### Shemuel, Week 70: 17:1-10 - Goliath and Shaul

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### 17:1-3 Renewed war with the Philistines

1. Divrei haYamim I 11:11-14 (Koren Jerusalem Bible tr., from sefaria.org)

(יא) וְאֵלֶּה מִסְפַּר הַגִּבֹּרִים אֲשֶׁר לְדָנִיד יָשָׁבְעָם בֶּן חַכְמוֹנִי רֹאשׁ הַשֶּׁלִישִׁים הוּא עוֹרֵר אֶת חֲנִיתוֹ עַל שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת חָלֶל בְּפַעַם אֶחָת: (יב) וְאַחֲרִיוּ אֶּלְעָזָר בָּן דּוֹדוֹ הָאֲחוֹחִי הוּא בִּשְׁלוֹשָׁה הַגִּבֹּרִים: (יג) הוּא הָיָה עִם דְּנִיד בַּפַּס דַּמִּים וְהַפְּלְשְׁתִּים נָאֶסְפוּ שָׁם לַמִּלְחָמָה נַתִּיצְבוּ כְתוֹךְ הַחֶּלְקָה נַיַּצִילוּהָ נַיַּכּוֹ אֶת פְּלְשְׁתִּים נַיּוֹשְׁע דְ' הְשׁׁשׁנְּה גְּדוֹלָה: שְׁעוֹרִים וְהָעָם נָסוּ מִפְּנֵי פְלְשְׁתִּים: (יד) נַיִּתְיַצְבוּ בְתוֹךְ הַחֶּלְקָה נַיַּצִּילוּהָ נַיַּכּוּ

And this is the number of the mighty men whom David had; Yoshov'am, the son of Ĥakhmoni, the chief of the captains: he swung his spear over three hundred slain at one time. And after him was El'azar the son of Dodo, the Aĥoĥite, who was one of the three mighty men. He was with David at Pas-dammim, and there the Pelishtim were gathered together to battle, where there was a plot of ground full of barley; and the people fled from before the Pelishtim. And they set themselves in the midst of that plot, and delivered it, and slew the Pelishtim; and the Lord saved them by a great deliverance.

2. Shemuel II 23:8-12 (Koren Jerusalem Bible tr., from sefaria.org)

(ח) אַלֶּה שְׁמוֹת הַגָּבּרִים אֲשֶׁר לְדָּוֶד יֹשֵׁב בַּשֶּׁבֶת תַּחְכְּמֹנִי רֹאשׁ הַשָּׁלְשִׁי הוּא עֲדִינוֹ הָעֶצְנִי עַל שְׁמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת חָלֶל בְּפַעַם אֶחָת: ס (ט) ְוְאַחָרִיו **אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן דֹּדוֹ** בֶּן אֲחֹחִי בִּשְׁלשָׁה הַגָּבּרִים עִם דָּוִד בְּחָרְפָם בַּפְּלשְׁתִּים נָאֶסְפוּ שָׁם לַמִּלְחָמָה וַיִּעְלוֹ אִישׁ יִשְׁרָאֵל: (י) הוּא קֵם וַיַּדְ

בַּפְּלְשָׁתִּים עַד כִּי יָגְעָה יָדוֹ וַתִּדְבַּק יָדוֹ אֶל הַחֶּרֶב וַיַּעֵשׁ ד' תְּשׁוּעָה גְדוֹלָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וְהָעָם יָשֻׁבוּ אַחֲרָיו אַךְּ לְפַּשֵּׁט: ס (יא) וְאַחָרִיו שַׁמָּא בֶן אָגֵא הָרָרי וַיֵּאָסְפוּ פְלשְׁתִּים לִחַיָּה וַתְּהִי שָׁם חֶלְקַת הַשָּׁדֶה **מְלַאָה עְדָשִׁים** וְהָעָם נָס מִפְּנֵי פְלשְׁתִּים: (יב) וַיִּתְיַצֵּב בְּתוֹךְ הַחֶלְקָה וַיַּצִּילָהָ וַיַּדְ אֶת פָּלשְׁתִּים וַיַּעֵשׁ ד' תִּשׁוּעָה גִּדוֹלָה: ס

These are the names of David's warriors; The Taĥkemonite, Yoshev-bashshevet, chief among the captains; the same was 'Adino the Etznite: (he raised his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.) And after him was El'azar the son of Dodo the Aĥoĥite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Pelishtim that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Yisra'el were gone away. He arose and smote Pelishtim until his hand was weary, and his hand did cleave to the sword: and the Lord wrought a greater victory that day; and the people returned after him only to strip the slain. And after him was Shamma the son of Age the Hararite. And the Pelishtim were gathered together into a troop, where there was a piece of ground full of lentils: and the people fled from the Pelishtim. But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Pelishtim: and the Lord wrought a great victory.

3. Talmud Yerushalmi, Sanhedrin 2:5

הוא היה עם דוד באפס דמים (דה"י א יא:יג). רבי יוחנן אמר בחקל סומקתה ורבי שמואל אמר שמשם נפסקו דמים. "He was with David in Efes (Pas) Damim" – Rabbi Yochanan said: In the red field. Rabbi Shemuel said: From there, the blood stopped.

4. Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews VI 9:1, Whiston tr. <a href="https://penelope.uchicago.edu/josephus/ant-6.html">https://penelope.uchicago.edu/josephus/ant-6.html</a> Now the Philistines gathered themselves together again, no very long time afterward; and having gotten together a great army, they made war against the Israelites: and having seized a place between Shochoh and Azekah, they there pitched their camp. Saul also drew out his army to oppose them. And by pitching his own camp on a certain hill, he forced the Philistines to leave their former camp, and to encamp themselves upon such another hill, over against that on which Saul's army lay: so that a valley, which was between the two hills on which they lay, divided their camps asunder.

5. Malbim to Shemuel I 17:1

מספר כי בסור רוח ד' מראש מלכם, נשתה גבורת ישראל וגבר אויב הפלשתים אשר זה מקרוב נפלו לפני יונתן לבדו, עתה ערב לבם ללחום בישראל, ולא זאת לבד אלא כי תיכף שאספו את מחניהם בארץ פלשתים הלכו לארץ יהודה ושם גמרו האסיפה, וז"ש ויאספו שוכה אשר ליהודה. ולא פחדו להתאסף בארץ יהודה כאילו כבר כבשו הארץ. ותיכף אחרי התאספו בשוכה נעתקו משם אל אפס דמים להתקרב אל מחנה ישראל ושם חנו במחנה:

This informs that when the spirit of Gd left the head of their king, the might of Israel fell away and the Philistine enemy – who had just recently fallen before Yonatan alone – now became powerful. Now their heart strengthened them to battle Israel. Not only that, but immediately upon assembling their camp in the land of the Philistines, they went to the

land of Judah and completed their assembly there, as it says, "And they gathered to Socho of Judah," and they did not fear to assemble in Judah, as though they had already conquered the land. And immediately after they gathered in Socho, they moved from there to Efes Damim, to draw close to the camp of Israel. There they camped.

### 17:4-10 Goliath's threat/offer

### 6. Talmud, Sotah 42b

מאי "בינים"? אמר רב שמבונה מכל מום. ושמואל אמר בינוני שבאחיו. דבי רבי שילא אמר שהוא עשוי כבנין.

What does "beinayim [between]" mean? Rav said: Built up [mevuneh] without any defect. Shemuel said: Average [beinoni] among his brethren. In the yeshiva of Rabbi Shila they said: Formed like a building [binyan].

## 7. Abarbanel's objections

- Justice
- There is no dispute
- Where are the rules?
- The participants are not of equal standing and equipment
- Where are the referees?
- Look at the aftermath

# 8. Shemuel II 2:12-17 (Koren Jerusalem Bible tr., from sefaria.org)

(יב) ניֵצֵא אַבְנֵר בֶּן נֵר וְעַבְדֵי אִישׁ בֹּשֶׁת בֶּן שָׁאוּל מִמַּחֲנֵיִם גִּבְעוֹנָה: (יג) וְיוֹאָב בֶּן צְרוּיָה וְעַבְדֵי יְדָוֹד יָצְאוּ וַיִּפְגְשׁוּם עַל בְּרֵכת גִּבְעוֹן יַחְדָּו וַיֵּשְׁבוּ אֵלָה עַל הַבְּרֵכָה מָזֶּה: (יד) נִיּאֹמֶר אַבְנֵר אֶל יוֹאָב יָקוּמוּ נָא הַנְּעָרִים וִישְׁחָקוּ לְפָנֵינוּ וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹאָב יָקמוּ: (טוֹ) נַיָּקמוּ נַיַּעַבְרוּ בְמִסְפֶּר שְׁנֵים עֲשֶׁר לְבָנִים נִשְׁר מַעַבְדֵי דָוִד: (טוֹ) וַיַּחָקוּ אִישׁ בְּראשׁ רֵעַהוּ וְחַרְבּוֹ בְּצָּד רֵעֵהוּ וַיִּפְלוּ יַחְדָּו וַיִּקְרָא לְמָקוֹם הַהוּא חֶלְקת הַצֵּרִים אֲשֶׁר בְּנִים נָשְׁר עִדְ מָאֹד בִּיּוֹם הָהוּא וַיְנָבֶר אַבְנֵר וְאַנְשֵׁי יִשְׂרָאל לְפָנֵי עַבְדִי דָוִד:

And Avner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ish-boshet the son of Sha'ul, went out from Maĥanayim to Giv'on. And Yo'av the son of Tzeruya, and the servants of David, went out, and they met together by the pool of Giv'on: and they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool. And Avner said to Yo'av, Let the young men now arise, and play before us. And Yo'av said, Let them arise. Then there arose and went over by number twelve of Binyamin, belonging to Ish-boshet the son of Sha'ul, and twelve of the servants of David. And they caught every one his fellow by the head, and thrust his sword in his fellow's side; so they fell down together: so that place was called Ĥelqat-haTzurim, which is in Giv'on. And there was a very sore battle that day; and Avner was beaten, and the men of Yisra'el, before the servants of David.

## 9. Targum Yonatan to Shemuel I 17:8

אָנָא הוא גָלְיָת פְּלשְׁהָאָה דְמֶן גַת דְקֶטָלִית הְּרֵין בְּנֵי עֵלִי כַּהָנֵי חָפְנִי וּפִינָחָס וּשְׁבֵיתִי יַת אַרוֹן קֵיָמָא דַד' וְאוֹבֵלִית יָתֵיה לְבֵית דָגוֹן טעֲוָתִי וַהָּוָה תַּמֶן בְּקִירְנִי פְלשִׁהָאֵי שִׁבְעָא יַרְחִין אַף כָּל קָרָב וּקָרָב דַהָּווֹ לְהוֹן לִפְלשְׁהָאֵי אָנָא נָפֵיק בְּרֵישׁ חֵילָא וּנְצַחְנָא בִקְרָבָא וּרְמִינָא קְטִילִין בְּעַפְרָא דְאַרְעָא וְעַד בְּעֵן לָא אַכְשְׁרוּ יָתִי פָּלשׁהָאֵי לְמֶהֵנִי רַב אַלְפָא עַלְנִיהוֹן

I am Goliath the Philistine of Gat, who killed the two sons of Eli, the kohanim Chofni and Pinchas. And I captured the Ark of the Covenant of Gd, and I brought it to the house of Dagon, my idol, and it was there in the Philistine cities for seven months. Also, in every Philistine battle I went out at the head of the forces and I was victorious in war, and I cast corpses like the dust of the earth. And until now, the Philistines did not approve me to be a general upon them.

### 10. Talmud, Sotah 42b

גלית: אמר רבי יוחנן שעמד בגילוי פנים לפני הקב"ה שנאמר "ברו לכם איש וירד אלי" ואין "איש" אלא הקב"ה הוא שנא' "ד' איש מלחמה." אמר הקב"ה הריני מפילו על יד בן איש שנא' "ודוד בן איש אפרתי הזה."... "ויגש הפלשתי השכם והערב" אמר ר' יוחנן כדי לבטלן מק"ש שחרית וערבית. "ויתיצב ארבעים יום" א"ר יוחנן כנגד ארבעים יום שנתנה בהן תורה.

"Goliath" – Rabbi Yochanan said: For he stood with an exposed face (*gilul*) before Gd, as it says, "Choose an *ish* for yourselves, and let him descend to me" – *Ish* is only a reference to Gd, as in, "Gd is an *Ish milchamah*." Gd said: Behold, I will hurl him down via the son of an *ish*, as it says, "And David, son of this *ish* of Ephraim"... "And the Philistine ventured forth, rising early and late in the evening" – Rabbi Yochanan said: To keep them from Shema in the morning and evening. "And he stood there for forty days" – Rabbi Yochanan said: Parallel to the forty days in which the Torah was given.

#### 11. Malbim to Shemuel I 17:2

ושאול ואיש ישראל. הם לא ערב לבם לגרשם משוכה בתחלת אסיפתם, וגם פחדו להתקרב אליהם, רק נאספו ויחנו בעמק האלה, רחוק משוכה, שלפי זה הפלשתים יצאו משוכה אל אפס דמים להתקרב אל מחנה ישראל (ולא בהפך), וזה מורה על כי נמס לב ישראל:

"And Shaul and the Jewish men" – Their hearts lacked the confidence to chase them from Socho at the start of their gathering, and they also feared drawing near to them. They only gathered in Emek ha'Elah, far from Socho. This is why the Philistines left Socho, to Efes Damim, to draw close to the Israelite camp (and not the reverse). This shows that the heart of Israel had melted.

### 12. Rashi to Shemuel I 17:8

:איש - את שאול וירד אלי

*Ish* – Shaul, and he shall descend to me.

# 13. Targum Yonatan to Shemuel I 17:8

וְאַתּוּן בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מַה גְבוּרָה עֲבַד לְכוֹן שָאוּל בַּר קִישׁ דְמִן גִבְעֲתָא דְמַנִיתוּן יָתֵיה מַלְכָּא עַלַוֵיכוֹן אָם גְבַר גִבָּר הוּא יֵיחוֹת וְיַעְבֵּיד קְרָבָא עִמִי וְאָם גְבַר חַלְשׁ הוּא בָּחרוּ לְכוֹן גַבָרָא וְיֵחוֹת לְוָתִי:

And you, Israelites: What great deed has Shaul son of Kish of Givah done for you, such that you appointed him as king over you? If he is a mighty person, let him descend and fight me. And if he is a weak person, choose a man for yourselves, and he shall descend to me

#### 14. Radak to Shemuel I 17:8

הלא אנכי הפלשתי - כלומר אני פלשתי אחד מן הפלשתים ויצאתי מעצמי כדי להלחם: ואתם עבדים לשאול - כלומר כיון שיש לכם מלך היה לכם עם מלככם לברור מכם איש להלחם עמי.

"Am I not the Philistine" – Meaning: I am a Philistine, one of the Philistines, and I emerged on my own in order to battle. "And you are servants of Shaul" – Meaning: Since you have a king, you and your king should select a man to fight me.

15. Rav Amnon Bazak, 'דוד וגלית, חלק א' Compare to Shemuel I 9:1-2, and Shemuel I 11