

The Attackers: D-Day Retrospective: Build Up to Operation Overlord; Shepherd Leaders: David: His Arrival at the Valley of Elah & Initial Encounter with Goliath of Gath; David Meets with Saul & Expresses Willingness to Accept Goliath's Challenge to a One-on-One; David's Divine Viewpoint & Saul's Human Viewpoint

5. **David** was the youngest of Jesse's eight sons. He was tasked with the duty of shepherding his father's flocks. He too, learned leadership principles from managing the sheep including the obligation to put his own life on the line when any of the animals were threatened.
6. First Samuel 17 documents David's courageous entry into combat as a mere youth. Saul was unable to defeat the Philistine army which included Goliath and four of his relatives (see 2 Samuel 21:16-22).
7. David's father, Jesse, sent him to the Israeli encampment in the Valley of Elah with food for his brothers who were in King Saul's army. Upon arrival he discovered the standoff and learned that Goliath was the reason for it.
8. David was incensed by the news that the army of Israel was held at bay by one man.

1 Samuel 17:26b - "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?"

9. Eliab \ē-lī'-āb\ was David's oldest sibling. He could not believe that his teenage brother was inquiring in such strong terms about whom Eliab considered a formidable enemy.
10. In arrogance he accused David of shirking his duty of shepherding the sheep so he could come down and view the battle. To this, David replied:

1 Samuel 17:29 - "What have I done now? Was it not just a question?"

11. When news got to Saul about David's inquiry, he had David brought to his headquarters. The exchange between the boy David and the adult king reveals the mental attitude possessed by David. His integrity denied him the luxury of fear in the face of personal danger:

1 Samuel 17:32 - David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

v. 33 - Then Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth."