

1 Samuel 17:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

Analysis

This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

David's prophetic declaration of victory before battle demonstrates faith's certainty about God's promises. His stated purpose - 'that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel' - frames the conflict missionally. The victory would not merely save Israel but reveal Yahweh to the nations. David understood his role in redemptive history as displaying God's reality to a watching world.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern warfare was viewed as conflict between national deities. Victory for Israel meant vindication of Yahweh over Dagon. The universal scope of David's vision ('all the earth') reflects Israel's calling to be a light to nations.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How might your current struggles, if overcome by faith, display God's reality to others?
2. What does David's missional understanding teach about the purpose of spiritual victory?

Interlinear Text

הַיּוֹם	הַזֶּה	יִסְגְּרֶךָ	יְהוָה	בְּיַד־י	וְהִכִּיתִי בְּ
This day	H2088	deliver	will the LORD	thee into mine hand	and I will smite
H3117		H5462	H3068	H3027	H5221
וְהִסְרֹתִי יְ	אֶת	רֹאשְׁךָ	מִמֶּלֶךְ יְכָ	וְנָתַתִּי יְ	פְּגָרִים
thee and take	H853	thine head	H5921	from thee and I will give	the carcasses
H5493		H7218		H5414	H6297
מִמֶּנִּי הַ	פְּלִשְׁתִּים	הַיּוֹם	הַזֶּה	לְעוֹף	הַשָּׁמַיִם
of the host	of the Philistines	This day	H2088	unto the fowls	of the air
H4264	H6430	H3117		H5775	H8064
וְלַחֵי ת	הָאָרֶץ	יָדְעוּ	כָּל	הָאָרֶץ	כִּי
and to the wild beasts	of the earth	may know	H3605	of the earth	H3588
H2416	H776	H3045		H776	
שֶׁ	אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְיִשְׂרָאֵל			
that there is	a God	in Israel			
H3426	H430	H3478			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 52:10 (References God): The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

2 Kings 19:19 (References God): Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.

Joshua 4:24 (References God): That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.

1 Kings 8:43 (References Israel): Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

Deuteronomy 28:26 (Parallel theme): And thy carcase shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away.

Isaiah 37:20 (References God): Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only.

Exodus 9:16 (Parallel theme): And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.

Daniel 2:47 (References God): The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

Psalms 46:10 (References God): Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

1 Samuel 17:44 (Parallel theme): And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.