

1 Samuel 17:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.

Analysis

And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| וְחָץ | חֲנִית וְ | כְּמִנֹּר | אֶגְרָג יִם | וְלֶקֶד בֵּת | חֲנִית וְ | |
| H2671 | and his spear's | beam | was like a weaver's | head | and his spear's | |
| | H2595 | H4500 | H707 | H3852 | H2595 | |
| שֵׁשׁ | מֵאֹת | שֶׁקֶל יִם | בִּרְזֶל ל | וְנֹשֵׂא א | הַצָּנֶה ה | הָלַךְ וְ |
| weighed six | hundred | shekels | of iron | and one bearing | a shield | went |
| H8337 | H3967 | H8255 | H1270 | H5375 | H6793 | H1980 |

לְפָנָיו:

before

H6440

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 21:19 (Parallel theme): And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, a Beth-lehemite, slew the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

1 Chronicles 11:23 (Parallel theme): And he slew an Egyptian, a man of great stature, five cubits high; and in the Egyptian's hand was a spear like a weaver's beam; and 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.

1 Samuel 17:41 (Parallel theme): And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him.

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