

## Some issues to consider when reading the story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

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1. **TEXTUAL:** The huge differences between the Hebrew (Masoretic Text [MT]) and the Greek (Septuagint [LXX]): MT contains over 20 verses not in LXX
2. **CULTURAL, MODERN:** The use in recent centuries of “Philistine” to describe uncultured or anti-intellectual people/attitudes
3. **CULTURAL, ANCIENT:** The many echoes of ancient Greek culture, including Goliath’s array and the tradition of “single combat” to resolve international conflict (see *The Iliad*)
4. **CULTURAL, ANCIENT:** The incorrect equation of David’s “sling” (Hebrew, *qela`*) with a modern “slingshot” (see Judges 20.16)