

1 Samuel 17:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron.

Analysis

And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron.

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 Benjaminite 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

שַׁעַר וְעַד פְּלִשְׁתִּים בְּזַעַק גַּת יָאֵן בְּזַעַק גַּת יָאֵן
of the Philistines until thou come to the valley and to the gates
H5704 H935 H1516 H5704 H8179

בְּדַךְ רֶדֶם פָּלֶשֶׁתִים עֲקָרִון: תִּפְלֶל וְסַלְלָה וְעַקְרָבִון: בְּדַךְ רֶדֶם פָּלֶשֶׁתִים עֲקָרִון: and unto Ekron fell down And the wounded of the Philistines by the way H6138 H5307 H2491 H6430 H1870

שָׁעַר־יְמִינָה וְעַד־גַּת וְעַד־עֲקָרֹן: שָׁעַר־יְמִינָה וְעַד־גַּת וְעַד־עֲקָרֹן:
to Shaaraim H5704 even unto Gath H1661 and unto Ekron H6138

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 15:11 (Parallel theme): And the border went out unto the side of Ekron northward: and the border was drawn to Shicron, and passed along to mount Baalah, and went out unto Jabneel; and the goings out of the border were at the sea.

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