

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

וְ	יָקַר	בַּיד	וְ	מִקְלָל	וְ	יִגְתַּחֲרֵר	לְ	וְ	חַמְשָׁה	הַ	וְ	מַלְכָּיו	
And he took	his staff	in his hand	and chose				him five					smooth	
H3947	H4731	H3027	H977				H2568					H2512	
בְּכָל	וְ	אֶתְמָם	בְּגַתְלָם	וְ	שְׁמָמָן	מִן	אֶבֶן	יָמָן	בְּרַעַם	וְ	יָמָן		
stones	H4480	out of the brook	and put				H853		bag		them in a shepherd's		
H68		H5158	H7760				H3627		H7462				
לְ	וְ	אֲשֶׁר	וְ	בְּגַלְקָה	וְ	וְ	בְּגַלְעָה	וְ	בַּיד	וְ	וְ		
H834	H0	which he had even in a scrip		H3219			H7050		H3027				
			and his sling										
וְ	שָׁ	אֶל	כְּפָלָשָׂתִים										
and he drew near	H413	to the Philistine		H6430									
H5066													

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