

## 1 Samuel 17.37-50: "hands" and chiasm

David said, "YHWH, who saved me from the **hand** of the lion and from the **hand** of the bear, will save me from the **hand** of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may YHWH be with you!"

Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them.

Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them.

### 1 Samuel 17.40-50 chiasm

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A: Then he took his staff in his **hand**, and chose **five smooth stones** from the wadi, and put them **in his shepherd's bag**, in the pouch; his **sling** was in his **hand**, and he drew near to the Philistine.

**B: The Philistine came on and drew near to David**, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance.

C: **The Philistine said to David**, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by **his gods**.

**The Philistine said to David**, "Come to me, and **I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.**"

#### **[internal chiasm]**

C<sup>1</sup>: (A) But **David said to the Philistine**, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in **the name of YHWH of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel**, whom you have defied.

(B) *This very day* **YHWH** will deliver you into my **hand**,

(C) and I will strike you down and cut off your head;

(B') and **I will give the dead bodies** of the Philistine army *this very day* to **the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth**, so that all the earth may know that there **is a God in Israel**, and that all this assembly may know that **YHWH** does not save by sword and spear;

(A') for the **battle is YHWH's** and he will give you into our **hand**."

**B': When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David**, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

A<sup>1</sup>: David put his **hand in his bag**, took out **a stone**, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; **the stone** sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. So David prevailed over the Philistine with **a sling and a stone**, striking down the Philistine and killing him; there was no sword in David's **hand**.