

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

מִשְׁׁלַח תִּשְׁלַח אֶת יְהוָה אֶל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקֶלֶב וְיָקְרָב
put And David his hand in his bag and took

בְּמִצְחָה אֶל הַפְּלִשְׁתִּים אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִצְחָה אֶל
that the stone and slang it and smote the Philistine in his forehead

נִפְתַּח עַל יְפֵל בְּמִצְחָה אֶל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיָמַר
sunk that the stone in his forehead and he fell upon his face

אֶל אָרֶץ
to the earth

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