

ARKEOLOGY (1) 1 SAMUEL 4:1-11

I. Israel **meeting** a superior force / army

1 Samuel 4:1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the **Philistines** (פְּלִשְׁתִּים) to battle, and pitched beside Ebenezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek.

What do we **know** about the Philistines?

A. They are mentioned 286x in the Hebrew Bible, 152x in 1 Samuel alone

(Judges & 1-2 Samuel contain most of the other references)

B. A pentapolis of 5 city states

1 Samuel 6:17 And these are the golden emerods which the Philistines returned for a trespass offering unto the LORD; **for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Askelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one;**

C. Composed of... minimum of 3 groups!?

➤ **Early settlers called Philistines in Genensis**

Genesis 21:32 Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba: then Abimelech rose up, and Phicol the chief captain of his host, and they returned into **the land of the Philistines** (Φυλιστιμ).

Genesis 21:34 And Abraham sojourned in **the Philistines'** (Φυλιστιμ) **land** many days.

Genesis 26:1 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. **And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines** (Φυλιστιμ) **unto Gerar.**

➤ **Later settlers from the sea people**

Was this the same group from a different migratory wave?

1200~ - 1050~

1 Samuel 4:1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against **the Philistines** (ἀλλόφυλοι) to battle, and pitched beside Ebenezer: and **the Philistines** (ἀλλόφυλοι) pitched in Aphek.

The LXX translated the same Hebrew word differently in Judges, 1 – 2 Samuel → people of a different stock / tribe / group.

➤ **Canaanites already there!**

D. More advanced militarily

1 Samuel 13:19 Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: **for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears: 1 Samuel 13:20** But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock. **1 Samuel 13:21** Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads. **1 Samuel 13:22** So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.

2 Samuel 1:18 (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.)

It seems Israel was still in the Late bronze age militarily but safe in the mountains. The Philistines were iron age in both weapons and tactics.

1 Samuel 13:6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits. **1 Samuel 13:7** And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

1 Samuel 21:8 And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste. **1 Samuel 21:9** And the priest said, **The sword of Goliath the Philistine**, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. **And David said, There is none like that; give it me.**

E. At least some / most were of Mycenaean stock – Aegean peoples – what we might call Greek

Genesis 10:14 And Pathrusim, and Casluhim, (out of whom came Philistim,) and Caphtorim.

Amos 9:7 Are ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith the LORD. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? **and the Philistines from Caphtor**, and the Syrians from Kir?

Jeremiah 47:4 Because of the day that cometh to spoil all the Philistines, and to cut off from Tyrus and Zidon every helper that remaineth: **for the LORD will spoil the Philistines, the remnant of the country of Caphtor.**

II. Israel asking the right questions!

1 Samuel 4:1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Ebenezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek. **1 Samuel 4:2** And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten before the Philistines: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men. **1 Samuel 4:3** And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, **Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us to day before the Philistines?** Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.

Mark 9:28 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, **Why could not we cast him out? Mark 9:29** And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

III. Israel accepting the wrong answer!

1 Samuel 4:3 And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us to day before the Philistines? **Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.** **1 Samuel 4:4** So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. **1 Samuel 4:5** And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again. **1 Samuel 4:6** And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp. **1 Samuel 4:7** And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore. **1 Samuel 4:8** Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

Thoughts:

- **We all have answers**
- **Answers we like**
- **Answers we can get excited about**
- **Answers that make our enemies our enemies**
- **Completely wrong answers!**

1 Samuel 7:3 And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, **If** ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, **then** put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: **and** he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. **1 Samuel 7:4** Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye **first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2 Chronicles 7:14 **If** my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

IV. Israel suffering a crushing defeat!

1 Samuel 4:9 Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight. **1 Samuel 4:10** And the Philistines fought, **and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen. 1 Samuel 4:11** **And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.**

Jeremiah 7:12 **But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh**, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel. **Jeremiah 7:13** And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; **Jeremiah 7:14** **Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.** **Jeremiah 26:4-10**