

# 1 Samuel 17:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day;  
give me a man, that we may fight together.

## Analysis

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**And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.**

The Goliath narrative demonstrates that human impossibilities create opportunities for divine glory. David's confidence rests not in weapons or military training but in the character of the God who delivered him from lion and bear. His declaration that 'the battle is the LORD's' establishes the theological principle that spiritual victory comes through faith in God's power rather than confidence in human strength. The contrast between Saul's armor (representing human methods) and simple shepherd's weapons (representing faith) teaches that God uses unexpected means to accomplish His purposes and receive glory.

## Historical Context

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The establishment of monarchy around 1050-1010 BCE represented a dramatic political and theological shift for Israel. Unlike surrounding nations where kings were considered divine or semi-divine, Israel's kings were supposed to function under God's ultimate authority as laid out in Deuteronomy 17:14-20. The Benjamite tribe occupied strategic territory between Ephraim and Judah, making Saul's selection a politically astute choice to balance tribal rivalries. Archaeological remains from this period show increased fortification and centralization of settlements, confirming the transition to state-level organization.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage deepen our understanding of God's character, purposes, and ways of working in human history?
2. What specific heart attitudes, thought patterns, or life practices does this passage call you to examine or change?
3. How does this passage connect to the larger biblical narrative of redemption and point toward Christ and the gospel?

## Interlinear Text

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יֵשׁוּעָא ל	מַעֲרֹכ וְת	אֶת	חֵב פָּתִי	אֲנִי	הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי	וַיֹּאמֶר
said	And the Philistine	H589	I defy	H853	the armies	of Israel
H559	H6430		H2778		H4634	H3478
יַחַד:	וְנִלְחָמָה	ה	אִישׁ	לִי	תִּנּוּ	הַיּוֹם
this day	give	H0	me a man	that we may fight	together	
H3117	H2088	H5414	H376	H3898	H3162	

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 17:45** (References Israel): 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 17:36** (Parallel theme): 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.

**Nehemiah 2:19** (Parallel theme): But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?

**2 Samuel 21:21** (References Israel): And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea the brother of David slew him.

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