

# 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

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**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

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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

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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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

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וָקָם מוֹ	אֲנָשִׁי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיהוּדָה	וַיִּשָּׁאוּ	וַיִּדְרֹפוּ	אֶת
arose	H376	of Israel	and of Judah	and shouted	and pursued	H853
H6965		H3478	H3063	H7321	H7291	
פְּלִשְׁתִּים	עַד	בֹּאֲךָ	גַּיָּא	וְעַד	שַׁעַר י	
of the Philistines	H5704	until thou come	to the valley	H5704	and to the gates	
H6430		H935	H1516		H8179	
עַקְרוֹן:	וּפָל ו	חָלַל י	פְּלִשְׁתִּים	בְּדַרְךְ		
and unto Ekron	fell down	And the wounded	of the Philistines	by the way		
H6138	H5307	H2491	H6430	H1870		
שַׁעַר ים	וְעַד	גַּת	וְעַד	עַקְרוֹן:		
to Shaaraim	H5704	even unto Gath	H5704	and unto Ekron		
H8189		H1661		H6138		

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.