

**Sunday Morning 1-8-17 Message**  
**IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?**

I Samuel 17:17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren;

I Samuel 17:18 And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.

I Samuel 17:19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

I Samuel 17:20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.

I Samuel 17:21 For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army.

I Samuel 17:22 And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.

I Samuel 17:23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them.

I Samuel 17:24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

I Samuel 17:25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

I Samuel 17:26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

I Samuel 17:27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

I Samuel 17:28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

I Samuel 17:29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

I Samuel 17:30 And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

I Samuel 17:31 And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.

I Samuel 17:32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

I have been thinking recently of this statement that David made on that great day when he defeated Goliath on the battlefield, when he was accused of evil motives, when his motives were called into question as to why he was inquiring about Goliath, and there being no man who was willing to fight him. He just turned to his brother and said:

What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

What a statement for action.

What a magnificent evaluation of the situation.

David was amazed that there was no man out of all the thousands of Israel who was willing to fight against this heathen Philistine.

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE???? HE SAID.

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE:

What exactly does this statement mean?

**[?]dabar**, daw-baw'r'; from 1696; a word; by impl. a matter (as spoken of) or thing; adv. a cause:-act, advice, affair, answer, X any such (thing), + because of, book, business, care, case, cause, certain rate, + chronicles, commandment, X commune (-ication), + concern -ing, + confer, counsel, + dearth, decree, deed, X disease, due, duty, effect, + eloquent, errand, evil favoured- ness, + glory, + harm, hurt, + iniquity, + judgment, language, + lying, manner, matter, message, no thing, oracle, X ought, X parts, + pertaining, + please, portion, + power, promise, provision, purpose, question, rate, reason, report, request, X (as hast) said, sake, saying, sentence, + sign, + so, some uncleanness, somewhat to say, + song, speech, X spoken, talk, task, + that, X there done, thing (concerning), thought, + thus, tidings, what soever, + wherewith, which, word, work.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

**[?]dabar**, daw-bar'; a prim. root; perh. prop. to arrange; but used fig. (of words) to speak; rarely (in a destructive sense) to subdue:-answer, appoint, bid, command, commune, declare, destroy, give, name, promise, pronounce, rehearse, say, speak, be spokesman, subdue, talk, teach.

In other words, is there not a time to take a stand? Is there not a truth worth living for; indeed, worth dying for if necessary? Where is Israel's conviction?

Is there not a cause means:

We have something that is deserving our support (a worthy cause).

To what end do we believe in our cause?

How much are we willing to sacrifice for our cause?

This was a great motivational statement that David shared.

He was trying to rally his people to the cause!

Are we to stand back and let this unbeliever defy and blaspheme our God?

Think of the significance of this statement.

### ***I. DAVID MADE THIS STATEMENT WHEN OTHERS TRIED TO DISCOURAGE HIM.***

The extent you believe in your cause is the extent you will face opposition from those who try to dissuade you and divert you from what God clearly wants you and His people to do!

“Is there not a cause?” he said.

Apparently no one else thought that cause was worth dying for, or risking their lives for.

The worthiness of your cause can be measured by what you will let deter or discourage you for standing up and fighting and working to further that cause.

### **1. Notice what David's brother said to him.**

I Samuel 17:28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

I Samuel 17:29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

### **A. ELIAB ACCUSED DAVID OF HAVING EVIL MOTIVES FOR STIRRING UP THE MEN..**

He said I know your pride. You think you're great stuff.  
You think too highly of yourself.  
Who do you think you are, making this stir.

When you are zealous for the Lord there will always be those who will question your genuineness:

I know your pride, Eliab said to David.

Did they not accuse Jesus of evil? He did miracles through the power of Satan they said.

Luke 11:15 But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.

Was not Paul accused of evil by his peers? He taught against the Law, they said. They imprisoned him as an evildoer when he did nothing amiss.

What wrong did Abel do for Cain to kill him?  
What evil did Jeremiah do against his nation?

### **B. Eliab said I know the naughtiness of thine heart. You came down to see the battle.**

I Samuel 17:28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

I Samuel 17:29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

Eliab said you're a thrill seeker.  
You just came down to see the excitement.  
To you it is like a sport.

People surmise all kind of reasons men of God do and say the things they do and say. It all comes from the filtered viewpoint of their own corrupt heart.

Others are quick to see fault in others because they themselves have those very faults.

## **II. NOTICE DAVID DID NOT LET THIS DISCOURAGE HIM FROM HIS CAUSE**

I Samuel 17:29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

I Samuel 17:30 And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

Notice how David did not let people discourage him from seeking the advancement of God's kingdom and glory.

“What have I now done?” David said. Did I do evil? Am I doing evil? Is there not a cause to advance.

David was totally amazed that no one was willing to fight this Philistine.

So he kept stirring up the men asking them this same question.

WHAT WILL BE DONE FOR THE MAN THAT DEFEATS THIS HEATHEN WARRIOR?

What was he trying to do? No doubt he was egging on some of the men to muster up the courage and recruit someone to fight this Philistine.

Obviously David was not doing this in a quiet manner he was so bold and brazen that his actions were reported to Saul..

***I Samuel 17:31 And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.***

***I Samuel 17:32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.***

There was a Spirit in David that was driving him to be zealous for the right cause.

It amazes me how easily people are discouraged in the work of the Lord.

They obviously do not view the cause they are working for as more important than the distractions and people who try to sidetrack them from the cause.

## **III. WHAT WAS DAVID'S CAUSE THAT WAS WORTH FIGHTING FOR?**

I Samuel 17:26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

I Samuel 17:32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

I Samuel 17:33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

I Samuel 17:34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

I Samuel 17:35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

I Samuel 17:36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

### **1. What was David's cause?**

- A. GOLIATH'S THREAT WAS BRINGING REPROACH TO THE GOD OF ISRAEL
- B. THIS PHILISTINE WAS BRINGING A REPROACH TO ALL OF ISRAEL..
- C. THE CAUSE WAS TO DISPEL THIS REPROACH AND BRING GLORY TO GOD!

David said.. I will fight for this cause.

### **2. DAVID DISCERNED THAT GOD PREPARED HIM TO FIGHT FOR THIS CAUSE.**

I Samuel 17:34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

I Samuel 17:35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

I Samuel 17:36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

I Samuel 17:37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

David discerned that God prepared him for this battle through an unconventional way.

God expects us to use our talents to further the cause that he has set before us in this day that we live. He prepares us to fight for that cause.

Notice the description of Goliath:

***I Samuel 17:4 And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. (approx. 9'9"-10')***

***I Samuel 17:5 And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. approx. 135 lbs***

***I Samuel 17:6 And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.***

***I Samuel 17:7 And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: (Approx. 15 lbs) and one bearing a shield went before him.***

God allowed David to experience a trial where he had to put down a lion and a bear. These two adversaries were at least as strong and vicious as this Philistine. David reasoned that if God could help him against these foes, so too could God help him to defeat this Philistine.

I Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

It is God who advances us and prepares us for the trials that we face in this life.

#### ***IV. DO WE HAVE A CAUSE WORTH FIGHTING FOR?***

Is there not a cause?

When I see Christians cower and drop out for the Lord in the day we live. I ask myself IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

Satan like that Giant Philistine is a formidable foe. He seems like he is winning, threatening Christians and the church and men flee from him.

#### **BUT IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?**

What is our cause today?

Did not Jesus come to earth to destroy the works of satan?

Did He not come to set the captives free?

Did He not promise us that He would be with us as we go and tell others about His soon appearing and that He is looking to recruit citizens for His future Kingdom?

Did Jesus not lay down his life for His church?

Did he not tell us to occupy till he comes?

Is not the advancement of His church a great cause?

What if a brother or sister offends you like Eliab did to David?

CAN WE NOT SAY IS THERE NOT A CAUSE AND KEEP KEEPING ON?

What if our motives are called into question?

CAN WE NOT SAY AS DAVID SAID, IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

Let us encourage each other in the fight.

Let's fight the fight and finish our race.

Am I a soldier of the cross?

A follow'r of the Lamb?

And shall I fear to own His cause,

Or blush to speak His name?

Must I be carried to the skies

On flow'ry beds of ease,

While others fought to win the prize,

And sailed through bloody seas?

Are there no foes for me to face?  
Must I not stem the flood?  
Is this vile world a friend to grace,  
To help me on to God?

Sure I must fight if I would reign;  
Increase my courage, Lord;  
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,  
Supported by Thy Word.

Think about it. When people quit and cop out of the fight, are they not saying the CAUSE IS NOT WORTH THE SACRIFICE?

Think about this. How many times did Paul go into a Synagogue somewhere, and afterward those Jews had him imprisoned, beat, and even stoned?

But did he ever say, I am not ever going back into one of those synagogues?

YET SOMETHING HAPPENS IN CHURCH THAT WE DON'T LIKE AND WE SAY:  
:I'm never going back to church ever again".

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

I like what Paul said to the Hebrews,

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

Eliab says to David I KNOW YOUR PRIDE. I KNOW YOUR MOTIVES. YOU'RE NO GOOD. David didn't cower and say, well I'll just go back home to daddy and mommy. HE SAID BODLY WHAT HAVE I DONE? IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

Is that cause worth sacrificing for?

Is that cause worth enduring people saying unkind things about you behind your back?

To what extent would you be inconvenienced for this cause?

To what extent would you suffer for this cause?

To what extent would you even risk death for this cause?

We are supposed to but do we?

Do we believe what Jesus said to his church?

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Do we believe in our cause this much ?

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

We are so shallow.

I remember a fellow who stopped coming to church. When I went to visit him I asked what was going on. He said one week he came to church and got a flat tire, and then another week on the way to church his engine went. He took this as a sign that he should stop coming to church.

Another time a lady was coming to church faithfully and then fell away. I saw her in a mall one day and asked what happened, why did she stop coming? She said I just can't take it.. I said take what? You know, all the problems. I said what problems? She said, you know all the funerals in such a short time. I just shook my head thinking, are we so shallow? Is our hope in this world? What promise do we have in this life? The Bible says our life is a vapour that is going to fade away.

***I Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:***

***I Peter 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.***

***I Peter 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.***

***I Peter 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.***

***I Peter 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.***

***I Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?***

***I Peter 4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?***

***I Peter 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.***

This is what it is all about. As Christians we should be able to endure suffering with grace because we have a greater place God promised us.

WHY IS IT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS???

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE??

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE??

Consider, how great is your cause?  
How great is your faith?

I Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Just because you are a Christian do you think you will be exempt from sickness, heartache, and suffering?

Will you resolve to gird up your loins and face the trials and face the tribulation with a smile on your face and a glow in your heart for the Lord!

JUST HOW GREAT A CAUSE DO YOU HAVE?

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

I believe we have a great cause? I hope you agree.

## **THE CHARACTER TRAITS AND VIRTUES OF DAVID THAT MADE HIM NOBLE TO FIGHT FOR THE GREAT CAUSE**

### ***I. Consider He was a Humble Servant***

I Samuel 16:6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him.

I Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

I Samuel 16:8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

I Samuel 16:9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

I Samuel 16:10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

I Samuel 16:11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

I Samuel 16:12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

### ***II. HE WAS FILLED OF THE SPIRIT.***

I Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

I Samuel 16:14 But the spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

### ***III. HE HAD A CAUSE IN HIS LIFE.***

I Samuel 17:22 And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.

I Samuel 17:23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them.

I Samuel 17:24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

I Samuel 17:25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

I Samuel 17:26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

I Samuel 17:27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

I Samuel 17:28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom

hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

I Samuel 17:29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

I Samuel 17:30 And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

I Samuel 17:31 And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.

I Samuel 17:32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

#### ***IV. HE WAS A YOUNG MAN WHO WAS PREPARED OF THE LORD:***

I Samuel 17:33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

I Samuel 17:34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

I Samuel 17:35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

I Samuel 17:36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

I Samuel 17:37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

#### ***V. HE WAS A YOUNG MAN THAT EXHIBITED MATURITY AND WISDOM:***

I Samuel 17:38 And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.

I Samuel 17:39 And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

I Samuel 17:40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

I Samuel 17:41 And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him.

#### ***VI. HE WAS A YOUNG MAN THAT WAS BLESSED OF GOD AND PROSPERED IN ALL THAT HE DID***

I Samuel 17:42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

I Samuel 17:43 And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

I Samuel 17:44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

I Samuel 17:45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

1 Samuel 17:46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

1 Samuel 17:47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

1 Samuel 17:48 And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

1 Samuel 17:49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

1 Samuel 17:50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

1 Samuel 17:51 Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

1 Samuel 17:52 And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron.

And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span appx. 9'9".<sup>2</sup> He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze roughly 125 pounds. And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels about 15 pounds; and a shield-bearer went before him. (1 Samuel 17:4-7, bracketed information added)