

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

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

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

אָמַר	וַיֹּאמֶר	הַכֹּהֵן	חֶרֶב	גִּלְיָת	הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי	אֲשֶׁר
said		And the priest	The sword	of Goliath	the Philistine	
H559		H3548	H2719	H1555	H6430	H834
לֹוֹטָהּ	הִיא	הִנֵּה	הָאֵלָה	בְּעֵמֶק	הַכֹּהֵן	יְהוֹנָתָן
behold it is here wrapped			of Elah	in the valley	whom thou slewest	
H3874	H1931	H2009	H425	H6010	H5221	
לָבָד	אִם	הָאֵפֹד	אֲחֵרִי	בְּשִׁמְלָה	קָח	אִם
		the ephod	behind	in a cloth	if thou wilt take	
		H646	H310	H8071	H3947	
אָמַר	בְּזֶה	זֹולָתָהּ	אֵין	אֵין	אֵין	אֵין
said	that here	save	it for there is no other			
H559	H2088	H2108	H312			
לִי	תִּתֵּן	כִּמּוֹהֵ	אֵין	דָּוִד		
	There is none like that give			And David		
	H5414			H1732		

Additional Cross-References

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.