

To the Saints of God at Topeka, Kansas

October 21, 2018

David and Goliath, Part 4 - Goliath – Man of the Flesh (Part 2)

1st Samuel 17:1 *Now 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. 2 And 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. 3 And 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. 4 And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 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. 7 And 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. 8 And 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. 9 If 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. 10 And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. 11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.*



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

Strong's translates "greaves of brass" as leg armor. Some say that because Goliath's legs were within reach of the ordinary man, they were the most vulnerable to attack. Clarke says *it was a plate of brass which covered the shin or fore part of the leg, from the knee down to the instep, and was buckled with straps behind the leg.* This would have been the military equivalent to shin guards in soccer, but made out of brass.



Regarding the *target of brass between his shoulders*. There is some disagreement as to what this was but Strong's interprets it as:

- 1) javelin, short sword, dart
- 2) gorget, a piece of armour for the throat

Gill quotes the Targum which says it was either a spear or defensive weaponry for the throat. Since Goliath already had 156 pounds of heavy armor/coat of mail, it seems reasonable this

was an offensive weapon. John Trapp says he was a walking armory of weapons from head to foot. I believe this "target of brass" was probably a light spear or javelin made of brass that was draped over his back. His main spear ("like a weaver's beam") was quite large, so he may have desired to have something smaller and lighter for close combat. Luke throws the javelin in track and an average javelin is between 6' and 7' and they can be thrown in the neighborhood of a football field. See example. Javelins were popular weapons of that day: 1st Sam. 19:10 *And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.*

Goliath Defensive and Offensive Weapon Summary:

Defensive	Offensive
Helmet of brass	Javelin/short sword/dart (on his back)
Heavy coat of mail (front and back)	Sword (possibly on his hip)
Leg guards	Spear like a weaver's beam
Shield	

Matthew Henry says Goliath's offensive weaponry were extraordinary; all of it was absolutely lethal. This walking wrecking machine was the hope of the Philistines in this battle. They had no faith, so like this nation we live in and this world, the people put their faith in their stuff: technology, war machines, MOAB, etc. The blessed gospel that the just shall live by faith is divinely hidden from them.

Ro 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

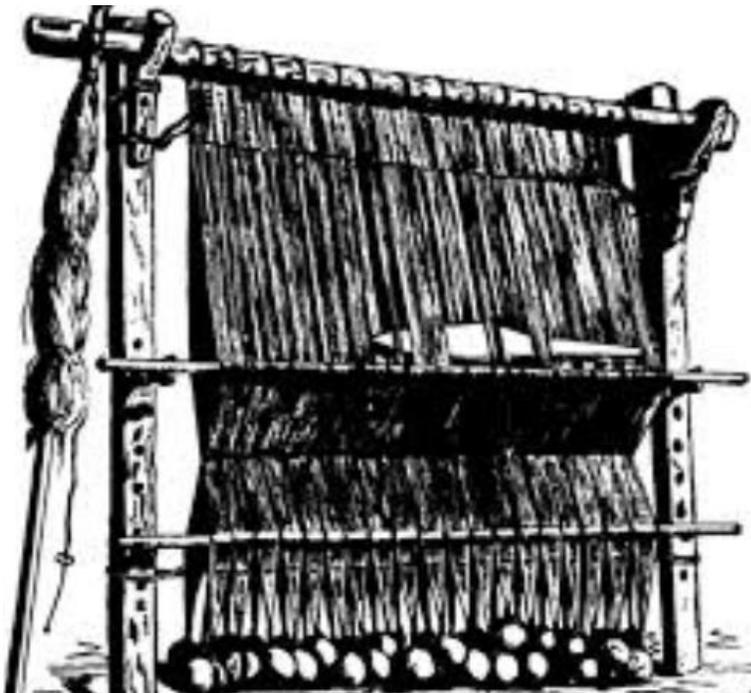
And where was it written? Hab 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Ga 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.⁷ And 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.

2Co 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: Praise God! How blessedly simple is that?

The staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. A weaver's beam is top part of a loom.



Gill calculates the length of the spear at 26'. Sam's truck with extra cab and bed is around 20'. The width of this church is only 24', so this was a huge weapon (see

example). The spear's head by itself was six hundred shekels of iron or about 18 pounds. Gill calculates the total weight of the spear at about 37 pounds. I believe his heavy spear would have specially been used when facing chariots, heavy cavalry, or infantry in the "300" configuration. Think of the movie Braveheart when the heavy cavalry was going to run down the infantry and they brought out huge spears. The heavy spear might not be as nimble when fighting quicker, smaller men. On the other hand, if you were struck with such a weapon the force would be so great as to make mail or other armor. If the spear was 26' it would explain why a lighter javelin for close combat would have been helpful.

The text says *and one bearing a shield went before him*. In battle, depending on the type of combat, Goliath would ordinarily have his sword in one hand and his shield in the other. Gill says Goliath's shield (most likely of brass) weighed 34 pounds. An average shield is between 32" and 36" which is about what a normal sword. I calculate if the proportions are the same, that Goliath's shield was between 56" and 60". (See example.)

Psalm 47:7 For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. 8 God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness. 9 The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted.

The text says he had a person bearing his shield. This would be the normal job of an armorbearer or squire. Some people make a big deal about this saying that he needed a handler to guide him to the battle. I don't think that at all, the Old Testament mentions armorbearers several times, so I don't think this is unusual.

Andre the Giant had a medical condition called Acromegaly. It is also known as gigantism. The condition is a tumor (brain tumor) in the pituitary gland that produces huge amounts of human growth hormone (HGH). The condition leads to heart attacks, strokes, high blood pressure, colon cancer, headaches, and vision problems among other things. Some people suggest that Goliath had this and that is what made him a giant. They also say that the reason he has a handler was because he could not see well, and they make a big deal out of verse 43 where Goliath says David comes to him with staves – that is, multiple sticks (plural) when David surely only had one shepherd's staff. They say this proves he had poor eye sight and suffered from

Acromegaly. All of this is outside the Bible, irrelevant and not supported as far as I am concerned.

Back to the shield - the expositors say that because Goliath's mail was so heavy, he would not have even needed a shield. Even before Goliath opens his mouth he has created an in terrorem affect – Latin for *into/about fear*. His person and his offensive weaponry and defensive armor is meant to strike fear and apprehension into his enemies.

8 And 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.

So here starts Goliath's taunts to the Israelites – again as a way to strike fear and dread in them and to create an in terrorem effect – which it does quite well. *Why are you come out to set your battle in array?* – as if to say *how dare you oppose us - you are going to lose anyway*. The expositors say that among other things the taunt is aimed at Saul himself – for Saul to fight with him (particularly since Saul was head and shoulders above anyone else) – but then generally he (Goliath) would fight with anyone – it didn't have to be a commander or leader in the army. Jarchi says that Goliath bragged that he killed the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, took the ark captive, and carried it into the temple of Dagon.

9 If 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. 10 And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. 11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

Goliath makes the challenge, though it is fairly ridiculous to assume anyone would adhere to the terms, yet Goliath makes it anyway. He defies the armies of Israel and the God of Israel to do battle with him. It is a reproach and an insult to the nation of Israel and the God they serve. And, Saul and all Israel are dismayed (means “broken” “shattered”) at Goliath's words. The army of Israel was full of valiant men, Abner, Jonathan and many others, yet now their courage is gone because all they see is the flesh and not the will or spirit of God.

The railing is “I defy the armies of Israel this day.” Goliath as much as says “I defy the armies of the Living God this day.” The word defy means to *reproach, blaspheme, rail, unbraid, taunt*. I blaspheme the name of the Living God this day, what are you going to do about it? They have been the neighbors of the Israelites for hundreds of years. They know the God of Israel. They remember the golden emerods. They heard of the slaughter of the Egyptians. This is an open and notorious taunt to the God that Israel serves. This is exactly what this generation does to us. Our enemies think they taunt us with their hard speeches. They do not. They rail and taunt the True and Living God that we serve. Literally millions and millions of hard words, hard speeches, hard rumors, hard tweets, hard Facebook posts, hard Ted Talks, hard movies, hard text messages, hard youtubes, hard newspaper stories, hard radio broadcasts, hard sermons, hard motions, hard affidavits, and hard legal opinions have been said about this little Church for preaching nothing less than the truth of God on Earth and every single one of those hard words is going to be accounted for in the day of judgment. Shimei had to give an account for the hard, untrue and unrighteous words he said about David. The day of judgment is coming. From the beginning, the prophets of God knew that the day of judgment is coming.

Jude: 14 ...Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.

There has been a lot of ungodly deeds done beloved and a lot of ungodly and hard speeches said. They do these deeds and speak and write words not against people, but against God’s being, perfections, providence, purposes, Word, judgments, persons, offices, blood, sacrifices, people, truths and ordinances. They speak their hard words against their own interests and they are forever recorded and written down in a transcript that will be produced at trial.

Beloved, Goliath is the quintessential man of the flesh. The man of the flesh:

- Has no understanding or use for God;
- Lacks any spiritual awakening or spiritual understanding;
- Has no faith in God (Heb. 11:6 - Without faith it is impossible to please God);
- Has no fear of God;
- Is brutish (brute beast);

- Has no sophistication and no loftier thoughts of morality than his or her lusts (i.e. sex, drugs and rock and roll);
- Is focused on what he or she can get right now, this instant, to satisfy whatever perceived need or lust they have;
- Is a slave to sin and 100 percent subordinate to Satan's will.

There are many other examples of men and women of the flesh in the Bible:

- Esau – Sold his birthright for a bowl of beans and pea soup;
- Cain- Rose up and killed his brother in anger because he told him the truth about God;
- Saul, Gehazi, Ananias and Sapphira, Achan, Balaam, and Judas were all men and women of the flesh due to their covetousness and love and desire for money and/or power;
- Lot's wife; the men of Sodom, Cozbi and Zimiri, Ahab/Jezebel and many others were all men and women of the flesh.

Gal 6:7-8 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Gal 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Recall the sermon of Brother Jon on mortifying the flesh. I recommend a review of that.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of

Christ, he is none of his. ... 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

1 Cor 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Rom. 13:13-14 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Rom 9:8 They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

1 John 2:16-18 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

1 Pet 4:2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.



Beloved, we must fight our flesh at every opportunity as it presents itself. It's an absolute trap not to. Rom 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Rom 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Robert Haldane: No truth is more certain than that sin shall not have dominion over believers. God's veracity and glory are pledged to prevent it. They are dead to the guilt of sin, and therefore its power shall no more predominate in them. They have

put on the new man, and the warfare with the old man shall finally terminate in his destruction. The great principle of evangelical obedience is taught in this passage. Holiness is not the result of the law, but of the liberty where with Christ has made His people free. He sends forth the Spirit of grace into the hearts of all who belong to the election of grace, whom God hath from the beginning chosen to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth; and the Word of God worketh effectually in all who believe. Jesus Christ is the absolute master of the hearts of His people, of which He has taken possession, and in whom He resigns by the invincible power of the Spirit of grace. The new covenant made with Him, for those whom He has redeemed, and which is ratified with His blood, is immutable and irreversible.

Rom. 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? 17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Robert Haldane - If we see a number of labourers in a field, we know they are the servants of the proprietor of the field – of the persons in whose work they are employed. If men are doing the work of Satan, must they not be Satan’s servants? If they are doing God’s work, must they not be the servants of God. Beloved, if your actions are satanic acts: adultery, fornication, homosexuality, murder, idolatry, covetousness, stealing etc. then you are in Satan’s field, doing the works of Satan and furthering Satan’s agenda, no matter if you are running your mouth about God at the same time. You are still standing in Satan’s field – *to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey.* The man of the flesh always yields himself to sin and therefore his outcome is death and eternal punishment.

We are truly weak when we rely on our flesh in such a time of need, consternation and affliction. We are engaged in the wars of the Lord and we will win in Christ, by His help and His strength and not on our own! The chariots and horses of fire encamp round about Israel but it takes spiritual eyes to see them. The Lord is going to send a deliverer to shut the mouth of this uncircumcised Philistine that blasphemes and rails against Him and His people.

I love you all. Amen!