

1 Samuel 17:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

Analysis

And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

לֵאמֹר	לֹא	מִנְבָּשָׂה	רְבָבָר	כִּי	הָיָה
answered	H0	And the people	him after this manner	H2088	answered
H559		H5971			H3541
וְיִשְׁלַשֵּׁה	לֹא	יִשְׁלַשֵּׁה	רְבָבָר	וְיִקְרַבְתָּה	
So shall it be done	to the man	H834	that killeth		
H6213		H376		H5221	

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