

# 1 Samuel 17:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them.

## Analysis

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**And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them.**

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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**John 3:16** — God's love and 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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וּפְלִשְׁתִּים יָם	עָמַד יָם	אֶל	רֶהֱרֵה	הַמֶּזֶה
And the Philistines	stood	H413	on a mountain	H2088
H6430	H5975		H2022	
וְיִשְׂרָאֵל ל	עָמַד יָם	אֶל	רֶהֱרֵה	הַמֶּזֶה
on the one side and Israel	stood	H413	on a mountain	H2088
H3478	H5975		H2022	
וְהָיָה יָם	בְּיַדְהֶם:			
on the other side and there was a valley	H996			
H1516				