

1 Samuel 17:4 How tall was Goliath?

More perversions coming out of the woodwork...

In 1 Samuel 17:4 the Hebrew texts tell us that the height of Goliath was SIX cubits and a span, which would make him about 9 feet 6 inches tall. That indeed is a giant. However the LXX tells us that Goliath was a mere FOUR cubits and a span, which would make him only 6 feet 6 inches tall, which would hardly be much among NBA players today. All Jewish translations, like the JPS 1917 or the Complete Tanach of 2004 or Hebrew Names Bible follow the Hebrew texts and say "six cubits and a span". A cubit was about 18 inches and a span was the length of an open hand between the tip of the thumb and the tip of the little finger, or about 6 inches. This means Goliath was around 10 feet tall. Not even the Message or the NIV 2011 follow the LXX reading here. They agree with the Hebrew text and the KJB as do the RSV, NRSV, ESV, NASB, NKJV. However there are a few loonies out there like Daniel Wallace and gang's NET version that says: "His name was Goliath; he was from Gath. Hewas close to seven feet tall." Then in Daniel Wallace and company's goofy, faith destroying footnotes they tell us: "Heb "his height was six cubits and a span" (cf. KJV, NASB, NRSV). A cubit was approximately eighteen inches, a span nine inches. So, according to the Hebrew tradition, Goliath was about nine feet, nine inches tall (cf. NIV, CEV, NLT "over nine feet"; NCV "nine feet, four inches"; TEV "nearly 3 metres"). However, some Greek witnesses, Josephus, and a manuscript of 1 Samuel from Qumran read "four cubits and a span" here, that is, about six feet, nine inches (cf. NAB "six and a half feet"). This seems more reasonable; it is likely that Goliath's height was exaggerated as the story was retold."!!!

There are also a few other perverted bible versions like the new ISV (International Standard Version) that says: "A champion named Goliath from Gath came out from the Philistine camp. He was six and a half feet tall." Among the Catholic versions the Douay-Rheims, the Douay, and the newer New Jerusalem bible of 1985 say he was "six cubits and a span", but the previous St. Joseph New American bible of 1970 had "he was six and a half feet tall", thus following the corrupt Greek Septuagint reading and rejecting the Hebrew text. We also can see the newest Catholic version called The Catholic Public Domain Bible of 2009 and it also has gone back to the Hebrew reading and says: "whose height was six cubits and a palm."

For more examples of corrupt numerical readings see Scatterbrained Septuagint Silliness here -<http://brandplucked.webs.com/scatterbrainseptuagint.htm>

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