

# 1 Samuel 21:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me.

## Analysis

**And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me.**

The appearance of Goliath's sword creates powerful narrative symmetry. David's exclamation 'there is none like that' (Hebrew 'ein kamohu') echoes his earlier declaration about Goliath's spear (17:7). The sword had been dedicated as a trophy and stored behind the ephod—the priestly garment used for divine consultation. Now the weapon that once threatened Israel returns to its conqueror's hand. This providential provision reminded David of God's past faithfulness: the same God who gave victory over Goliath would preserve him from Saul. The passage illustrates how memorials of past deliverance strengthen faith for present trials.

## Historical Context

Dedicating enemy weapons to deity was common in the ancient Near East. The sword's preservation 'wrapped in a cloth' indicates reverent treatment of this

trophy. Its location 'behind the ephod' suggests the innermost part of the sanctuary area.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What 'Goliath's swords'—reminders of past victories—does God provide in your current battles?
2. How do you commemorate God's past faithfulness to strengthen present faith?

## Interlinear Text

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אָשֶׁר הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי גָּלִיל תְּסַרְבֵּי הַכֹּה | וְיֵאָתֶר  
said And the priest The sword of Goliath the Philistine H834  
H559 H3548 H2719 H1555 H6430

לֹוט הַיְאָה הַבְּנָה בְּעֵמֶק הַכְּאַל הַבְּנָה יָתָן  
whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah behold it is here wrapped H3874  
H5221 H6010 H425 H2009 H1931

לְבָנָה בְּשִׁמְלָה אַתָּה בְּאַפּוֹד אַתָּה אָמַת אַתָּה בְּנָה  
in a cloth behind the ephod if thou wilt take H0  
H8071 H310 H646 H518 H853 H3947

וְיֵאמֶר בְּזַה זָלַת הַזְּלָט אֲתָת רַת אֲתָת רַת  
if thou wilt take it for there is no other save that here said H559  
H3947 H3588 H369 H312 H2108 H2088

לֵי תְּנַתֵּן נָהָר כְּמַה וְאַתָּה תְּנַתֵּן  
And David H369 H3644 There is none like that give H0  
H1732 H5414

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 17:2** (Parallel theme): And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.