

1 Samuel 17:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

Analysis

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

The narrative emphasizes 'there was no sword in the hand of David' - victory came through means humanly insufficient, ensuring God received glory. This verse summarizes the theological point: divine power, not human weaponry, determines outcomes. David's lack of conventional weapons made God's intervention unmistakable. The same pattern appears throughout Scripture: God chooses weak instruments to shame the strong.

Historical Context

The author's emphasis on David's lack of sword highlights the miraculous nature of victory. Standard combat required close-quarter weapons after initial engagement. David's victory subverted every military expectation of his era.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God deliberately use inadequate resources to ensure He receives glory for victories?
2. What does this principle mean for your evaluation of your own resources for spiritual battles?

Interlinear Text

וְיָמֵן	וְבָאָבָן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְלָעָן	הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי	מִן	זָהָדָן	זָהָדָן	זָהָדָן
prevailed	So David	over	the Philistine	with a sling	and with a stone	and smote		
H2388	H1732	H4480	H6430	H7050	H68			H5221

בַּיד אִי יְמִתְהַו הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי וְיָבַר אֶת הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי H853 the Philistine and slew him but there was no sword H369 in the hand H6430 H4191 H2719 H3027

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So David

H1732

Additional Cross-References

Judges 15:15 (Parallel theme): And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

1 Samuel 17:39 (Word): And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

1 Samuel 23:21 (Parallel theme): And Saul said, Blessed be ye of the LORD; for ye have compassion on me.

1 Samuel 21:9 (Word): And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me.

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