

## ~GOLIATH (287) (Go-li'ath)

- The giant from the city of Gath, champion of the Philistine army, who was killed by David. **Goliath** towered to the extraordinary height of six cubits and a span (2.9 meters)(9.5 feet). His copper coat of mail weighed 5,000 shekels (57 kilograms)(126 pounds) and the iron blade of his spear weighed 600 shekels (6.8 kilograms)(15 pounds).
- And a champion began to go out from the camps of the Philistines, his name being **Goliath**, from Gath, his height being six cubits and a span. (1 Samuel 17:4)
- And there was a helmet of copper on his head, and he was clad with a coat of mail, of overlapping scales, and the weight of the coat of mail was five thousand shekels of copper. (1 Samuel 17:5)
- And the wooden shaft of his spear was like the beam of loom workers, and the blade of his spear was six hundred shekels of iron, and the bearer of the large shield was marching ahead of him. (1 Samuel 17:7)
- **Goliath** was one of the Rephaim, he may have been a mercenary soldier with the Philistine army.
- And there came to be war again with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair got to strike down Lahmi the brother of **Goliath** the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like the beam of loom workers. (1 Chronicles 20:5)
- These were the ones that had been born to the Rephaim in Gath, and they came to fall by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants. (1 Chronicles 20:8)

## See Also REPHAIM

- Not long after David's anointing by Samuel, and after Yehowah's spirit had left King Saul.
- Accordingly Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the spirit of Yehowah began to be

operative upon David from that day forward. Later Samuel rose and went his way to Ramah. (**1 Samuel 16:13**)

- And the very spirit of Yehowah departed from Saul, and a bad spirit from Yehowah terrorized him. (**1 Samuel 16:14**)
- The Philistines collected for war against Israel at Socoh and then encamped in Ephes-dammim. As the battle lines of the Philistines and Saul's army faced each other across the valley, the gigantic warrior **Goliath** emerged from the Philistine camp and loudly challenged Israel to supply a man to fight him in single combat, the outcome to determine which army should become the servant of the other.
- Morning and evening, for 40 days, the army of Israel, in great fear, was subjected to these taunts. No Israelite soldier had the courage to accept the challenge.
- And the Philistines went collecting their camps together for war. When they were collected together at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, then they took up camping between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. (**1 Samuel 17:1**)
- As for Saul and the men of Israel, they collected themselves together and took up camping in the low plain of Elah, and they went drawing up in battle formation to meet the Philistines. (**1 Samuel 17:2**)
- And the Philistines were standing on the mountain on this side, and the Israelites were standing on the mountain on that side, with the valley between them. (**1 Samuel 17:3**)
- And a champion began to go out from the camps of the Philistines, his name being **Goliath**, from Gath, his height being six cubits and a span. (**1 Samuel 17:4**)
- And there was a helmet of copper on his head, and he was clad with a coat of mail, of overlapping scales, and the weight of the coat of mail was five thousand shekels of copper. (**1 Samuel 17:5**)
- And there were greaves of copper above his feet and a javelin of copper between his shoulders. (**1 Samuel 17:6**)
- And the wooden shaft of his spear was like the beam of loom

workers, and the blade of his spear was six hundred shekels of iron, and the bearer of the large shield was marching ahead of him. (1 Samuel 17:7)

- Then he stood still and began to call to the battle lines of Israel and say to them; Why do you come out to draw up in battle formation? Am I not the Philistine and you servants belonging to Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. (1 Samuel 17:8)
- If he is able to fight with me and he does strike me down, we must then become servants to you. But if I myself am a match for him and I do strike him down, you must also become servants to us, and you must serve us. (1 Samuel 17:9)
- And the Philistine went on to say; I myself do taunt the battle lines of Israel this day. Give me a man, and let us fight together! (1 Samuel 17:10)
- When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, then they became terrified and were greatly afraid. (1 Samuel 17:11)
- And the Philistine kept coming forward at early morning and at evening and taking his position for forty days. (1 Samuel 17:16)
- In taunting the armies of the living God Yehowah, **Goliath** sealed his own doom. The young shepherd David, with God's spirit upon him, met **Goliath's** challenge.
- **Goliath**, preceded by his armor-bearer carrying a large shield, advanced, calling down evil upon David by his gods. To this David replied; You are coming to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I am coming to you with the name of Yehowah of armies, the God of the battle lines of Israel, whom you have taunted.
- David slung a stone from his sling, and it sank into **Goliath's** forehead, and he fell to the earth. David followed this up by standing on **Goliath** and cutting off his head with the giant's own sword. This was promptly followed by a signal rout and slaughter of the Philistines.
- And David began to say to the men that were standing close by him; What will be done to the man that strikes down that Philistine over there and actually turns away reproach from upon Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he has to

**taunt the battle lines of the living God? (1 Samuel 17:26)**

- **And the Philistine began to come, coming nearer and nearer to David, and the man carrying the large shield was ahead of him. (1 Samuel 17:41)**
- **Now when the Philistine looked and saw David, he began despising him because he proved to be a boy and ruddy, of beautiful appearance. (1 Samuel 17:42)**
- **So the Philistine said to David; Am I a dog, so that you are coming to me with staves? With that the Philistine called down evil upon David by his gods. (1 Samuel 17:43)**
- **And the Philistine went on to say to David; Just come to me, and I will give your flesh to the fowls of the heavens and to the beasts of the field. (1 Samuel 17:44)**
- **In turn David said to the Philistine; You are coming to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I am coming to you with the name of Yehowah of armies, the God of the battle lines of Israel, whom you have taunted. (1 Samuel 17:45)**
- **This day Yehowah will surrender you into my hand, and I shall certainly strike you down and remove your head off you, and I shall certainly give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines this day to the fowls of the heavens and to the wild beasts of the earth, and people of all the earth will know that there exists a God belonging to Israel. (1 Samuel 17:46)**
- **And all this congregation will know that neither with sword nor with spear does Yehowah save, because to Yehowah belongs the battle, and he must give you men into our hand. (1 Samuel 17:47)**
- **And it occurred that the Philistine rose and kept coming and drawing nearer to meet David, and David began hurrying and running toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. (1 Samuel 17:48)**
- **Then David thrust his hand into his bag and took a stone from there and slung it, so that he struck the Philistine in his forehead and the stone sank into his forehead, and he went falling upon his face to the earth. (1 Samuel 17:49)**

- **So David, with a sling and a stone, proved stronger than the Philistine and struck the Philistine down and put him to death, and there was no sword in David's hand. (1 Samuel 17:50)**
- **And David continued running and got to stand over the Philistine. Then he took his sword and pulled it out of its sheath and definitely put him to death when he cut his head off with it. And the Philistines got to see that their mighty one had died, and they took to flight. (1 Samuel 17:51)**
- **At that the men of Israel and of Judah rose and broke into shouting and went in pursuit of the Philistines clear to the valley and as far as the gates of Ekron, and the fatally wounded of the Philistines kept falling on the way from Shaaraim, both as far as Gath and as far as Ekron. (1 Samuel 17:52)**
- **Afterward the sons of Israel returned from hotly pursuing the Philistines and went pillaging their camps. (1 Samuel 17:53)**
- **Then David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, and his weapons he put in his tent.**
- **Then David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, and his weapons he put in his tent. (1 Samuel 17:54)**
- **While it is true that the stronghold of Zion was not captured until later by David.**
- **Just the same, David proceeded to capture the stronghold of Zion, that is, the City of David. (2 Samuel 5:7)**
- **The city of Jerusalem itself had long been inhabited by Israelites, along with Jebusites.**
- **As for the Jebusites who were dwelling in Jerusalem, the sons of Judah were not able to drive them away, and the Jebusites continue dwelling with the sons of Judah in Jerusalem down to this day (Joshua 15:63)**
- **Furthermore, the sons of Judah carried on war against Jerusalem and got to capture it, and they went striking it with the edge of the sword, and the city they consigned to the fire. (Judges 1:8)**

- Later on, David evidently turned **Goliath's** sword over to the sanctuary. This is indicated by the fact that Ahimelech the priest gave it to David when David was fleeing from Saul.
- And David went on to say to Ahimelech; And is there nothing here at your disposal, a spear or a sword? For neither my own sword nor my weapons did I take in my hand, because the king's matter proved to be urgent. (**1 Samuel 21:8**)
- To this the priest said; The sword of **Goliath** the Philistine, whom you struck down in the low plain of Elah, here it is, wrapped up in a mantle, behind the ephod. If it is what you would take for yourself, take it, because there is no other here except it. And David went on to say; There is none like it. Give it to me. (**1 Samuel 21:9**)
- A passage that has caused some difficulty is found at;
- And war arose once again with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite got to strike down **Goliath** the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like the beam of loom workers. (**2 Samuel 21:19**)
- Where it is stated; Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite got to strike down **Goliath** the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like the beam of loom workers. The parallel account at;
- And there came to be war again with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair got to strike down Lahmi the brother of **Goliath** the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like the beam of loom workers. (**1 Chronicles 20:5**)
- Reads; Elhanan the son of Jair got to strike down Lahmi the brother of **Goliath** the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like the beam of loom workers.
- Several suggestions have been made for an explanation of the problem. The **Targum** preserves a tradition that Elhanan is to be identified with David.
- The **Soncino Books of the Bible**, edited by A. Cohen [London, 1951,1952], comment that there is no difficulty in the assumption that there were two **Goliaths**, commenting also that **Goliath** may have been a descriptive title like Pharaoh, Rabshakeh, Sultan.

• The fact that one text refers to Jaare-oregim, whereas the other reads Jair, and also that only the account in Second Samuel contains the term Bethlehemite **Hebrew**, *be<sup>h</sup>th hal-lach-mi'* while the Chronicles account alone contains the name Lahmi *'eth-Lach-mi'*, has been suggested by the majority of commentators to be the result of a copyists error.

**See Also JAARE-OREGIM**

**See Also LAHMI**