

## Exegetical Notes – 1 Samuel 17:1-11

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### 1 Samuel 17:1-11

#### Verses 1-3

**<sup>1</sup> Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. <sup>2</sup> Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. <sup>3</sup> The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.**

- Once again, Israel was engaged in battle with the Philistines. Battle lines were drawn. Israel occupied one of them. The Philistines occupied another.

#### Verses 4-7

**<sup>4</sup> A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. <sup>5</sup> He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; <sup>6</sup> on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. <sup>7</sup> His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.**

- A “Champion” stepped out of the Philistine’s to challenge Israel. Sometimes in ancient days, rather than engage the whole army in battle, “Champions” from each side would fight each other. The outcome of the fight between the “Champions” would decide the outcome of the battle.
- The Philistine Champion was a man from Gath named Goliath. He stood over nine feet tall. He wore a bronze helmet and a coat of armor that weighed 125 pounds. He carried a spear, the shaft of which weighed about 17 pounds and the point of which weighed about 15 pounds. His armor bearer went before him.
- The Philistine “Champion” was impressive!

### Verses 8-10

**<sup>8</sup> Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. <sup>9</sup> If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.” <sup>10</sup> Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.”**

- Goliath challenged the Israelites to send out a “Champion.” He proposed that the fight between the champions settle the outcome of the battle.

### Verse 11

**<sup>11</sup> On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.**

- There was no one in the Israelite camp who could compare to Goliath. When King Saul and the army of Israel looked at the odds, they were dismayed and terrified. The words mean that they were without hope! They were defeated by the prospects that were before them.

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