

THE VALLEY OF ELAH

1 Samuel 17:1–3, *Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. 3 And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.*

The Philistines were marching toward Bethlehem and from there would attack Jerusalem (see map).

Goliath

- 9'9" tall
- His bronze helmet and coat of armor weighed 125 pounds.
- His spear had a 15 pound iron tip.
- Twice a day for forty days, he challenged Saul and his army.
- Goliath's contempt for David, 1 Samuel 17:42-44, *And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. 43 And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field."*

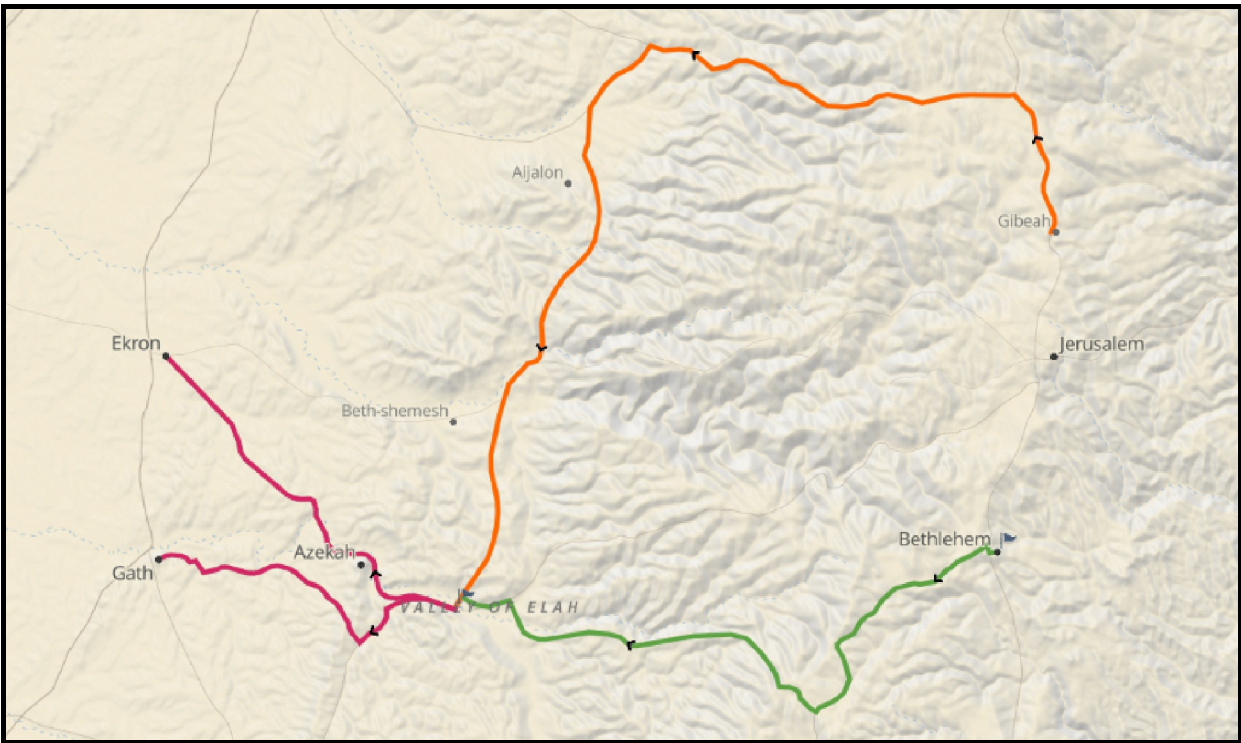
David

- His father's request, 1 Samuel 17:17-18, *And Jesse said to David his son, "Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. 18 Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them."*
- His motivation was God's honor, 1 Samuel 17:36, *Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God."*
- His response to Goliath, 1 Samuel 17:45-47, *Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."*

Saul

- 1 Samuel 17:55-58, *As soon as Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know." 56 And the king said, "Inquire whose son the boy is." 57 And as soon as David returned from the striking down of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."*
- Saul was familiar with David who had comforted him with his harp. As is the case for many who have servants, they know nothing about them except that they are to do their jobs. David was undoubtedly wondering, what kind of person is this who just killed Goliath? Are there more like him from his family?

THE BATTLE OF ELAH: DAVID VS GOLIATH



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- Orange** Route of Saul and his army from Gibeah to the Valley of Elah
- Green** David's route from Bethlehem to the Israelite camp
- Red** Israelites' routes as they pursued the fleeing Philistines



The Valley of Elah



Location of the army of Saul