

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

Psalms 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

קָוָה	יָדָוִד:	מִן	הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי	יָ	בֶקֶל לֵעַ	וּבֶאֱבָן	וַיִּכּוֹת
prevailed	So David	over	the Philistine		with a sling	and with a stone	and smote
H2388	H1732	H4480	H6430		H7050	H68	H5221

אֶת	הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי	וַיַּמֵּת	הוּא	וְלֹא	רֶבֶב	אֵין	בְּיָד
H853	the Philistine	and slew	him	but there was no sword		H369	in the hand
	H6430	H4191		H2719			H3027

יָדָוִד:
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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