

[25] And Israel's men said, “Have you seen¹ this man coming up? For he comes up to reproach Israel. And it shall be, the man who strikes him, the king shall make him rich, great riches, and he will give his daughter to him. And his father's house he will make free in Israel.” [26] And David said to the men standing with him, saying, “What shall be done for the man who strikes this Philistine and takes away reproach from upon Israel? For who is this foreskinned Philistine that reproaches battle lines of living Gods?”² [27] And the people said to him according to this word, saying, “Thus shall be done to the man who strikes him.”

[28] And his older brother, Eliab, heard his words to the men, and Eliab's anger burned against David. And he said, “Why is this? You have come down, and with who did you leave those few of the flock in the wilderness? I know your insolence and your bad heart. For you came down in order to see the battle.”³ [29] And David said, “What have I done now? Was it not a word?”⁴ [30] And he turned from beside him to another in front and spoke according to this word. And the people returned him a word as the first word. [31] And the words that David spoke were heard and told before Saul, and he took him.

[32] And David said to Saul, “Let no man's heart fall over him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” [33] And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go to this Philistine to fight with him, for you are a youth; and he is a man of war from his youth.” [34] And David said to Saul, “Your servant was tending among his father's flock and the lion came, and the bear, and carried a sheep from the herd. [35] And I went out after him and struck him and snatched from his mouth. And he arose over me, and I grabbed him in his beard and struck him and killed him. [36] Both the lion and the bear your servant has stricken, and this foreskinned Philistine will be as one of them. For he has reproached battle lines of living Gods.”⁵ [37] And David said, “Yehvah, who has delivered me from the hand of the lion and from the hand of the bear, he will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and Yehvah be with you.”⁶

[38] And Saul clothed David with his garments⁷ and put a bronze helmet upon his head and clothed him with armor. [39] And David girded his sword upon his garments⁸ and tried to walk, for he had not tested. And David said to Saul, “I am not able to walk in these, for I have not tested.” And David took them off from upon him.

[40] And he took his staff in his hand and choose for himself five smooth

1 רְאִיתֶם (re'iytem) “you seen” - plural “you”

2 אֱלֹהִים חַיִּיִּם (‘elohiyim chayyiyim) “living Gods” - plural noun, plural adjective. See footnote for Deuteronomy 5:26.

3 Proverbs 17:17b “a brother is born for adversity.”

4 הֲלוֹא דָבָר הוּא (halo' dâvâr hu) “Was it not a word?”; YLT “is it not a word?”; Green, ESV “Was it not but a word?”; NKJV, KJV “*Is there* not a cause?”; NAS “Was it not just a question?”

5 אֱלֹהִים חַיִּיִּם (‘elohiyim chayyiyim) “living Gods” plural noun, plural adjective – see also vs 26.

6 Saul is wicked at this point, yet he still speaks God's name (Isaiah 29:13).

7 מַדְדָּי (maddâyv) “his garments” NAS; “his long robe” YLT; “armor” NKJV – used in this context of military attire also in 1 Samuel 17:39; 18:4; 2 Samuel 20:8; and perhaps Judges 3:16; 5:10; 1 Samuel 4:12; Psalm 109:18; also a priest's attire in Leviticus 6:3; and “measures” in Jeremiah 13:25.

8 מַדְדָּי (maddâyv) – “his garments” - same word as Saul's garments in vs 38.

stones from the brook and put them in the shepherds⁹ container¹⁰ that he had and in the pouch,¹¹ and his sling in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. [41] And the Philistine walked, coming and approaching to David, and the man carrying the shield was before him. [42] And the Philistine looked and saw David and despised him, for he was a youth, red with beautiful appearance.

[43] And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog that you come to me with the staff?” And the Philistine cursed David in his gods. [44] And the Philistine said to David, “Come to me and I will give your flesh to the birds of the heavens and to the beasts of the field.” [45] And David said to the Philistine, “You come to me in a sword and in a spear and in a javelin. And I come to you in Yehvah of hosts name, Gods of battle lines of Israel, whom you have reproached. [46] This day Yehvah will deliver you into my hand and will strike you and take away your head from upon you and give a corpse of Philistines' camp to the birds of the heavens and to the life of the earth. And all the earth shall know that there are Gods to Israel. [47] And this whole assembly will know that not in a sword nor in a spear does Yehvah save, for the battle is Yehvah's; and he will give you into our hand.”¹²

[48] And it was, that the Philistine arose and went and approached to meet David, and David hurried and ran to the battle line to meet the Philistine. [49] And David sent his hand to the container and took from there a stone and slung and struck the Philistine at his forehead, and the stone sank into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to earth. [50] So David was stronger¹³ than the Philistine in the sling and in the stone and struck the Philistine and killed him. And there was no sword in David's hand.

[51] And David ran and stood at the Philistine and took his sword and drew her out from her sheath and killed him and cut off his head with her. And the Philistines saw that their mighty one was dead and fled. [52] And men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted and pursued the Philistines unto your going to a valley and unto gates of Ekron. And slain Philistines fell on Two Gates¹⁴ way and unto Winepress and unto Ekron. [53] And sons of Israel returned from chasing after Philistines and plundered their camps.

[54] And David took the Philistine's head and brought him to Jerusalem, and his gear he put in his tent. [55] And when Saul saw David going out to meet the Philistine, he said to Abner, the leader of the army, “Whose son is this young man, Abner?” And Abner said, “Your soul lives, the king, if I know.” [56] And the king

9 רֹעִים (ro'im) plural participle, “shepherds” YLT; “shepherd's” NKJV, etc.

10 כֵּלִי (keliy) “container”; NKJV, etc. “bag”; “habiliments” (“characteristic apparatus” Webster) YLT – this is a very general term, not specific.

11 וּבִלְקוּט (uvayyalqut) “and in the pouch”; CSB “in the pouch”; NKJV “in a pouch”; YLT “even in the scrip” (scrip = “archaic: a small bag or wallet” Webster); KJV “even in a scrip” - only found here.

12 **“Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things" (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NAS). See also Psalm 147:10-11; Zechariah 4:6**

13 מִן־הַפִּלִשְׁתִּי יִחַזֵּק ... (yehezaq dâvid min-hapelishtiy) “stronger than . . the Philistine” YLT; “prevailed over the Philistine” NKJV, KJV, NAS – syntax dictates “stronger than.” It more literally reads, “strong . . . from the Philistine” which is how “stronger than the Philistine” would be worded.

14 שְׁעָרִים (sha'arayim) “Two Gates” (dual form of the word “gate”) - see footnote for Joshua 15:36.

said. "You, ask, whose son is this young man." [57] And when David returned from striking the Philistine, so Abner took him and brought him before Saul; and the Philistine's head was in his hand. [58] And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David said, "Son of your servant Jesse, the Bethlehemite."