

David's Five Stones

'He took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones out of the brook and put them in his shepherd's (lunch) bag, in his pouch, and his sling was in his hand, and he drew near the Philistine' (1 Samuel 17:40).

Why did David choose five smooth stones? The stones would have to be smooth to fly through the air at the speed it needed to go, to knock out a giant! A rough stone would have had too much wind drag and would not have flown in a straight line. That answer is obvious; but why five stones and not one? David was probably being prudent because he may have needed them to slay the other four giants; Goliath's four sons and possibly his brother Lahmi. After Goliath was slain, the Anakim tribe became afraid, retreated and were chased back to Gath by the Israelites (1 Samuel 17:51 to 53). The Israelites warred several more times with the giant tribe, including with Goliath's four sons. They were killed one by one, and eventually the Israelites moved in and slew them all (2 Samuel 21:22; 1 Chronicles 20:8).

The history of Goliath and his tribe is interesting. Goliath was from Gath and was known as a Gittite (1 Samuel 17:4; 1 Chronicles 20:5). He was from the tribe of the Anakim who were about 3 metres tall with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot (1 Samuel 17:4; 1 Chronicles 20:6). The word Anakim means 'large in stature'. They were descendants of Anak (Numbers 13:33; Deuteronomy 9:2). The giants were six cubits and a span tall (1 Samuel 17:4). One cubit was about 18 inches/46 cm, and a span was about 9 inches/23 cm. Six cubits was about 9 feet. Add the span of about 9 inches, you get 9 feet 9 inches or nearly 3 metres tall. Initially, the children of Israel were so terrified of the giant race, they considered themselves as 'grasshoppers' in the sight of the Anakim (Numbers 13:33) and their hearts 'melted' when they saw the sons of Anakim (Deuteronomy 1:28).

There was another race of giants as tall as the Anakim in the district, but they were known by three different names; the Emim, Rephaim and Zamzummim (Deuteronomy 2:10, 11, 20 & 21). Hebron was once named Kiriath-arba, or the city of Arba, after the greatest Anakim warrior (Joshua 14:15; 21:11). There were only three villages where the Anakim lived after they had been forced out by Joshua's army; Gath, Gaza and Ashdod (Joshua 11:21 & 22). The Rephaim once lived in Canaan, and were joined in a verse with the Hittites and the Perizzites as ones to be driven out from the Promised Land (Genesis 15:18 & 20). One Repha man named King Og of Bashan was so tall his bed was made of iron, and was 9 cubits long (that is about 15 feet or just over 4 metres long) and 4 cubits wide (6 feet or nearly 2 metres wide) (Deuteronomy 3:11).

Goliath's brother was named Lahmi and he was slain by Elhanan (2 Samuel 21:19; 1 Chronicles 20:5).

Goliath was the father of four sons (2 Samuel 21:22).

One son named Ishbi-benob was killed by Abishai (2 Samuel 21:16 & 17).

Another son was named Saph who was killed by Sibbecai (2 Samuel 21:18).

Another son named Sippai was also killed by Sibbecai (1 Chronicles 20:4).

Another son was unnamed but was of great stature and he was killed by King David's nephew Jonathan (2 Samuel 21:20; 1 Chronicles 20:6 & 7).

The Anakim originated in the area later known as Mesopotamia, where Noah lived. 'There were giants (Nephilim) on the earth in those days, and also afterward (indicating their survival), when the sons of God lived with the daughters of men and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown' (Genesis 6:4). The Nephilim were the evil offspring of fallen angels and human women, but were so human-like the Bible says they were men. They were called (in Hebrew) the Nephilim, which is plural for nephel. It is unclear how, but somehow, their bloodline survived Noah's flood. We know that, because they appeared again hundreds of years later, still called the Nephilim, the sons of Anak (Numbers 13:33). Every single living air-breathing thing on the earth perished – nothing but sea creatures survived the worldwide flood (Genesis 7:21 & 22). Maybe, perhaps, it is possible but not written, that one of Noah's daughters-in-law was descended from them, and after the flood, the 'giant-gene' once again began to thrive. That is merely speculation and there is no proof, but how else could they have survived the universal flood? When the scriptures say no air-breathing thing survived the flood, then we can believe that absolutely nothing but fish survived. We do not know the absolute answer to how the Anakim reappeared. We can only guess. However, what we do know, is that David and the Israelites slew them all and the Anakim no longer exist (2 Samuel 21:22; 1 Chronicles 20:8), neither do the Emim, Rephaim or the Zamzummim.

Amen and God bless you.

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