

1 Samuel 17:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

Analysis

And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

David's question cuts to the theological heart of the matter: Goliath is an 'uncircumcised Philistine' defying 'the armies of the living God.' The Hebrew cherpah (reproach) indicates disgrace or shame. David saw what trained soldiers missed - this was primarily an affront to God's honor, not merely a military problem. His indignation arose from zeal for God's glory rather than personal ambition or youthful rashness.

Historical Context

Circumcision marked covenant membership; its absence marked Goliath as outside God's people and promises. The term 'living God' (Elohim chayyim) contrasted Yahweh with the lifeless idols of Philistine temples (Dagon). David's perspective reflected the covenant worldview lacking in Israel's army.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What situations should provoke righteous indignation for God's honor in your context?
2. How does David's theological framing of the problem transform your approach to impossible situations?

Interlinear Text

ל אמר	ב אמַד יִם	בְּאָנָשׁ יִם	כִּי	עמו
by him saying	And David	to the men	that stood	by him saying
H559	H1732	H582	H5975	H559
מה	בַּעַשׂ הַ	לְאִישׁ	אֲשֶׁר	את
H4100	What shall be done	to the man	that killeth	Philistine
	H6213	H376	H5221	H6430
כל ז	וְהַסְרֵא	מֵעַל	כִּי	מִ
this	and taketh away	the reproach	from Israel	H4310
H1975	H5493	H2781	H3478	
ב פְּלִשְׁתִּים	בְּעָרֵל	כִּי	כִּי	חַנְןָה
Philistine	for who is this uncircumcised	H2088	H3588	that he should defy
H6430	H6189			H2778
ות	בְּיִם:			
מערכ	אלָה יִם			
the armies	God	of the living		
H4634	H430	H2416		

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 11:2 (References Israel): And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel.

Deuteronomy 5:26 (References God): For who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?

1 Samuel 14:6 (Parallel theme): And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

1 Samuel 17:10 (References Israel): And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.

2 Kings 19:4 (References God): It may be the LORD thy God will hear all the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God; and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that are left.

1 Samuel 17:36 (References God): 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.

Psalms 44:13 (Parallel theme): Thou makest us a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and a derision to them that are round about us.

Psalms 79:12 (Parallel theme): And render unto our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O Lord.

Jeremiah 10:10 (References God): But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

Nehemiah 5:9 (References God): Also I said, It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?