

1 Samuel 17:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

Analysis

Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

David's confession 'I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts' (YHWH tseva'ot) invokes God's identity as commander of heavenly armies. The contrast between Goliath's visible weapons and David's invisible allegiance encapsulates the battle's true nature. The title 'God of the armies of Israel' connects this conflict to Israel's covenant identity. David fought as Yahweh's representative, making victory certain regardless of natural circumstances.

Historical Context

'LORD of hosts' appears first in 1 Samuel 1:3 and becomes common in prophetic literature. The title encompasses both heavenly beings and Israel's armies as instruments of divine warfare. Its use here transforms individual combat into cosmic conflict.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to face challenges 'in the name of the LORD'?
2. How does understanding spiritual conflict as cosmic warfare change your approach to opposition?

Interlinear Text

אָלַי בָּא אָתָּה בָּא אָלַי
Then said **David** H413 to the **Philistine** H6430 **Thou comest** H413

בַּעֲדָב יְתִבְחַנְתָּי וּבְכִידָה וּבְכִידָה
to me with a sword and with a spear and with a shield **Thou comest** H935

מְעִירָכָה וְתִבְחַנְתָּי אֱלֹהִים אֶצְבָּא וְתִבְחַנְתָּי
to thee in the name of the **Lord** H3068 **of hosts** H6635 **the God** H430 **of the armies** H4634

חַבְפָּתָה אֲשֶׁר יְשַׁבָּא לְ
of **Israel** H834 **whom thou hast defied** H2778

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 10:4 (References God): (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

2 Chronicles 32:8 (Word): With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

2 Corinthians 3:5 (References God): Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

Philippians 4:13 (Parallel theme): I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Psalms 18:2 (References God): The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

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.

Isaiah 37:23 (References Israel): Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

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.

Psalms 3:8 (References Lord): Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.

Psalms 44:6 (Word): For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me.