

1 Samuel 17:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

Analysis

And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

The five smooth stones from the brook have generated much speculation - provision for Goliath's four brothers, or simple prudence? The shepherd's bag (yalqut) and sling represented David's proven equipment. 'He drew near' to the Philistine begins the climactic confrontation. David approached with weapons that seemed ridiculously inadequate, embodying the principle that God's power is made perfect in weakness.

Historical Context

Ancient slings were devastating weapons in skilled hands, capable of speeds over 100 mph. Slingstones were effective military weapons used throughout the ancient Near East. David's selection of smooth stones shows practiced skill in choosing optimal ammunition.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What simple resources has God given you that the world might consider inadequate?
2. How does David's careful preparation coexist with his complete trust in God?

Interlinear Text

וָקַח	מִקֵּל	בְּיָד	וַיִּבְחַר	ל	חֲמִשָּׁה	חֲלָקִי
And he took	his staff	in his hand	and chose	H0	him five	smooth
H3947	H4731	H3027	H977		H2568	H2512
אֲבָנֵי יִם	מִן	הַנָּחַל	וַיִּשֶׂם	אֶתָּם	בְּכֹל	הָרָע יִם
stones	H4480	out of the brook	and put	H853	bag	them in a shepherd's
H68		H5158	H7760		H3627	H7462
אֲשֶׁר	ל	וַיְבִילֵק	וְקֶלַע	בְּיָד		
H834	H0	which he had even in a scrip	and his sling	in his hand		
		H3219	H7050	H3027		
וַיִּדְרֹשׁ	אֶל	הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי:				
and he drew near	H413	to the Philistine				
H5066		H6430				

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