

1 Samuel 17:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

Analysis

And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

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 Benjaminite 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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

עַל הַבָּא וְשָׁבָא אָמַר
said And the men Israel Have ye seen And the men is he come up

H559 H376 H3478 H7200 H376 H5927

אָתָה לְפָנֶיךָ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: עַל הַבָּא וְשָׁבָא אָמַר
surely to defy Israel is he come up

H2088 H3588 H2778 H853 H3478 H5927

בְּאָשֶׁר יְצַקֵּנוּ יְמִשְׁכָּנוּ בְּמַלְכֵנוּ עַל שָׁרֶבֶת
And the men who killeth will enrich him the king riches him with great

H376 H834 H5221 H6238 H4428 H6239 H1419

וְאֵת בַּתָּוֹת יְתַן לְזִקְנֵת בֵּית וְאֵת אָבִיו
him his daughter and will give house his father's

H853 H1323 H5414 H853 H1004 H1

בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: סְפִישׁ יְמִשְׁשֶׁת
and make free Israel

H6213 H2670 H3478

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 15:16 (Parallel theme): And Caleb said, He that smiteth Kirjath-sepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife.

Revelation 3:12 (Parallel theme): Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Revelation 2:7 (Parallel theme): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.