

1 Samuel 17:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

Analysis

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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

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

וְכֹל	אֲנָשִׁים	יִשְׁרָאֵל	בְּרָאֹת	מִ	יְהִי	וְיִשְׁרָאֵל	וְיִכְלֶל	וְיִתְּלַכֵּד	וְיִתְּפַתֵּח
H3605	And all the men	of Israel	when they saw		H853	And all the men		fled	
	H376	H3478		H7200		H376			H5127
מִפְנֵן	וְיִירָא	מִפְנֵן	מִפְנֵן	מִפְנֵן	מִפְנֵן	מִפְנֵן	מִפְנֵן	מִפְנֵן	מִפְנֵן
from him	afraid	and were sore							
H6440	H3372	H3966							

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