

11 Giants In The Bible & the Emims

Shelpere

It is not commonly known that Goliath is not the only giant in the Bible or that he was certainly not the tallest! For those who know their Bible, the Bible is full of giants! As early as Genesis 6:4 we see the Nephilim or race of giants coming on the scene. Since we see man, fresh from the Creator's hand, averaging more than nine hundred (900) years in longevity, we can naturally assume that man in those days was much stronger and taller than he is today. For giants to be giants in those early days they had to be really, really tall. But while we see whole armies of giants in the Bible called Nephilim, Rephaims, Emims (Zanzummims or Zuzims), Anakim or children of Anak, the purpose of this article is to point out only those for which we have some details, those who are by and large singled out by name. The following is not necessarily in order of height since the Bible does not give all the details concerning height.

(1) Og, the King of Bashan

Deut. 3:11 says of Og:

"For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man."

While we are not given his height, the length of his bed was longer than Goliath's height by three cubits.

(2) Goliath of Gath

Goliath is the most famous giant in recorded history partly because of the engaging, inspiring story of him boasting and blaspheming against God for days and a young boy, David, who believes God can do all things, steps up and kills him with a stone and sling while King Saul and his army are trembling in their boots due to Goliath. How tall was Goliath? 1 Sam. 17:4 says "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."

Let us consult John Gill's Commentary concerning this. Charles Spurgeon, the Prince of Preachers, referred to John Gill as the most able expert on Hebrew and Jewish customs in his day. John Gill's Commentary says that Goliath was about eleven feet four inches taking a cubit to be twenty-one inches and a span to be approximately half of a cubit. Some say he was closer to twelve feet. Some try to say that he was only about nine feet but when you look at the weight of his armor you have to agree with Gill's Commentary.

Verse 5 says of his armor:

"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."

Gill's Commentary states that the weight given here is over one hundred and fifty-six (156) pounds! That is not giant. That is a monster!

Four Children Of Goliath – Ishbenob, Saph, Lahmi and an unnamed giant.

Goliath left behind him a legacy. Four giants are recorded in 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles and they all are sons of Goliath. (See 2 Sam. 21:22)

(3) Ishbibenob, a son of Goliath (2 Sam. 21:16,17)

This giant almost got revenge for his father's death by almost killing David in battle when the latter felt faint, but fortunately for David, his valiant nephew Abishai, killed him. We do not have any record of his height. We do know that his spear was half the weight of Goliath's spear which would have been very heavy.

(4) Saph (also called Sippai) (2 Sam. 21:18; 1 Chron. 20:6)

Saph was also a son of Goliath of Gath. His very name "Saph" means "tall" while "Sippai" means "threshold" coming from a Hebrew word that means "door" since he was tall (or taller) than a door in those days.

(5) Lahmi (2 Sam. 21:20; 1 Chron. 20:6)

2 Sam. 21:20 does not give his name but 1 Chron. 20:6 does. Let me preface my statement on him by first saying that in the King James Version whenever there is a word or words in italics those words are not in the original Hebrew or Greek but were supplied by translators to make the sentence run more smoothly. 2 Sam. 21:20 tells us that he was "the brother of Goliath the Gittite." The words "the brother" are not in the original text. It should read that he was "of Goliath the Gittite" meaning that he was Goliath's son as 2 Sam. 21:22 says:

"These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants."

(6) An unusual anonymous giant

This unnamed giant was also a son of Goliath. Again we are not told his height but this giant still "stands out" among the rest since he had twenty-four digits!

2 Sam. 21:20 says "And there was yet a battle in Gath, where was a man of great stature, that had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, four and twenty in number; and he also was born to the giant."

Way back then he could have started the "digital" age.

(7) Anak

Anak was the father of the Anakim. Any man who engendered a race of giants had to have been quite a giant himself. His very name "Anak" means "long necked" a tribute to his height, since he himself was the son of giant. His descendants were called the "Anakims" or "the children of "Anak," that fearsome race of giants that Israel encountered on their way to the promised land. From the available evidence we can assume that Goliath of Gath, himself was a descendant of Anak. Josh. 11:22 tells us "There was none of the Anakims left in the land of the children of Israel: only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained."

When Moses sent out twelve spies to spy out the land of Canaan ten of them came back saying in Num. 13:33: "And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."

The children of Anak

The following are the only names we have for known Anakims – three sons of Anak. All we know about them is their name and that they were giants.

(8) Ahiman

(See Num. 13:22; Josh. 15:14; Judges 1:10)

(9) Sheshai, a son of Anak

(See Num. 13:22; Josh. 15:14; Judges 1:10)

(10) Talmai, son of Anak

His name means "ridge." I would not be surprised if "mountain ridge" is being alluded too as an exaggeration of the height of a would-be giant.

(See Num. 13:22; Josh. 15:14; Judges 1:10)

(11) Number 11?

Well, I did say "Top 10" but how could I leave out Arba, the father of Anak. "Top 11" is not as catchy as "Top 10."

Arba, the father of Anak

Little is known about Arba except that he was the father of Anak who was the father of that giant race called the Anakim. (See Josh. 15:13; Josh. 21:11). Josh. 14:15 adds:

"And the name of Hebron before was Kirjatharba; which Arba was a great man among the Anakims"

The Hebrew word for 'great' here can also mean "large" or "high." This same word "great" was used to talk about Anakims as giants.

Emims

Deut. 2:10,21 "The Emims dwelt therein in times past, a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; A people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; but the LORD destroyed them before them; and they succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead."

Deut. 9:2 "A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak!"

In conclusion, Samson, notwithstanding his great strength, had to have been a brave man to have been wandering around in Gath which was known for its giants. The tallest men today would have felt like grasshoppers like Israel next to these giants. Maybe we would feel like ants in front of giants.