

# 1 Chronicles 20:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea David's brother slew him.

## Analysis

---

**Theological Analysis:** This passage falls within the section on Final conquests and giant slayers. The Hebrew term גִּיָּף (rapha) - giant/Rephaim is theologically significant here, pointing to God enables victory over impossible odds. The Chronicler's narrative, while paralleling Samuel-Kings in places, offers a distinct theological perspective emphasizing temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Chronicles presents David not primarily as warrior-king but as worship organizer and temple planner. This verse contributes to that portrait by highlighting the spiritual dimensions of Israel's national life. The text demonstrates that true prosperity comes through proper worship and covenant obedience rather than merely military or political success.

Doctrinally, this passage teaches about God enables victory over impossible odds. Cross-references throughout Chronicles connect David's reign to the broader redemptive narrative, showing how God's covenant promises advance through faithful human leadership while ultimately depending on divine grace and power. The messianic implications are profound: Christ defeats spiritual giants (powers and principalities).

## Historical Context

---

**Historical Background:** This section describes events from David's reign (c. 1010-970 BCE) but was written centuries later during the Persian period (c. 450-400 BCE). The Chronicler's selectivity in retelling David's story serves his theological purposes—he omits David's sins (Bathsheba, Absalom's rebellion) while emphasizing David's worship reforms and temple preparations.

The historical setting of Final conquests and giant slayers occurred during Israel's united monarchy, when the nation reached its territorial and political zenith. Archaeological evidence from this period shows significant building projects and administrative development. However, the Chronicler writes for a much smaller, struggling post-exilic community, using David's golden age to inspire hope for restoration.

Ancient Near Eastern parallels show that temple construction and royal sponsorship of worship were common across cultures. However, Israel's understanding of worship centered on covenant relationship with the one true God rather than manipulation of capricious deities. This theological distinctiveness shapes the Chronicler's presentation.

## Related Passages

---

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

---

1. How does this verse's emphasis on God enables victory over impossible odds challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?

2. What does Christ defeats spiritual giants (powers and principalities) teach you about Jesus Christ and His redemptive work?
3. In what practical ways can you apply the principles of covenant faithfulness and proper worship demonstrated in this passage?

## Interlinear Text

---

וַיִּדְבֹּרֵהוּ	אֶת	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיַּחַדֵּהוּ	יְהוֹנָתָן	בֶּן	שִׁמְעָא
But when he defied		Israel	slew	Jonathan	the son	of Shimea
H2778	H853	H3478	H5221	H3083	H1121	H8092

  

אָחִי	דָּוִד׃
brother	David's
H251	H1732

## Additional Cross-References

---

- 1 Chronicles 2:13** (Parallel theme): And Jesse begat his firstborn Eliab, and Abinadab the second, and Shimma the third,
- 1 Samuel 16:9** (Parallel theme): Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.