

1 Samuel 17:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.

Analysis

And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.

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 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

בְּ יְמִצְעַת תְּנִשְׁתַּחַת עַל כְּגַל יְיָ וְכִידְוִיל וְנִשְׁתַּחַת בְּמִצְעַת תְּנִשְׁתַּחַת
And he had greaves of brass upon his legs and a target of brass
H4697 H5178 H5921 H7272 H3591 H5178 H996

בְּתוּפָיו:

between his shoulders

H3802

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 17:45 (Parallel theme): Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.