

1 Samuel 17:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass.

Analysis

And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass.

The Goliath narrative demonstrates that human impossibilities create opportunities for divine glory. David's confidence rests not in weapons or military training but in the character of the God who delivered him from lion and bear. His declaration that 'the battle is the LORD's' establishes the theological principle that spiritual victory comes through faith in God's power rather than confidence in human strength. The contrast between Saul's armor (representing human methods) and simple shepherd's weapons (representing faith) teaches that God uses unexpected means to accomplish His purposes and receive glory.

Historical Context

The establishment of monarchy around 1050-1010 BCE represented a dramatic political and theological shift for Israel. Unlike surrounding nations where kings were considered divine or semi-divine, Israel's kings were supposed to function under God's ultimate authority as laid out in Deuteronomy 17:14-20. The Benjamite tribe occupied strategic territory between Ephraim and Judah, making Saul's selection a politically astute choice to balance tribal rivalries. Archaeological remains from this period show increased fortification and centralization of settlements, confirming the transition to state-level organization.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen our understanding of God's character, purposes, and ways of working in human history?
2. What specific heart attitudes, thought patterns, or life practices does this passage call you to examine or change?
3. How does this passage connect to the larger biblical narrative of redemption and point toward Christ and the gospel?

Interlinear Text

וְכִי וְבֵעַ	נְחֹשֶׁת:	עַל	רֹאשׁוֹ	הַשָּׂרִי וְ	קִשְׁקֵשׁ יָם
And he had an helmet	of brass	H5921	upon his head	of the coat	of mail
H3553	H5178		H7218	H8302	H7193
וְהָיָה	לְבָבוֹ	וּמִשְׁקַל	הַשָּׂרִי וְ	חֲמִשָּׁת	אַלְפֵי יָם
H1931	and he was armed	and the weight	of the coat	was five	thousand
	H3847	H4948	H8302	H2568	H505
נְחֹשֶׁת:	שְׁקָלֵי יָם				
of brass	shekels				
H5178	H8255				