

In 1-Samuel 17:38 why did Samuel provide David with his armour? Is there any spiritual reason?

Saul gave David his armor to fight Goliath. There may be spiritual significance in his actions—playing on David’s elevation to the throne (Smith, 1899).¹

Robert D. Bergen wrote:

The writer’s inclusion of the clothing incident probably was meant to serve two functions: first, to preserve an unusual but interesting occurrence in the background of the Goliath event, indicating the greater value of divine enablement over human devices; second and more importantly, to symbolize David’s rejection of Saul’s approach to kingship. Saul chose to dress in royal clothing “such as all the other nations have”; David would wear none of it. Instead, he would identify with the great shepherd-leaders of the Torah—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and especially Moses—and live by faith in the promises of God (cf. Heb 11).²

The apostle Paul said, “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds (2 Co 10:4).”

The Christian’s armor (Eph. 6:11–17; 1 Thess. 5:8) is of righteousness (2 Cor. 6:7) and light (Rom. 13:12) not immorality (Prov. 7:16).

God sees Laodicean types who live on the earth as: wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. (Re 3:17b). He threatens to spit out those who do not repent (Re 3:15–16).

¹ Smith, H. P. (1899). A critical and exegetical commentary on the books of Samuel. (p. 160). C. Scribner’s Sons.

² Bergen, R. D. (1996). 1, 2 Samuel (Vol. 7, pp. 194–195). Broadman & Holman Publishers. Robert D. Bergen