

1 Samuel 17:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

Analysis

And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

The stone sinking into Goliath's forehead accomplished what no sword could - divine precision guided by humble faith. The Hebrew *tava'* (to sink, penetrate) emphasizes complete penetration. Goliath's fall 'upon his face to the earth' fulfilled David's prophecy and demonstrated the living God's superiority over the Philistine champion's lifeless gods. What seemed impossible became simple through divine intervention.

Historical Context

Head wounds were often fatal in ancient combat. Goliath's helmet apparently left his forehead vulnerable. The forehead was considered a symbol of pride and defiance (Ezekiel 3:7-9), making its penetration symbolically appropriate.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How have you witnessed God's precision in accomplishing what seemed impossible?
2. What does Goliath's fall 'upon his face' teach about the ultimate humiliation of all who defy God?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁלַח מֶשֶׁה וְקָח אֶל הַכֶּלִי וְדָוִד אֶת יָדוֹ
put **And David** **his hand** **in his bag** **and took**
H7971 H1732 H853 H3027 H413 H3627 H3947 H8033

בְּמִצְחוֹ אֶל הַפִּלִּשְׁתִּי אֶת וַיִּקַּל עַד הָאֶבֶן
that the stone **and slang** **it and smote** **the Philistine** **in his forehead**
H68 H7049 H5221 H853 H6430 H413 H4696

פָּנָיו עַל וַיִּפֹּל בְּמִצְחוֹ אֶת הָאֶבֶן וַתִּטֹּב עַ
sunk **that the stone** **in his forehead** **and he fell** **upon his face**
H2883 H68 H4696 H5307 H5921 H6440

אֶרְצָה:
to the earth
H776