَقُّ بِالْمُلْكِ مِنْهُ وَلَمْ يُؤْتَ سَعَةً مِنَ الْمَالِ قَالَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَاهُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَزَادَهُ بَسْطَةً فِي الْعِلْمِ وَالْجِسْمِ وَاللَّهُ يُؤْتِي مَلِكُهُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ○

247. Their Prophet said to them: “God hath appointed Talut as king over you.” They say: “How can he exercise authority over us when we are better fitted than he to exercise authority and he is not even gifted with wealth in abundance?” He said: “God hath chosen him above you and hath gifted him abundantly with knowledge and bodily prowess; God granteth His authority to whom He pleaseth. God careth for all and He knoweth all things.”

٢٤٨- وَقَالَ لَهُمْ نَبِيُّهُمْ إِنَّ آيَةَ مُلْكِهِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَكُمُ النَّابُوتُ فِيهِ سَكِينَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَيَقِيَّةٌ مِّمَّا تَرَكَ آلُ مُوسَىٰ وَآلُ هَارُونَ تَحْمِلُهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ مُّؤْمِنِينَ ○

248. And (further) their Prophet said to them: “A sign of his authority is that there shall come to you the Ark of the Covenant with (an assurance) therein of security from your Lord and the relics left by the family of Moses and the family of Aaron carried by angels. In this is a Symbol for you if ye indeed have faith.”

٢٤٩- فَلَمَّا فَصَلَ طَالُوتُ بِالْجُنُودِ قَالَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مُبْتَلِيكُمْ بِنَهَرٍ فَمَنْ شَرِبَ مِنْهُ فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي وَمَنْ لَمْ يَطْعَمْهُ فَإِنَّهُ مِنِّي إِلَّا مَنِ اغْتَرَفَ غُرْفَةً بِيَدِهِ فَشَرَبُوا مِنْهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّنْهُمْ فَلَمَّا جَاوَزَهُ هُوَ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ قَالُوا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا الْيَوْمَ بِجَالُوتَ وَجُنُودِهِ قَالَ الَّذِينَ يَظُنُّونَ أَنَّهُمْ مُّلاَقُوا اللَّهَ كَمْ مِّن فِئَةٍ قَلِيلَةٍ غَلَبَتْ فِئَةً كَثِيرَةً بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ ○

249. When Talut set forth with the armies he said: “God will test you at the stream; if any drinks of its water he goes not with my army; only those who taste not of it go with me; a mere sip out of the hand is excused.” But they all drank of it except a few. When they crossed the river he and the faithful ones with him they said: “This day we cannot cope with Goliath and his forces.” But those who were convinced that they must meet God said: “How oft by God’s will hath a small force vanquished a big one? God is with those who steadfastly persevere.”

○ ٢٥٠- وَلَمَّا بَرَزُوا لِجَالُوتَ وَجُنُودِهِ قَالُوا رَبَّنَا أَفْرِغْ عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ ○

250. When they advanced to meet Goliath and his forces they prayed: “Our Lord! pour out constancy on us and make our steps firm; help us against those that reject faith.”

○ ٢٥١- فَهَزَمُوهُمْ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَقَتَلَ دَاوُودُ جَالُوتَ وَآتَاهُ اللَّهُ الْمُلْكَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَعَلَّمَهُ مِمَّا يَشَاءُ ۗ وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لَفَسَدَتِ الْأَرْضُ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ ذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ ○

251. By God’s will they routed them: and David slew Goliath; and God gave him power and wisdom and taught him whatever (else) He willed. And did not God check one set of people by means of another the earth would indeed be full of mischief but God is full of bounty to all the worlds.

○ ٢٥٢- تِلْكَ آيَاتُ اللَّهِ نَتْلُوهَا عَلَيْكَ بِالْحَقِّ ۗ وَإِنَّكَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ○

252. These are the signs of God; We rehearse them to thee in truth: verily thou art one of the apostles.

○ ٢٥٣- تِلْكَ الرُّسُلُ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ مِّنْ كَلِمِ اللَّهِ ۗ وَرَفَعْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ دَرَجَاتٍ ۗ وَآتَيْنَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَأَيَّدْنَاهُ بِرُوحِ الْقُدُسِ ۗ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا أَفْتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِن بَعْدِهِمْ مِّنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ وَلَكِنِ اخْتَلَفُوا فَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ آمَنَ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ كَفَرَ ۗ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا أَفْتَنَّا لَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا أَفْعَلْنَا مَا يَفْعَلُ مَا يُرِيدُ ○

253. Those apostles We endowed with gifts some above others: to one of them God spoke; others He raised to degrees (of honor); to Jesus the son of Mary We gave clear (Signs) and strengthened him with the Holy Spirit. If God had so willed succeeding generations would not have fought among each other after clear (Signs) had come to them but they (chose) to wrangle some believing and others rejecting. If God had so willed they would not have fought each other; but God fulfilleth His plan.

Haleem

²⁴⁶[Prophet], consider the leaders of the Children of Israel who came after Moses, when they said to one of their prophets, ‘Set up a king for us and we shall fight in God’s cause.’ He said, ‘But could it be that you would not fight, if it were ordained for you?’ They said, ‘How could we not fight in God’s cause when we and our children have been driven out of our homeland?’ Yet when they were commanded to fight, all but a few of them turned away: God has full knowledge of those who do wrong. ²⁴⁷Their prophet said to them, ‘God has now appointed Talut^c to be your king,’ but they said, ‘How can he be king over us when we have a greater right to rule than he? He does not even have great wealth.’ He said, ‘God has chosen him over you, and has given him great knowledge and stature. God grants His authority to whoever He pleases: God is magnanimous, all knowing.’ ²⁴⁸Their prophet said to them, ‘The sign of his authority will be that the Ark [of the Covenant] will come to you. In it there will be [the gift of] tranquillity from your Lord and relics of the followers of Moses and Aaron, carried by the angels. There is a sign in this for you if you believe.’

²⁴⁹When Talut set out with his forces, he said to them, ‘God will test you with a river. Anyone who drinks from it will not belong with me, but anyone who refrains from tasting it will belong with me; if he scoops up just one handful [he will be excused].’ But they all drank [deep] from it, except for a few. When he crossed it with those who had kept faith, they^a said, ‘We have no strength today against Goliath and his warriors.’ But those who knew that they were going to meet their Lord said, ‘How often a small force has defeated a large army with God’s permission! God is with those who are steadfast.’²⁵⁰ And when they met Goliath and his warriors, they said, ‘Our Lord, pour patience on us, make us stand firm, and help us against the disbelievers,’²⁵¹ and so with God’s permission they defeated them. David killed Goliath, and God gave him sovereignty and wisdom and taught him what He pleased. If God did not drive some back by means of others the earth would be completely corrupt, but God is bountiful to all.

²⁵²These are the revelations of God which We recite to you [Muhammad] with the truth, and you truly are one of the messengers. ²⁵³We favoured some of these messengers above others. God spoke to some; others He raised in rank; We gave Jesus, son of Mary, Our clear signs and strengthened him with the holy spirit. If God had so willed, their successors would not have fought each other after they had been brought clear signs. But they disagreed: some believed and some disbelieved. If God had so willed, they would not have fought each other, but God does what He will.