



# Knocking Down a Giant

1Samuel 17

# The Cast Of Characters

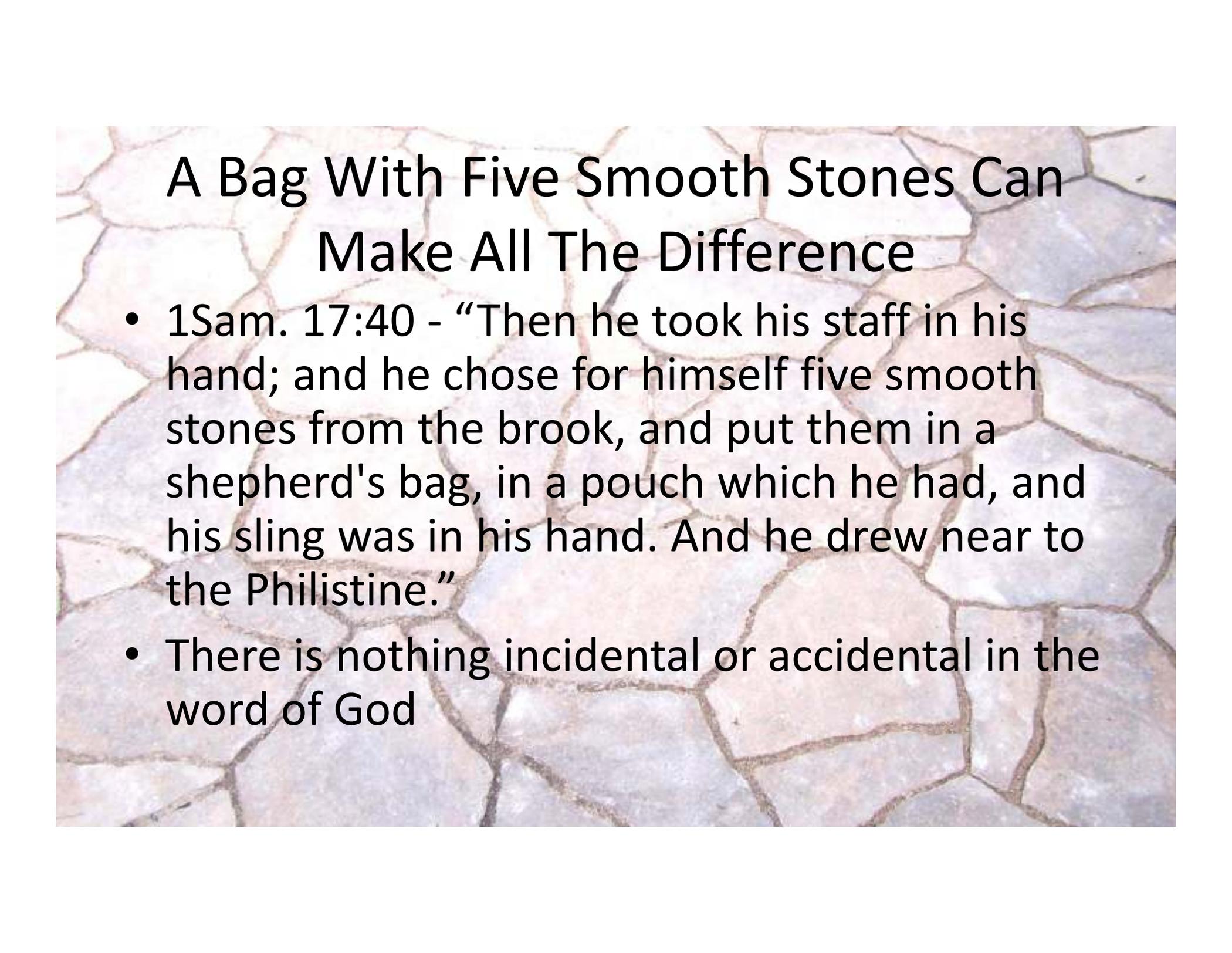
- Big, boasting Goliath represents an angry, raging world seeking to destroy all that is good and godly
  - 1Sam. 17:8-10 - “Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose 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 armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.”

# The Cast Of Characters

- Fearful, trembling Israel represents a faithless people who believe in God but, through weakness of faith, fail to conquer in His name.
  - 1Sam. 17:11 - “When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.”

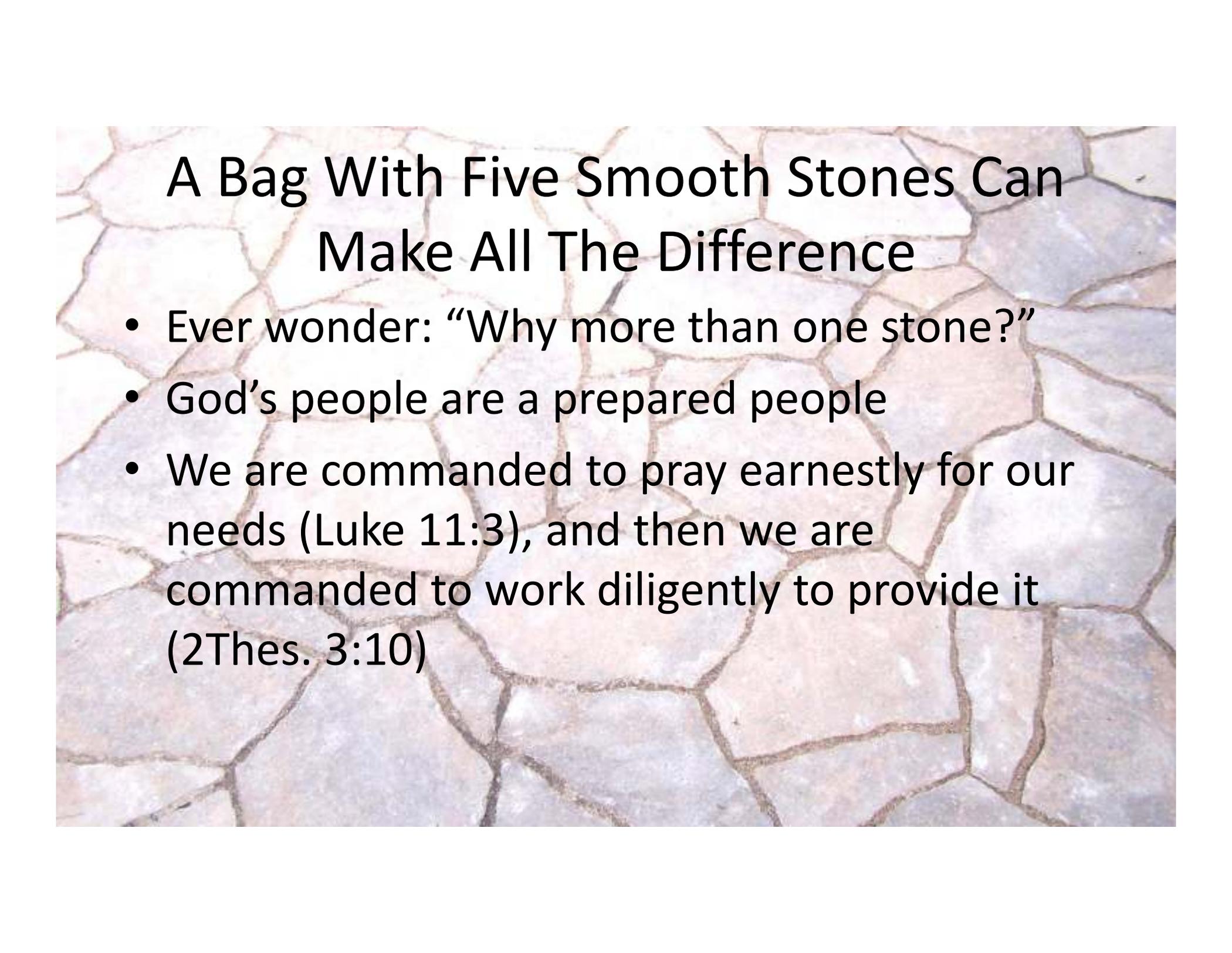
# The Cast Of Characters

- Strong, quiet David represents the Christian whose faith is in God and who relies on the power of God
  - 1Sam. 17:37 - “Moreover David said, The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and the LORD be with you!”



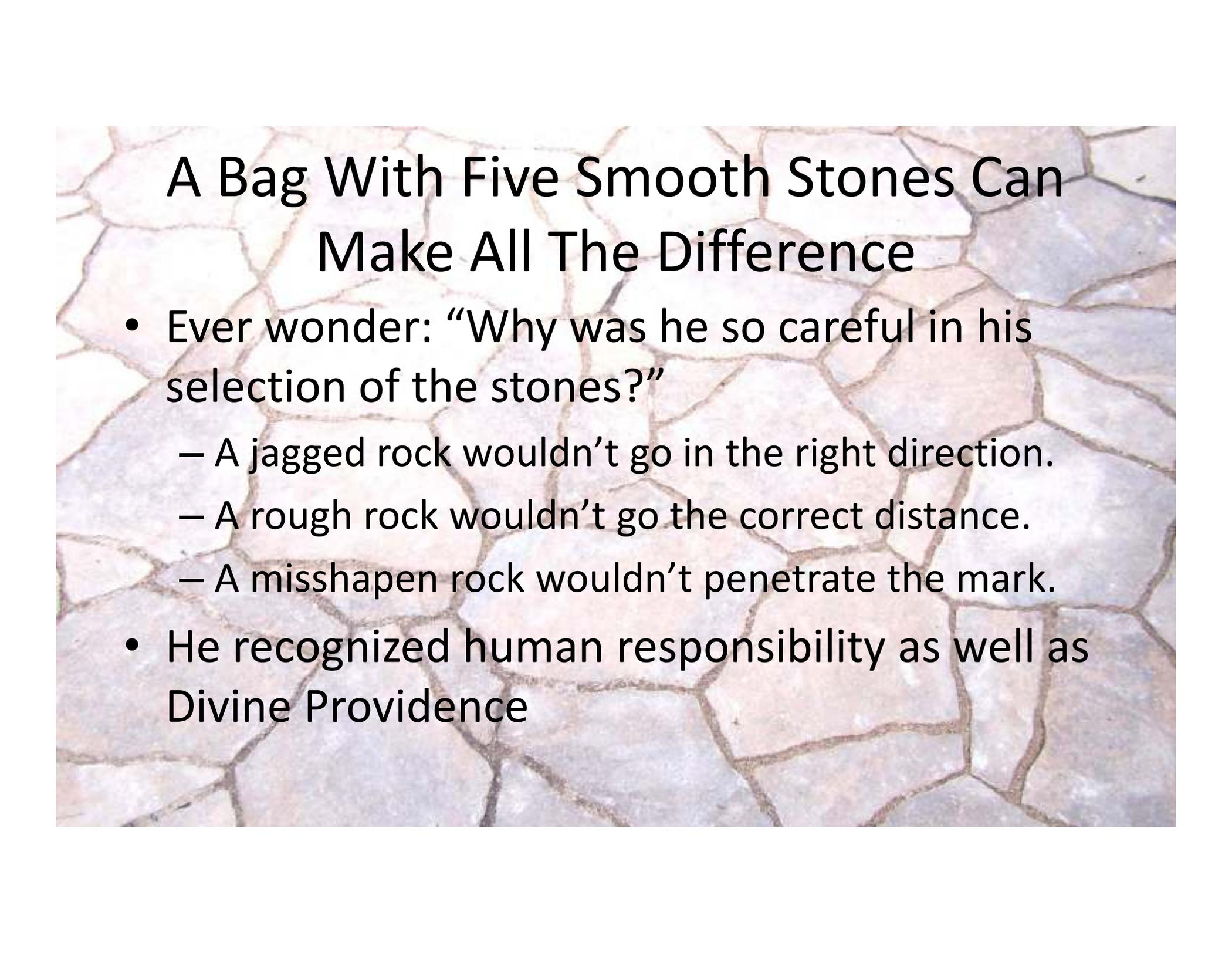
## A Bag With Five Smooth Stones Can Make All The Difference

- 1Sam. 17:40 - “Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.”
- There is nothing incidental or accidental in the word of God



## A Bag With Five Smooth Stones Can Make All The Difference

- Ever wonder: “Why more than one stone?”
- God’s people are a prepared people
- We are commanded to pray earnestly for our needs (Luke 11:3), and then we are commanded to work diligently to provide it (2Thes. 3:10)



## A Bag With Five Smooth Stones Can Make All The Difference

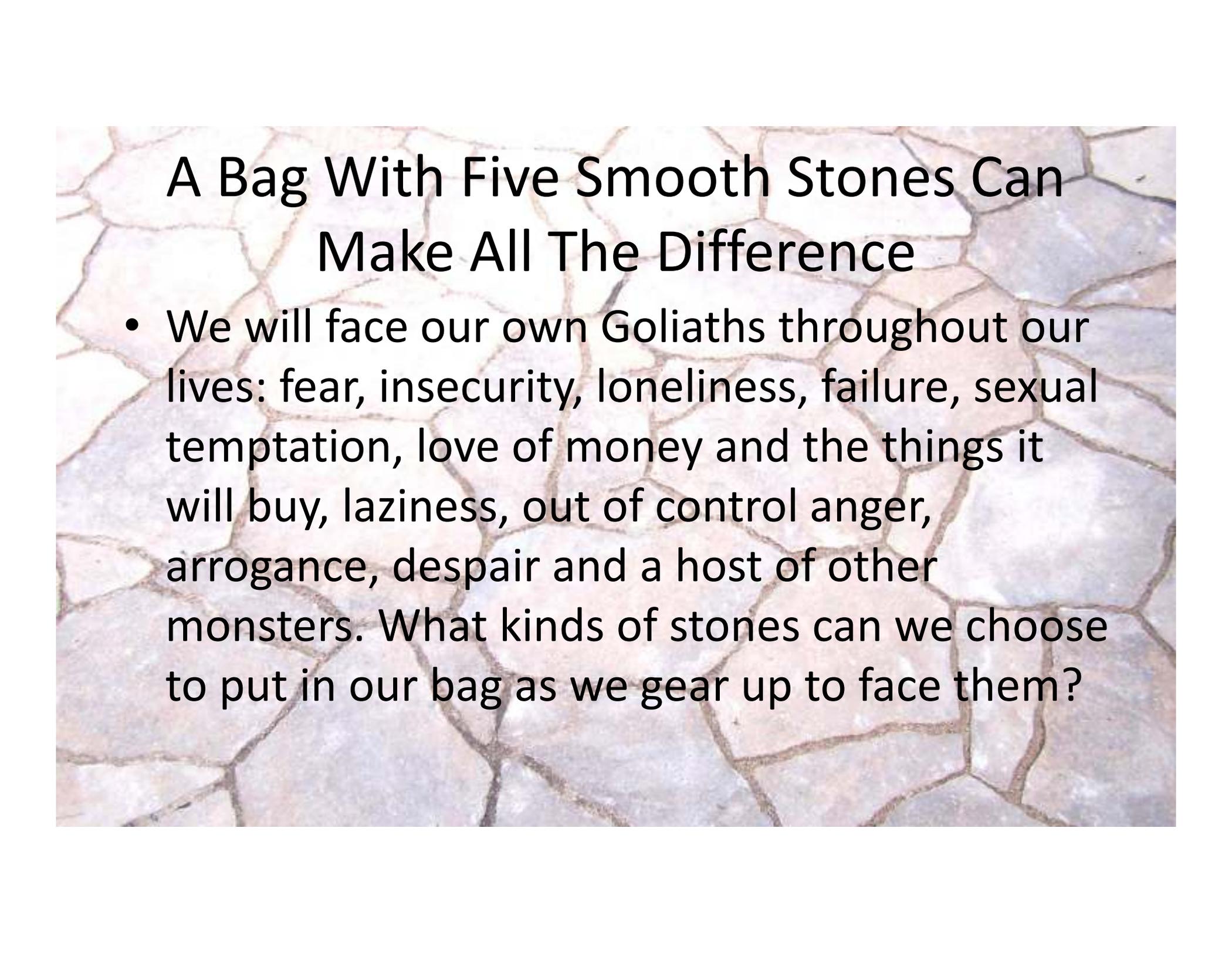
- Ever wonder: “Why was he so careful in his selection of the stones?”
  - A jagged rock wouldn’t go in the right direction.
  - A rough rock wouldn’t go the correct distance.
  - A misshapen rock wouldn’t penetrate the mark.
- He recognized human responsibility as well as Divine Providence

# A Bag With Five Smooth Stones Can Make All The Difference

- His preparations would make little sense to a seasoned warrior like Saul, but, it was what David knew; it was what he could do
  - 1Sam. 17:38-39 - “So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. 39 David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them. So David took them off.”

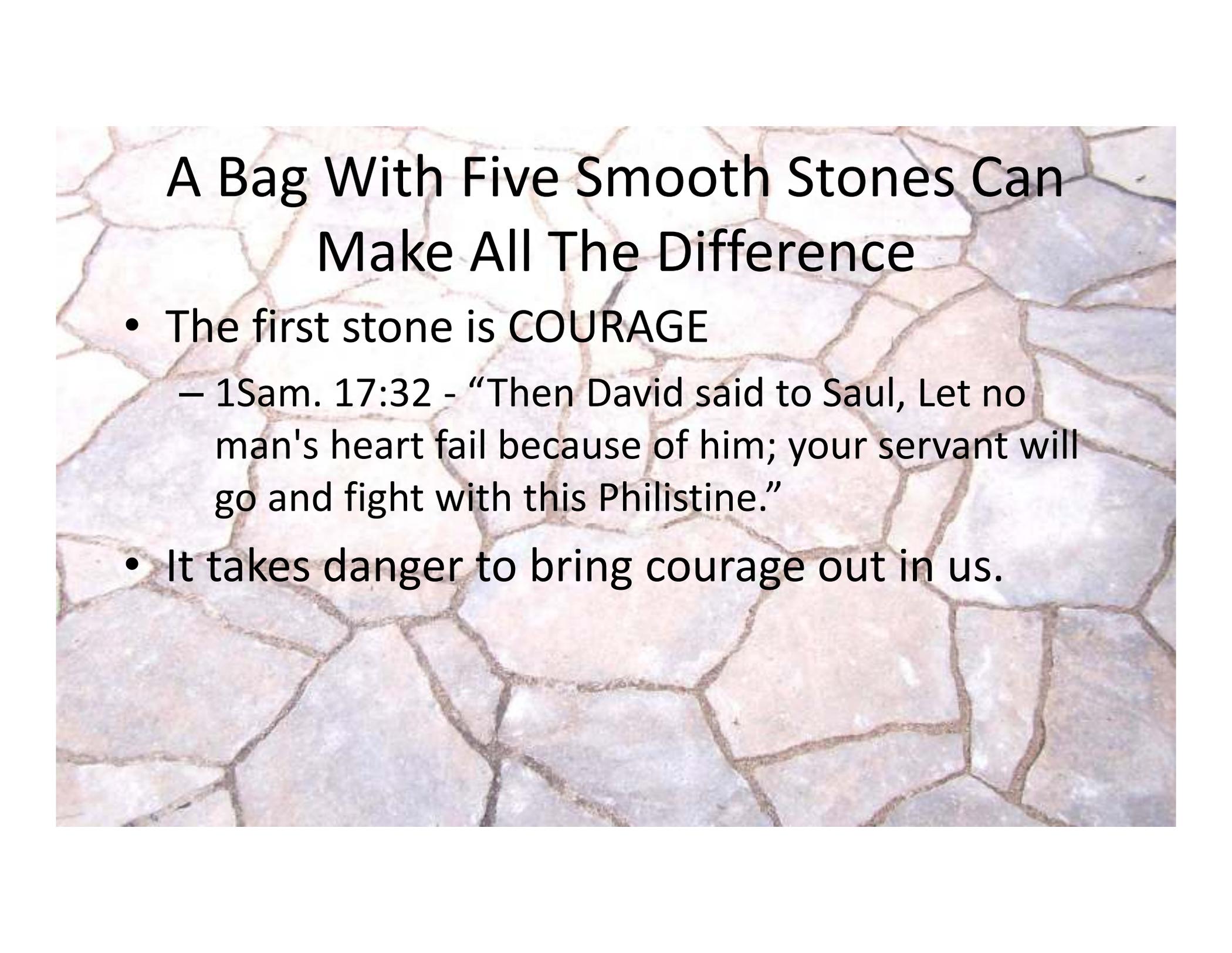
# A Bag With Five Smooth Stones Can Make All The Difference

- Our weapons might not make sense to the worldly, but we are armed with what God's wisdom has determined is suited to our abilities and designed to defeat our enemies
  - 2Cor. 10:3-5 - "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"



## A Bag With Five Smooth Stones Can Make All The Difference

- We will face our own Goliaths throughout our lives: fear, insecurity, loneliness, failure, sexual temptation, love of money and the things it will buy, laziness, out of control anger, arrogance, despair and a host of other monsters. What kinds of stones can we choose to put in our bag as we gear up to face them?



## A Bag With Five Smooth Stones Can Make All The Difference

- The first stone is COURAGE
  - 1Sam. 17:32 - “Then David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”
- It takes danger to bring courage out in us.

# A Bag With Five Smooth Stones Can Make All The Difference

- The second stone is CONFIDENCE
  - 1Sam. 17:37 - “Moreover David said, The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and the LORD be with you!”
- Confidence has no purpose in a life without challenges.

# A Bag With Five Smooth Stones Can Make All The Difference

- The third stone is PREPARATION
  - 1Sam. 17:40 - “Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.”
- Preparation manifests character, wisdom, humility, determination, and a host of rare, highly desired qualities

# A Bag With Five Smooth Stones Can Make All The Difference

- The fourth stone is TRUST
  - 1Sam. 17:45 - “Then David said to the Philistine, You come to me with a sword, 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.”
- David did not trust in his own ability to slay the giant

# A Bag With Five Smooth Stones Can Make All The Difference

- The fifth stone is VICTORY
  - 1Sam. 17:50 - “So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.”
- David said, “It is God's battle”; and therefore, the victory is His, too

# Giants Get Back Up

- Are you aware that Goliath had four sons who were gigantic and great warriors in their own right?
  - 2Sam. 21:15-22

# Giants Get Back Up

- Ishbi-Benob wielded a bronze spear weighing in at 12 pounds and was outfitted with a brand new shield and sword, went to find David and kill him
- Saph was another son of Goliath killed at the first battle of Gob by Sibbechai, a great mercenary warrior from Cush in Africa

# Giants Get Back Up

- The son of Goliath called the Gittite who also used a weaver's beam shafted spear was killed at the second battle of Gob by Elhanan of Bethlehem, a captain in David's army
- A fourth son of Goliath who was unnamed but had 24 digits was killed at the battle of Gath by David's nephew, Jonathan, son of Shimea

# Giants Get Back Up

- Just because you knock down your giant today doesn't mean four more won't rise up again tomorrow to challenge you again
- Life is not about one great quest or defined by a single glorious battle
- It is easier to die for Jesus than it is to live for Him.

# Faith Is The Victory

- Faith is the factor that made all of the difference in David's battle with Goliath
  - David had faith in God; he lived and won the battle
  - King Saul had faith in God but looked toward himself and his knees trembled; he lost his honor and his kingdom
  - Israel had faith in God but looked to a man for leadership and salvation; they were humiliated and rebuked
  - Goliath had faith in himself and died in shame and pain.

# Faith Is The Victory

- Faith is the factor that makes all of the difference in our battles with our giants
  - Faith in God resolutely faces challenges; it does not complain about the magnitude of the problem.
  - Faith in self or in others leads to failure and a search for someone to blame

# Faith Is The Victory

- Faith in God overcomes obstacles regardless of how limited our weapons, resources, and strength may be. This is true because God adds His power to ours
  - Rev. 3:8, 10 - “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name... 10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”
- Faith in self or in things is only as strong as the self or the thing. It inevitably runs out and falls down

# Faith Is The Victory

- Faith in God wins the victory every time
  - 1John 5:4-5 - “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”