

SAUL, DAVID, & SOLOMON

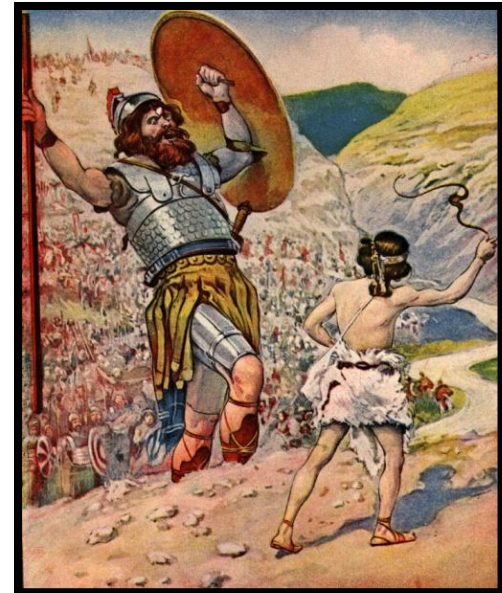
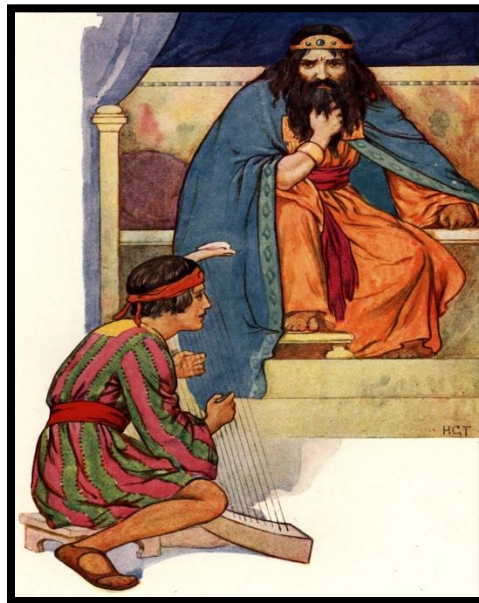
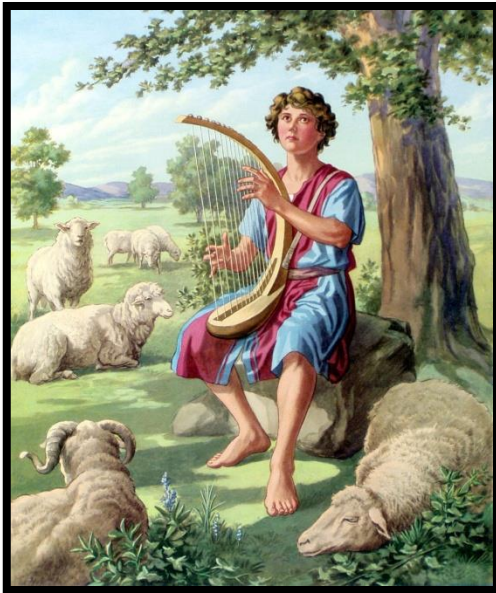
Lessons In Faith





I SAMUEL 17

In Chapter 17
David goes from
shepherd boy, to court musician and
armor bearer, to defender of Israel.



1 Samuel 17

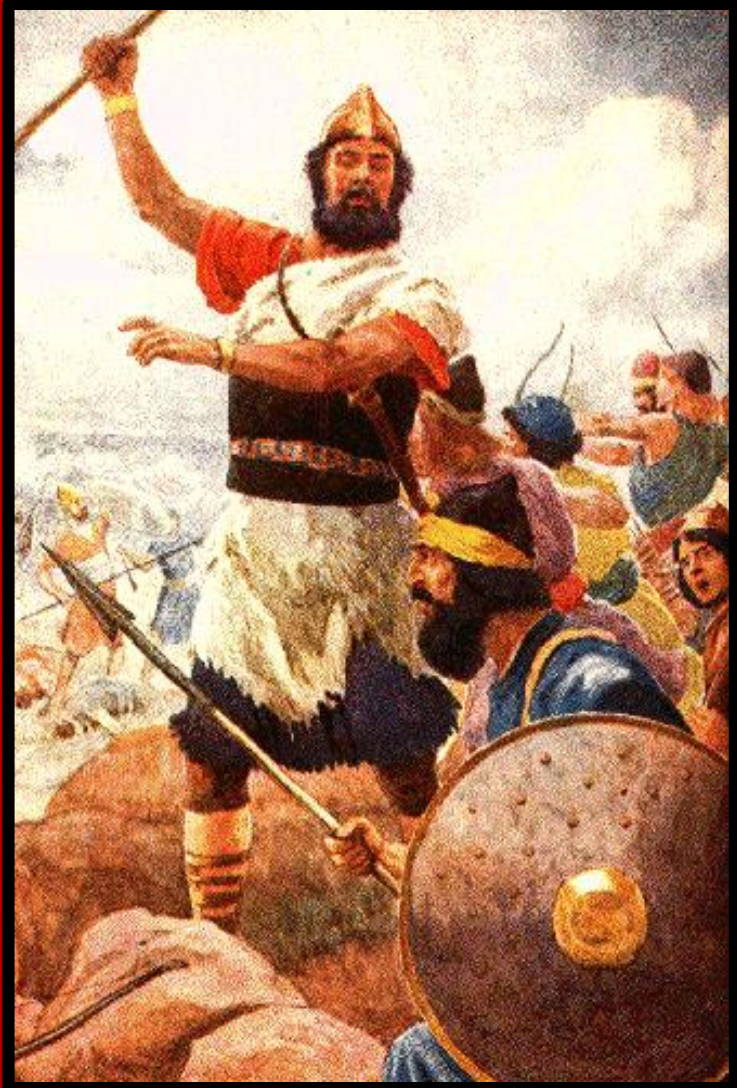
“¹Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim.”



It was not long before this that the Philistines were soundly beaten (Chapter 14).

Jonathan led that first attack, and an earthquake frightened the Philistines into retreat.

The Philistines would have been completely defeated if not for King Saul. He stopped his garrison's attack to confront Jonathan about eating honey and to offer sacrifice for the people that had sinned by eating meat with the blood.



The Philistines (it is probable) had heard that Samuel had fallen out with Saul and forsaken him. No longer advised by Samuel, Saul's enemies were ready to take advantage of him.



The reason Samuel fell out with Saul was because King Saul had sinned:

He offered
a sacrifice without authority,
and Samuel told him his
kingdom would not
continue.

He started
getting his advice from the
priest Ahiah.

He grew depressed
and unable to function.
David was called upon to
play music to calm him.



1 Samuel 17

“²And 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.”



Modern photo of the valley of Elah

1 Samuel 17

“³And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them.”



Modern photo of the valley of Elah

1 Samuel 17

“⁴And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.”

Some say this measurement is
9' 6"
and other sources
11' 4"





1 Samuel 17

⁵“And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass.

⁶“And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.”





1 Samuel 17

“⁷And 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.”

1 Samuel 17

“⁸And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? **choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.**

⁹If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us.


¹⁰And the Philistine said, **I defy the armies of Israel this day;** give me a man, that we may fight together.”



1 Samuel 17

“¹¹When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.”

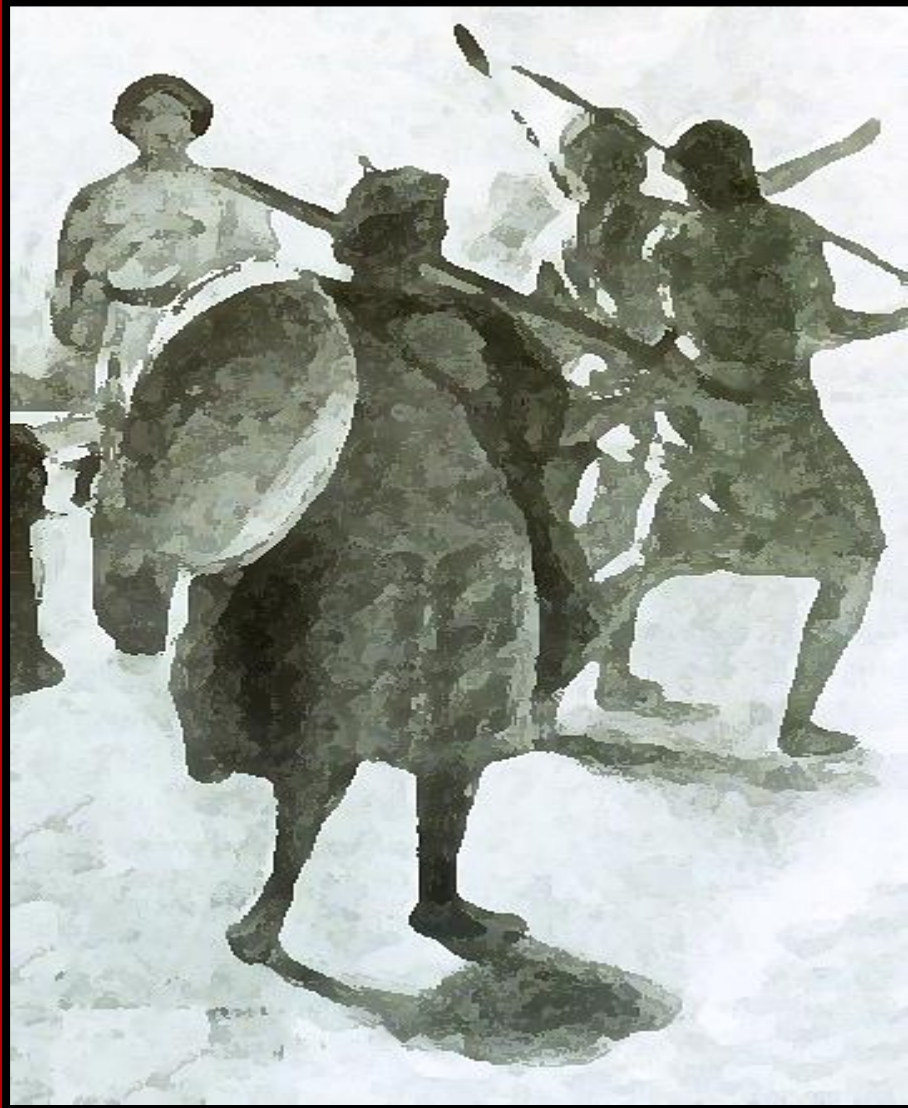




The giant Goliath of Gath presented his challenge everyday for forty days (1 Samuel 17:16).

1 Samuel 17

“¹²Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons . . . ¹³And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were **Eliab** the firstborn, and next unto him **Abinadab**, and the third **Shammah**. ¹⁴And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul.”

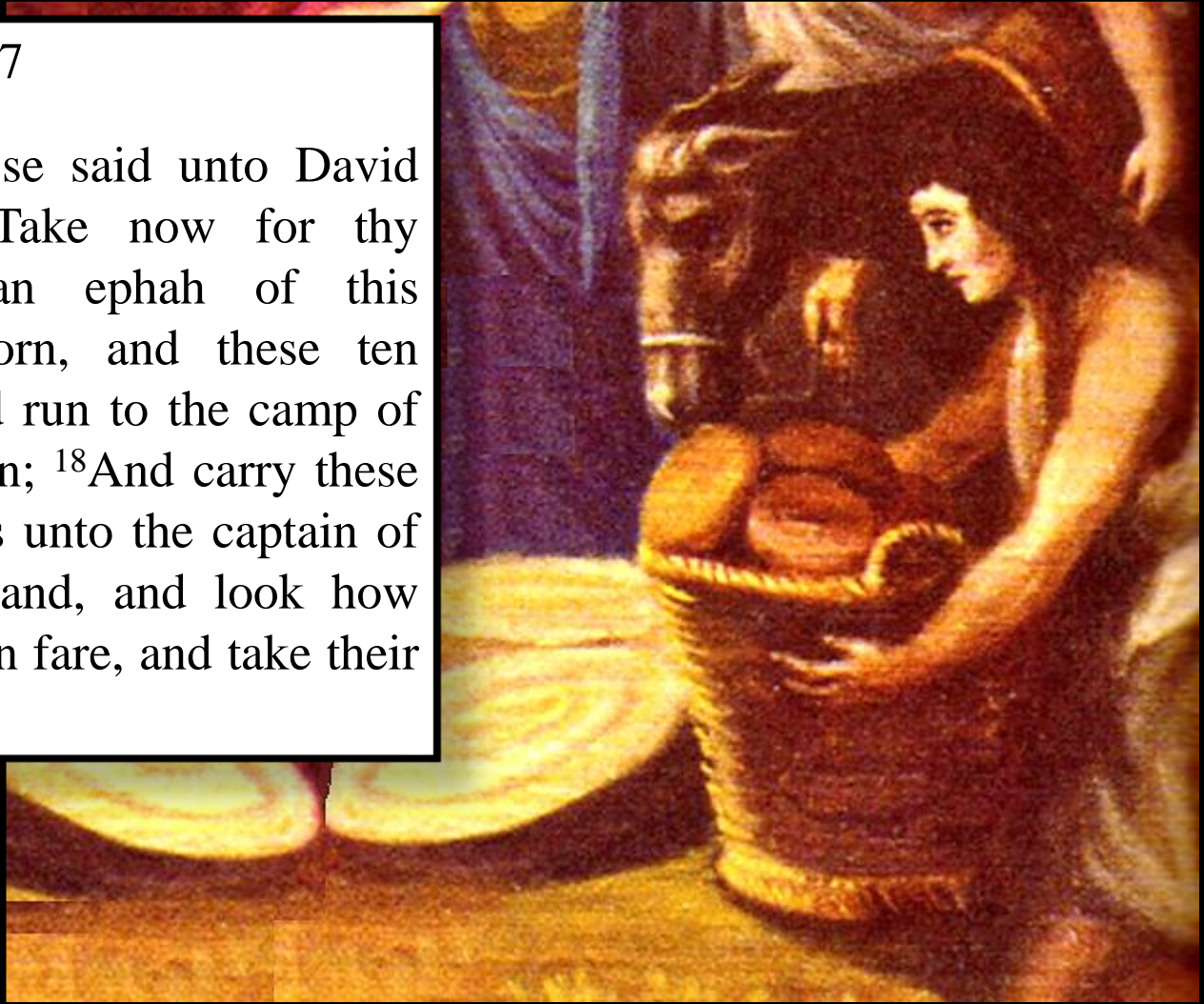




David had been King Saul's armor bearer and musician for a short time but had returned to tend his father's sheep.

1 Samuel 17

“¹⁷And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp of thy brethren; ¹⁸And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.”

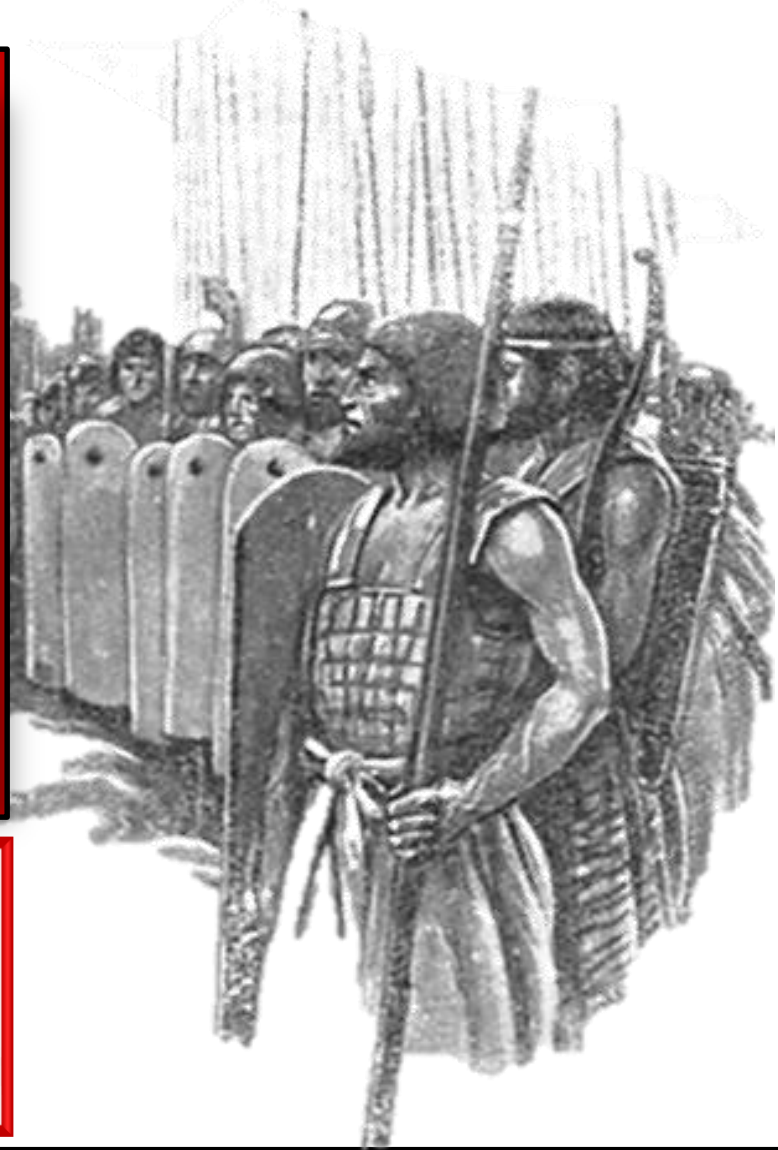


1 Samuel 17

“¹⁹Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, **fighting with the Philistines.**

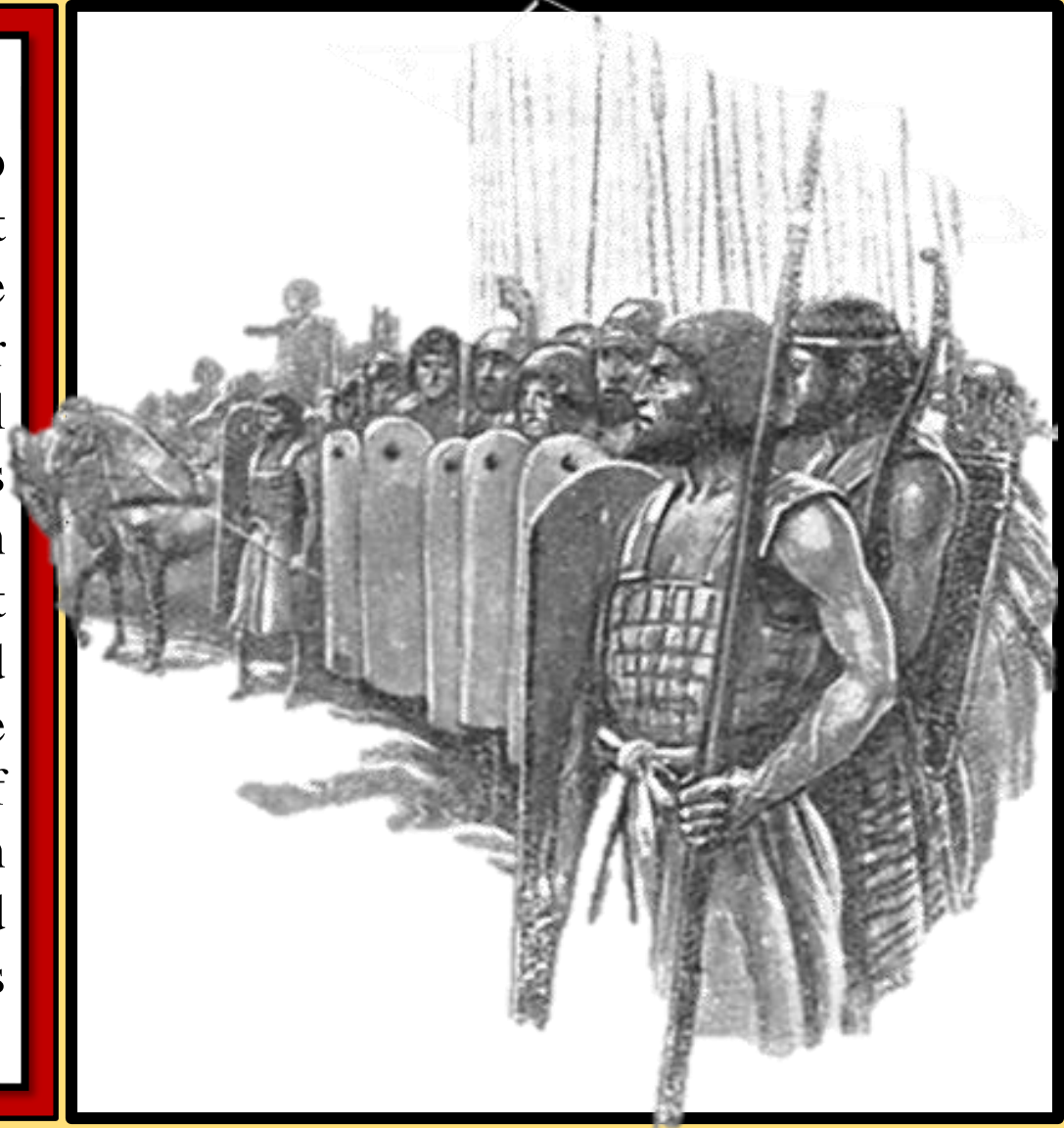
²⁰And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him . . .”

The fighting was most likely frequent skirmishes between small detached parties.



1 Samuel 17

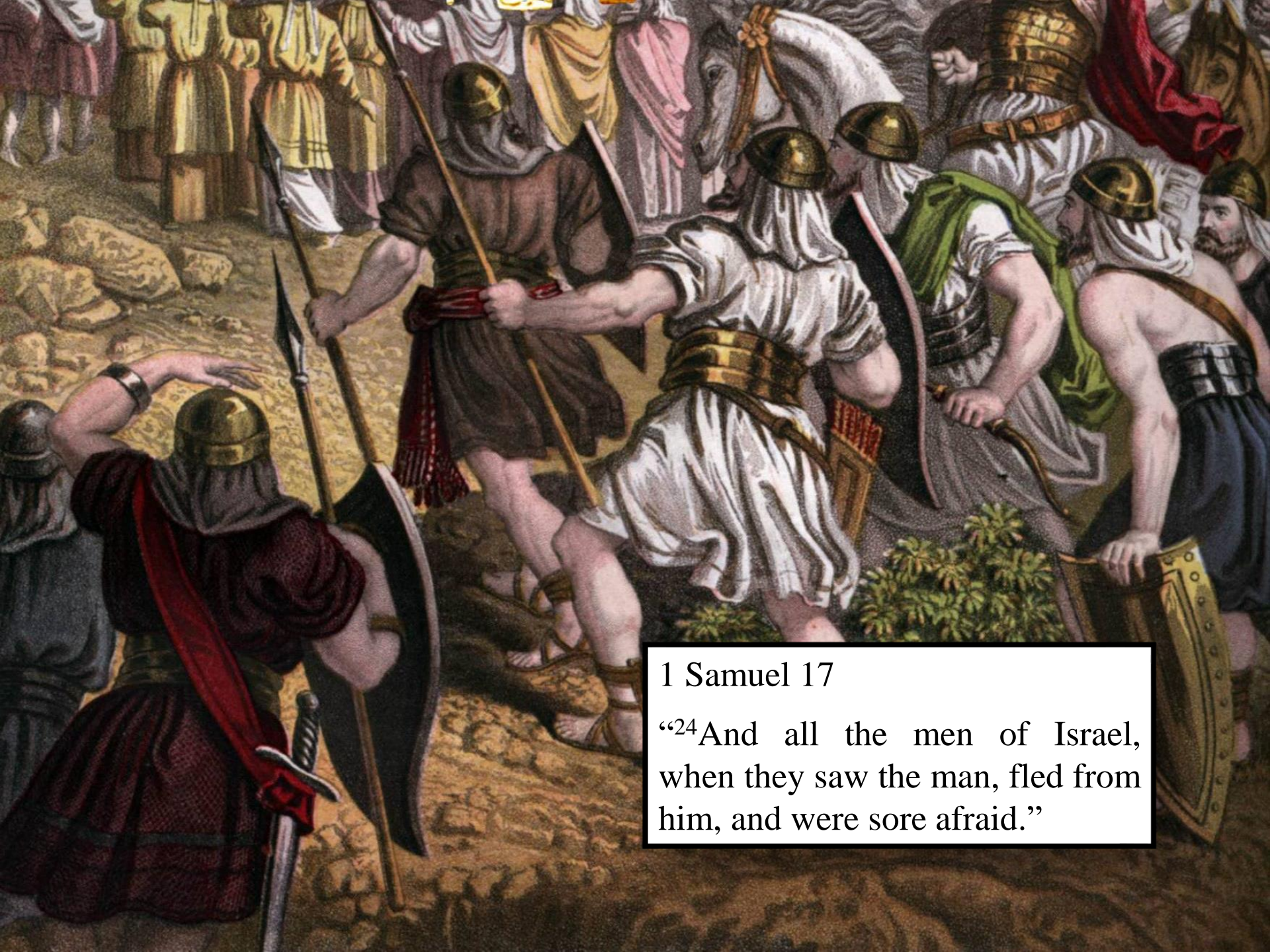
“²⁰. . . And he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle. ²¹For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. ²²And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.”



1 Samuel 17

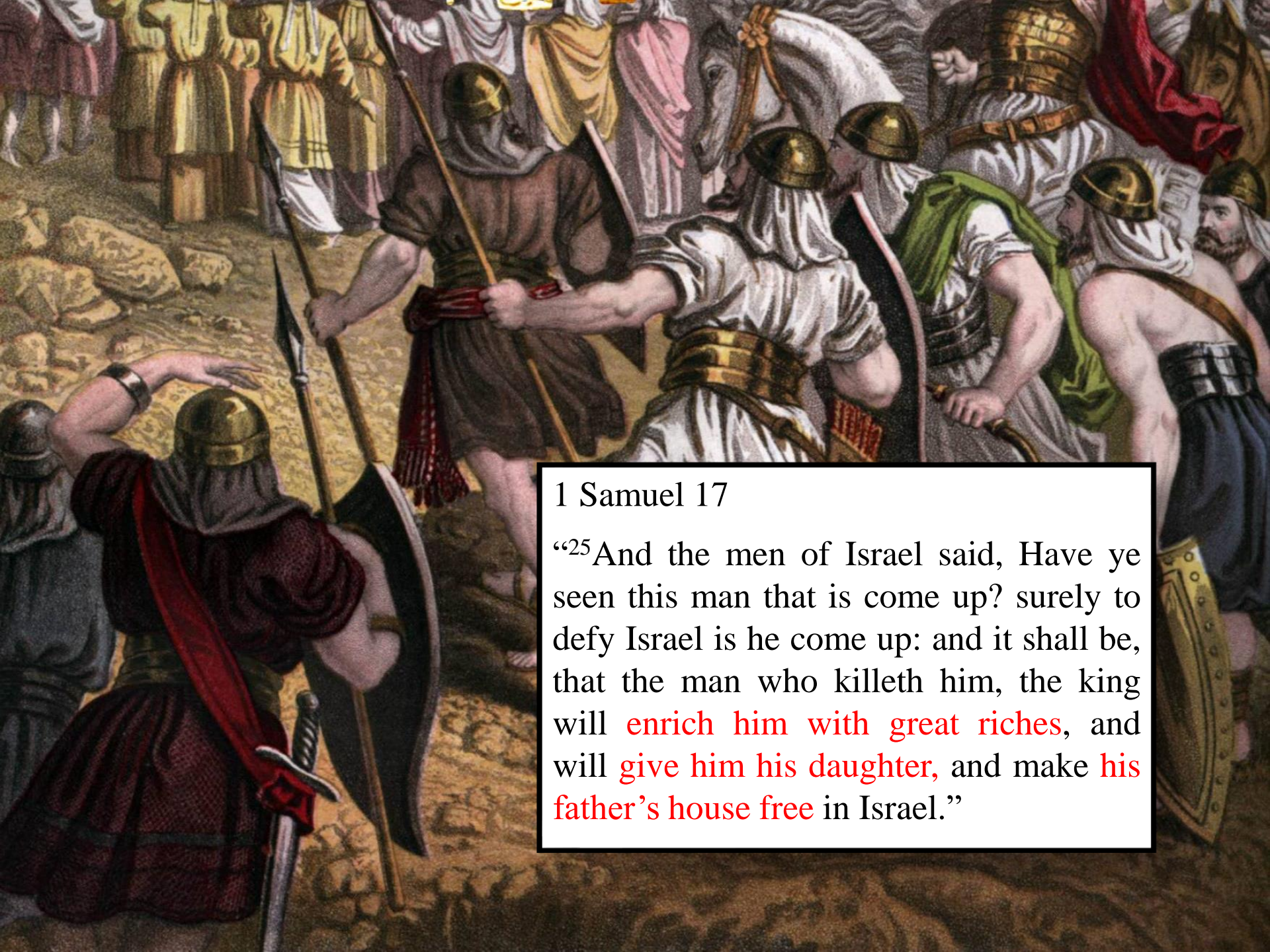
“²³And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them.”





1 Samuel 17

“²⁴And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.”



1 Samuel 17

“²⁵And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will **enrich him with great riches**, and will **give him his daughter**, and make **his father's house free** in Israel.”

1 Samuel 17

“²⁶And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

²⁷And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.”



1 Samuel 17

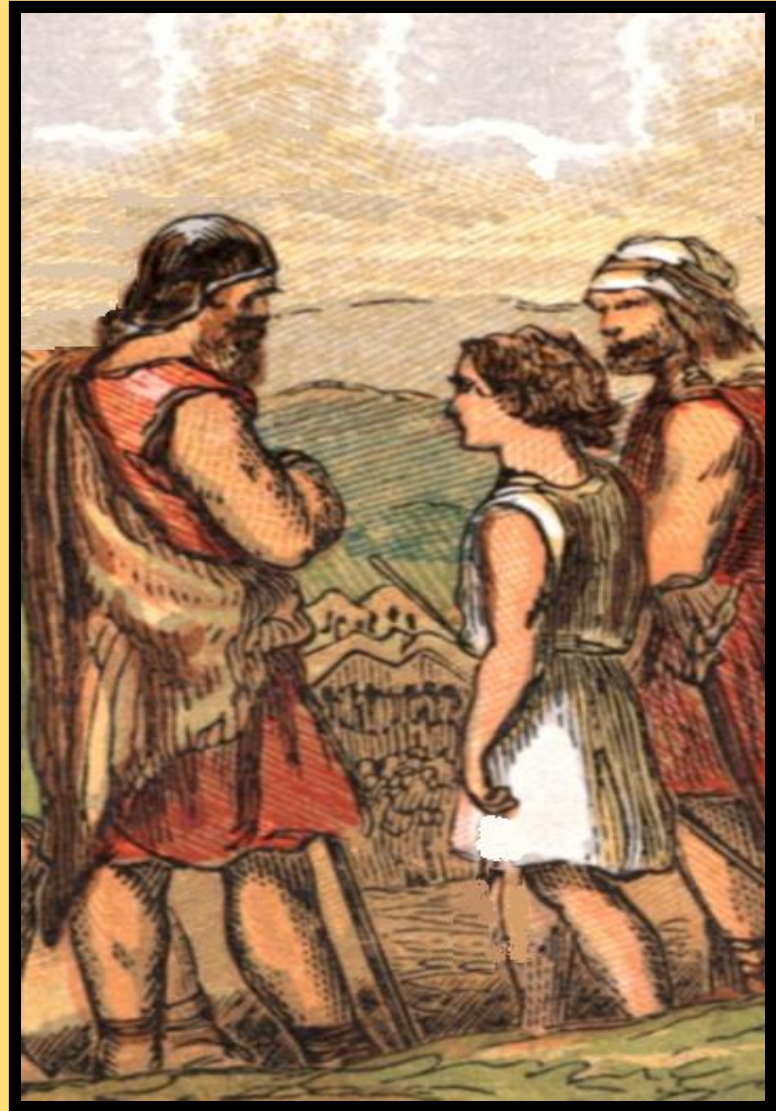
“²⁸And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab’s anger was kindled against David, and he said, **Why camest thou down hither?** and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.”



1 Samuel 17

“²⁹And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

³⁰And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.”



1 Samuel 17

“³¹And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him. ³²And David said to Saul, Let no man’s heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. ³³And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.”



1 Samuel 17

“³⁴And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father’s sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: ³⁵And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.”



1 Samuel 17

“³⁶Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine . . .”



1 Samuel 17

“³⁷. . . And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.
³⁸And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.”



How curious that David is asked to wear the king's armor—

David had been responsible for King Saul's armor when he was his armor bearer. King Saul had forgotten David. We do not know how long it had been since David had left serving Saul and gone back to keep his father's sheep but it could not have been very long (v. 15).



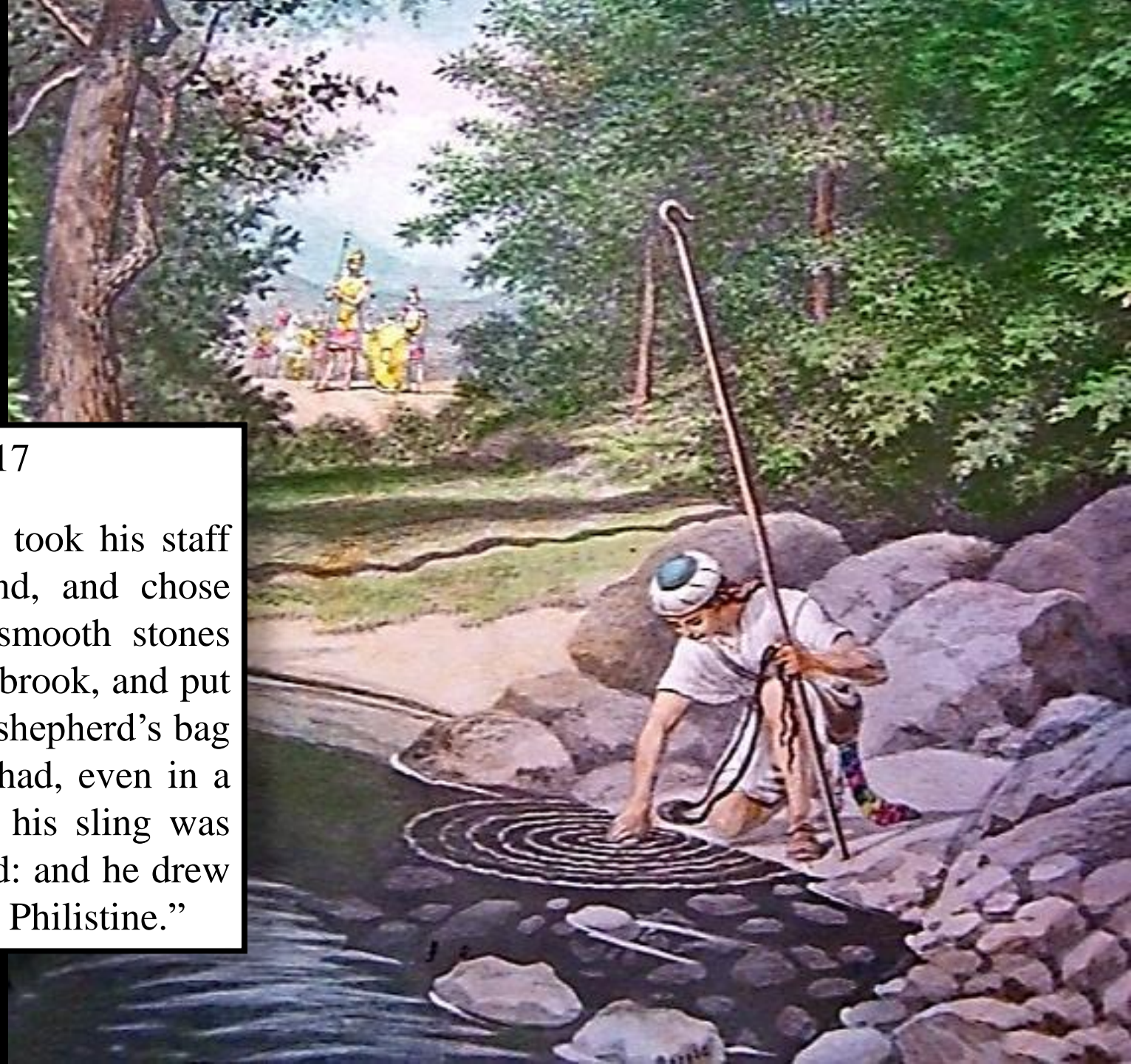
1 Samuel 17

“³⁹And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.”



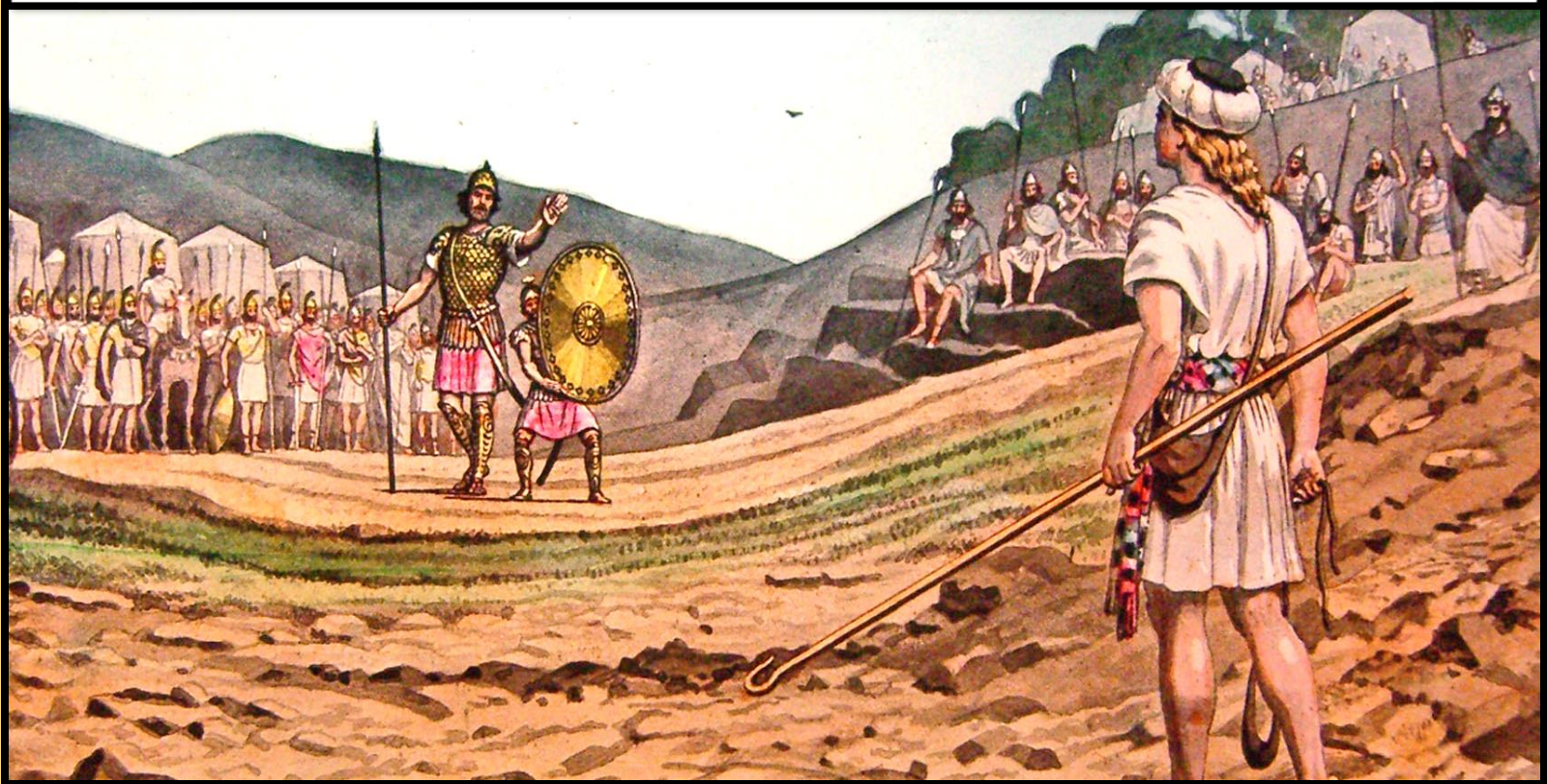
1 Samuel 17

“⁴⁰And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.”



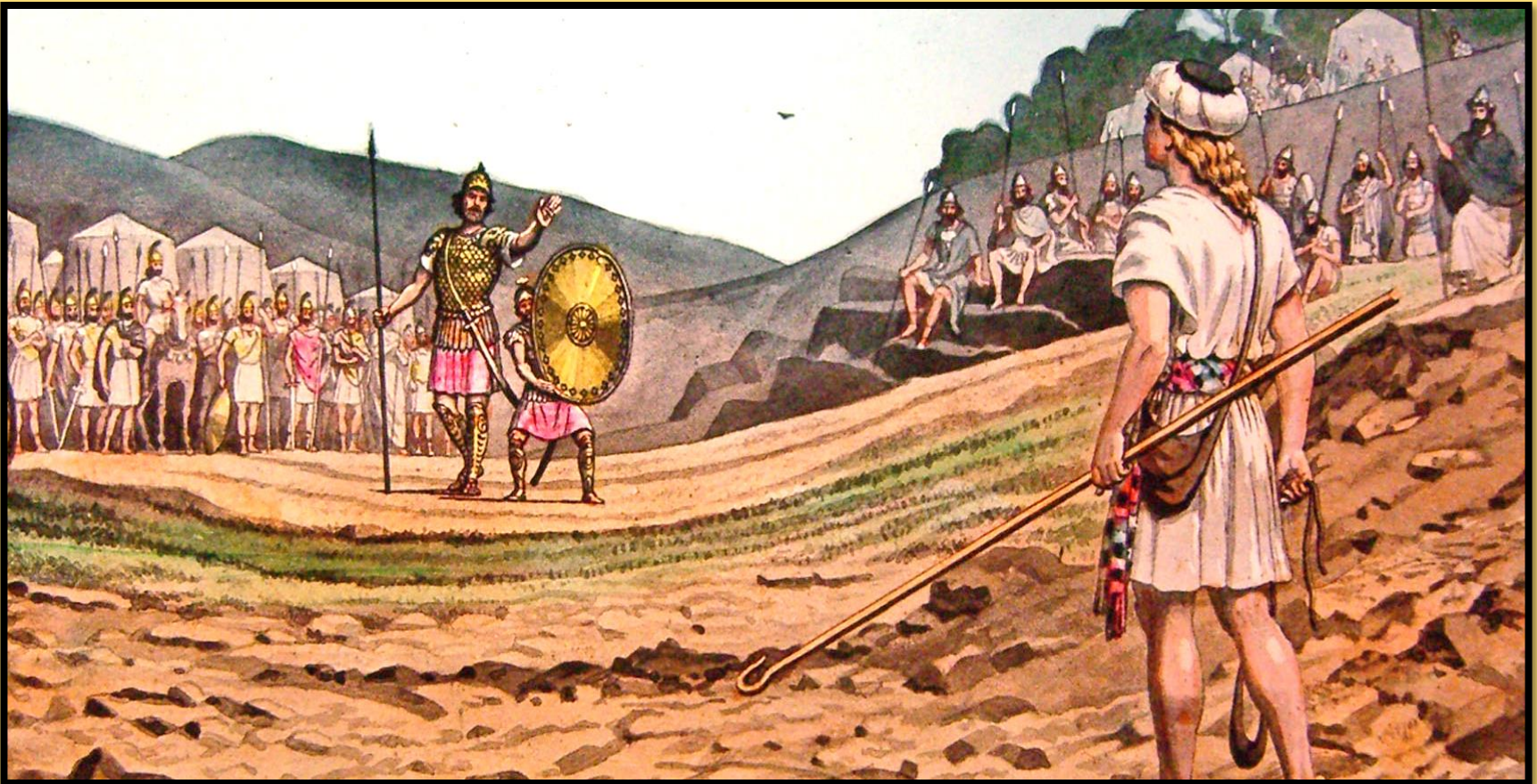
1 Samuel 17

“⁴¹And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. ⁴²And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. ⁴³And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.”



1 Samuel 17

“⁴⁴And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. ⁴⁵Then 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.”



1 Samuel 17

“⁴⁶This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give you into our hands.”



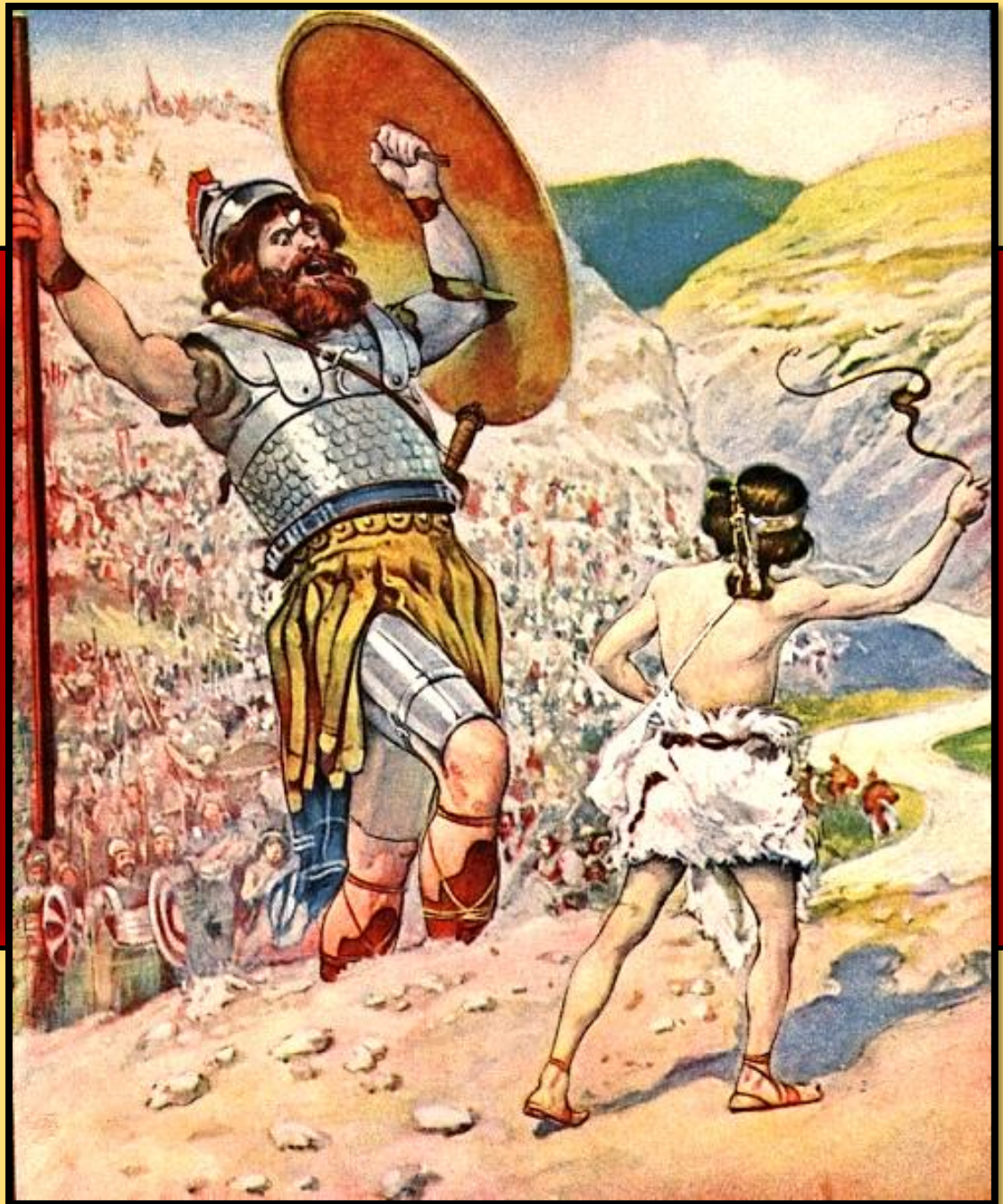
1 Samuel 17

“⁴⁸And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came, and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.”



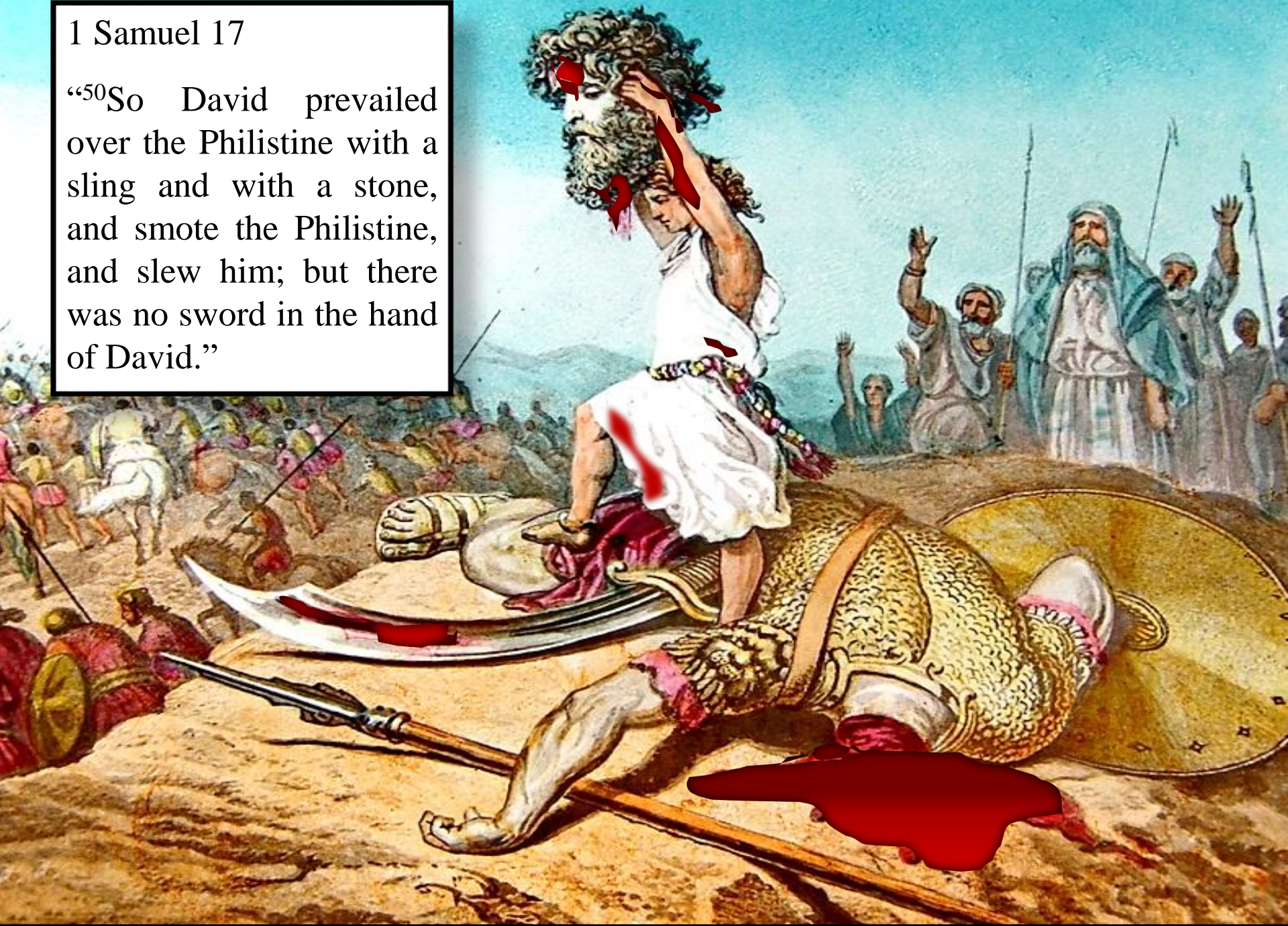
1 Samuel 17

“⁴⁹And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.”



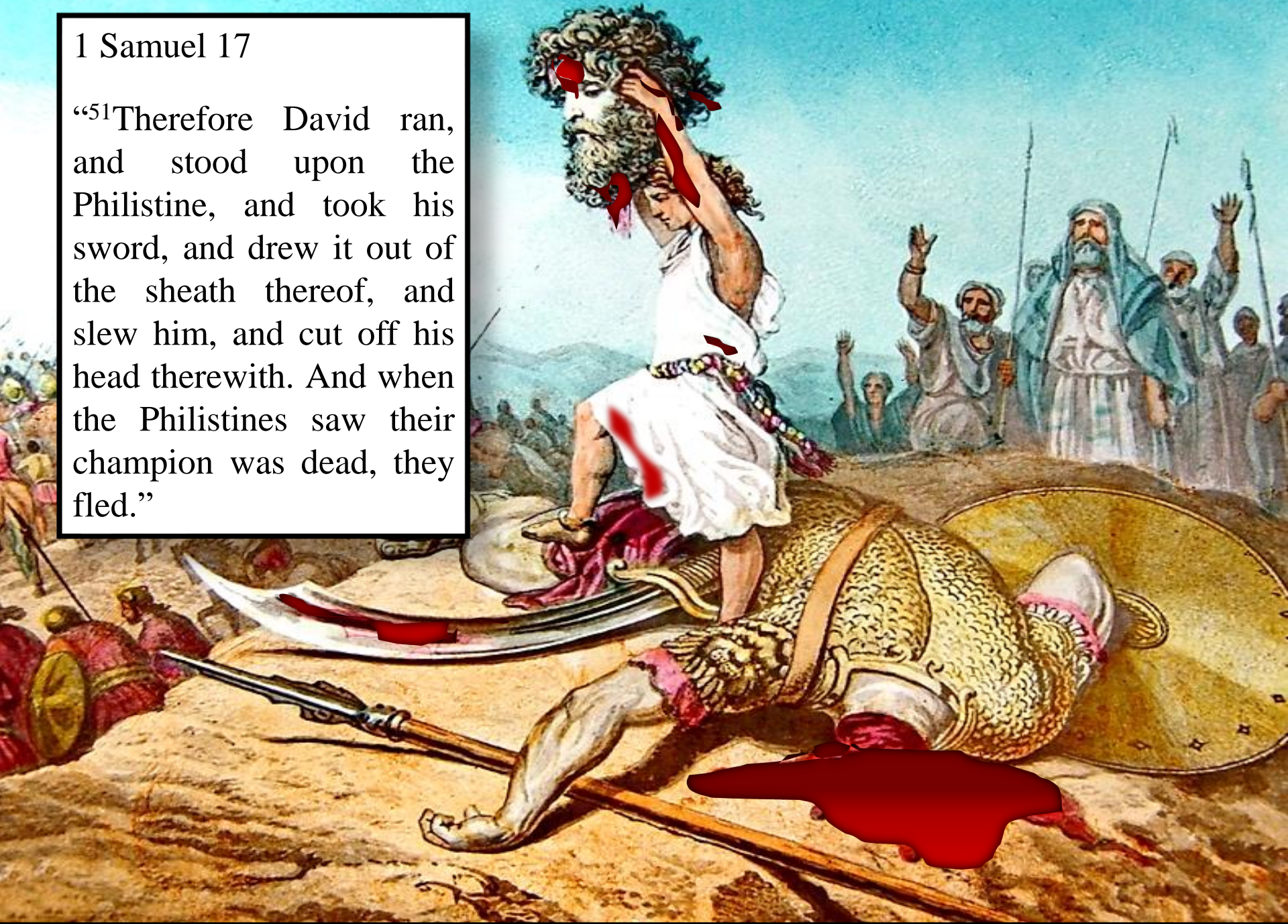
1 Samuel 17

“⁵⁰So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.”



1 Samuel 17

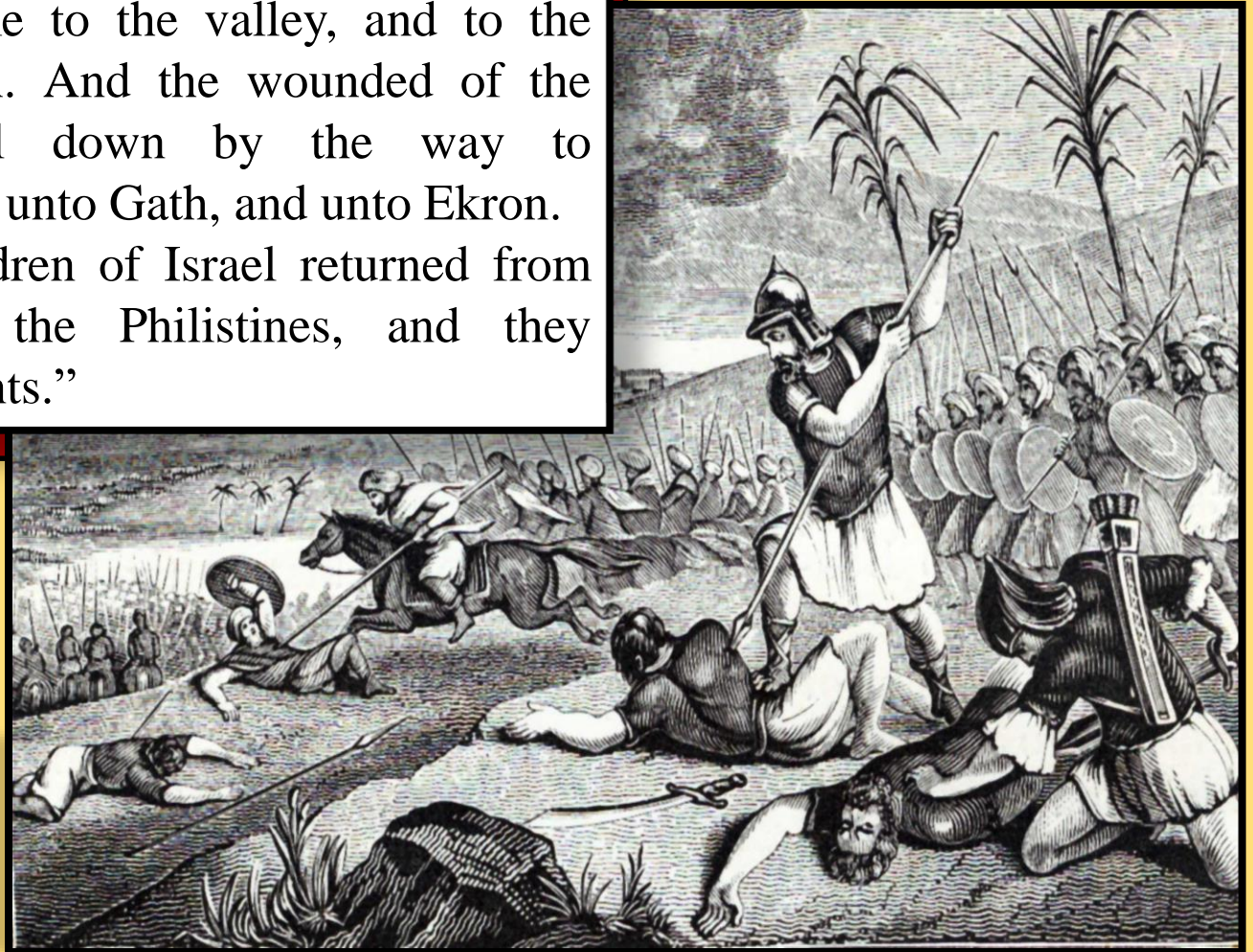
“⁵¹Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.”



1 Samuel 17

“⁵²And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron.

⁵³And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents.”



1 Samuel 17

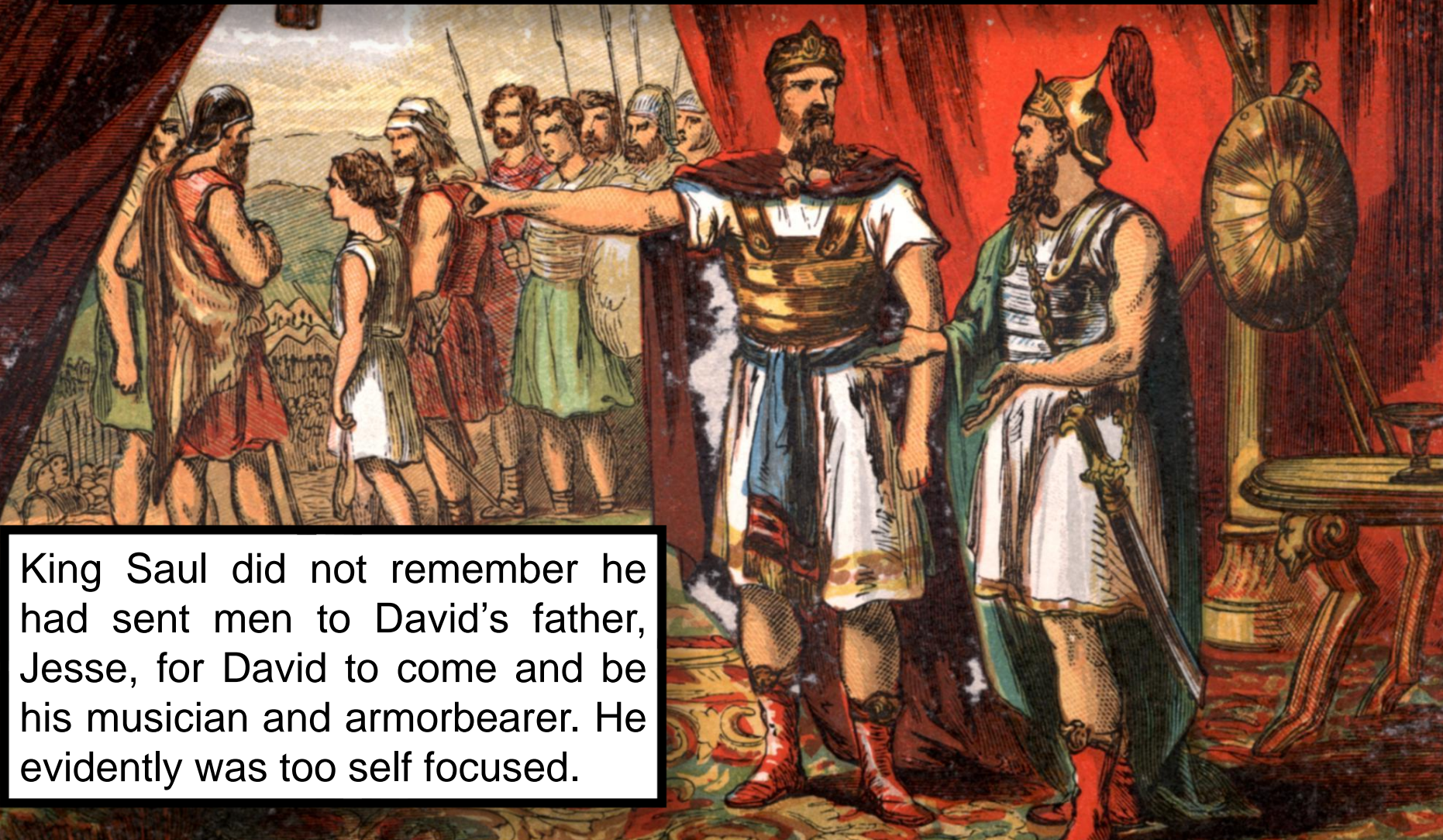
“⁵⁴And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent.”

armour in his tent.”
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1 Samuel 17

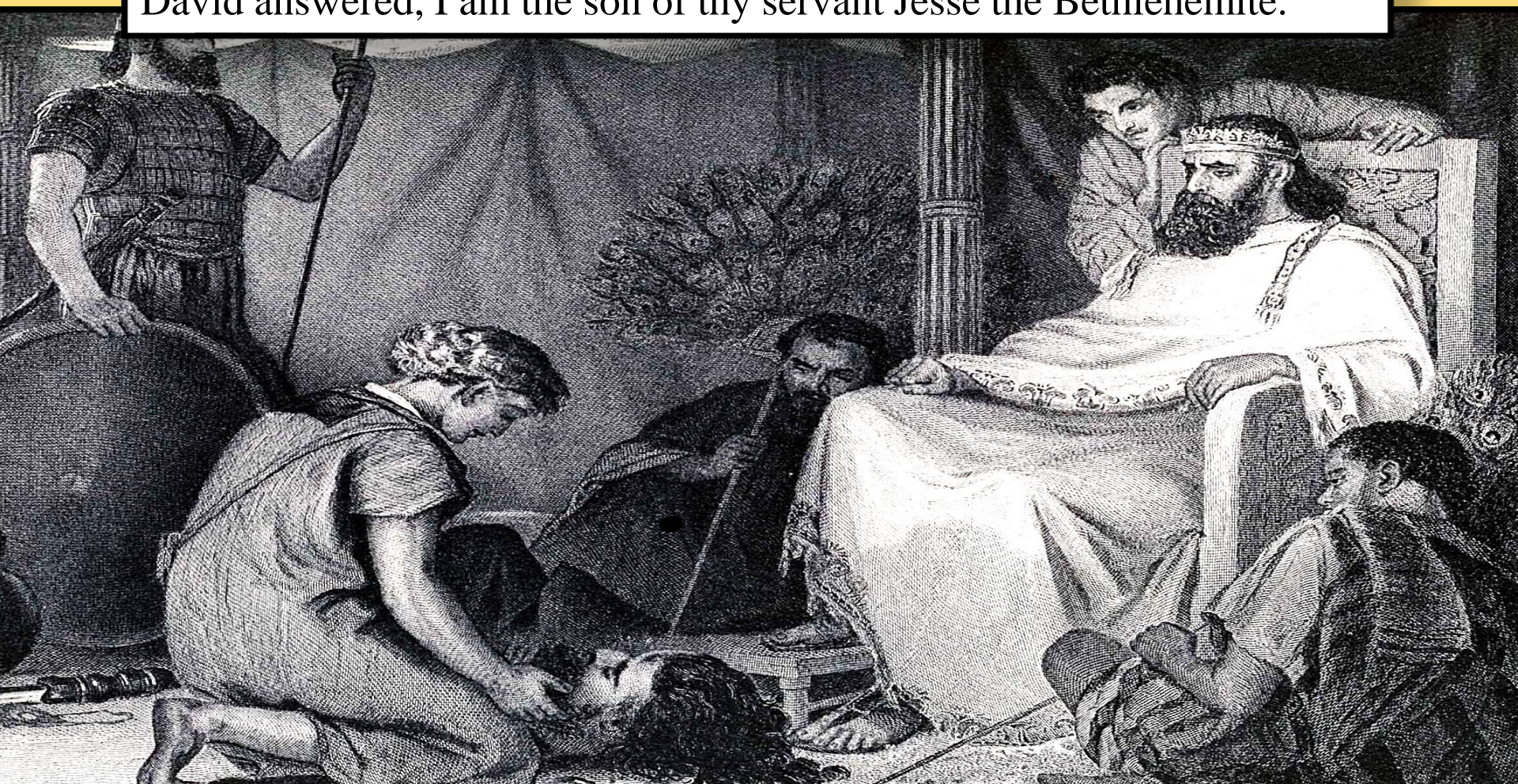
“⁵⁵And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, Abner, whose son is this youth? And Abner said, As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell.”



King Saul did not remember he had sent men to David's father, Jesse, for David to come and be his musician and armorbearer. He evidently was too self focused.

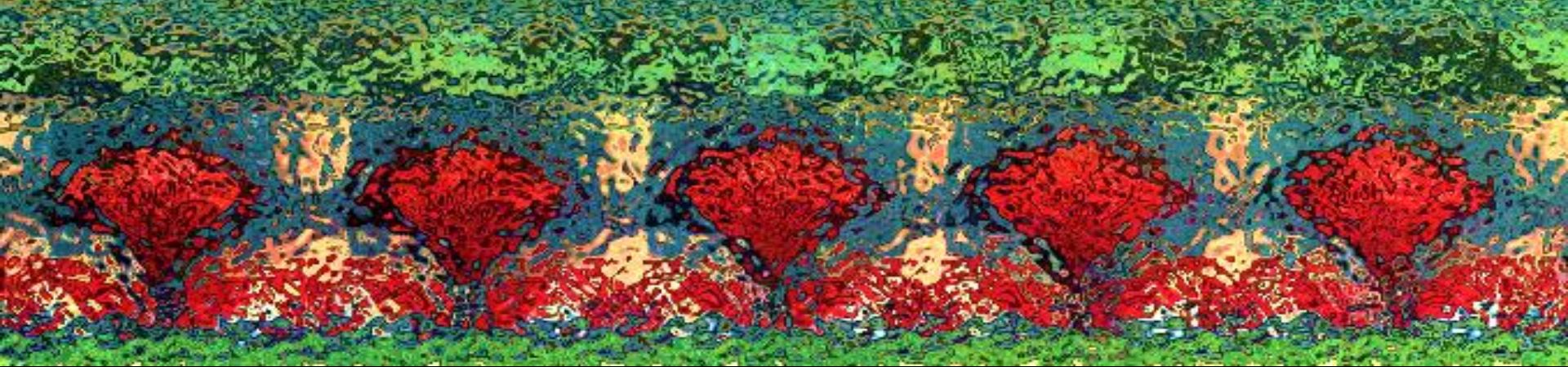
1 Samuel 17

“⁵⁶And the king said, Enquire thou whose son the stripling is. ⁵⁷And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. ⁵⁸And Saul said to him, Whose son art thou, thou young man? And David answered, I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.”



Soon King Saul will discover that this young man was chosen to take his place as king.





THE END

