

1 Samuel 17:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

Analysis

Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

David's use of Goliath's own sword to behead him represents ultimate reversal - the giant's weapon completing his defeat. Cutting off the head confirmed death and claimed trophy proof of victory. The Philistines' flight reveals how one man's faith-based courage could transform an entire military situation. Their champion's death exposed the emptiness of their confidence.

Historical Context

Beheading defeated champions was common practice, providing proof of victory and trophy for display. Goliath's head would later appear in Jerusalem (v.54), perhaps at the Jebusite city's conquest. The psychological impact of watching their greatest warrior fall shattered Philistine morale.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes use the enemy's own weapons to accomplish their defeat?
2. What does the Philistine flight teach about the collective impact of one person's victorious faith?

Interlinear Text

וְיָקַרְתָּ	אֶת	רַבּוֹ	יְשַׁלֵּחַ	מִתְעַרְבָּה	מִתְ
and took	H853	his sword	and drew	it out of the sheath	thereof and slew

וְיִקְרַת	בְּהָ	רָאשׁ	וְאַתָּ	בְּ	וְיִרְאָ	יְמִינָת
him and cut off	H0	H853	his head		saw	therewith And when the Philistines
H2722		H7218		H7200		H6130

גַּי	מִתְ	גִּבְעֹת	תְּאֵלִים
H3588	thereof and slew	their champion	they fled

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:34 (Word): Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens

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.

2 Samuel 23:21 (Parallel theme): And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.

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