1 Samuel 17:57

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

Analysis

And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

The visual image is striking: the young shepherd standing before the tall king, holding the severed head of the giant who had terrorized Israel's army. David carries the trophy that proves his victory - evidence that what seemed impossible through human strength became simple through faith. Abner's role in presenting David formally introduces him to court life. The Hebrew harag (slaughter) emphasizes the completeness of Goliath's defeat. This moment marks David's transition from obscure shepherd to public figure, a trajectory ordained by God but accomplished through faith-filled action.

Historical Context

Presenting severed heads of defeated enemies was standard ancient Near Eastern practice, documented in Egyptian and Assyrian records. Such trophies served as proof of victory and were sometimes displayed publicly. Abner's role as military commander made him the appropriate intermediary for presenting a warrior to the king.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What 'trophies' of God's faithfulness can you point to as evidence of His work in your life?
2. How does David's presentation before Saul illustrate the transition from hidden preparation to public ministry?

Interlinear Text

אֹתוֹ	וַיִּקַּח	הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי	אֶת	מֵהַכּוֹת	דָּוִד	וּכְשׁוּב
H853	took H3947	of the Philistine H6430	H853	from the slaughter H5221	And as David H1732	returned H7725

אַבְנֵר	וַיְבִאֵהוּ	לִפְנֵי	שָׁאוּל	רֹאשׁ	הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי
Abner H74	him and brought H935	him before H6440	Saul H7586	with the head H7218	of the Philistine H6430

בְּיָדוֹ׃
in his hand H3027