

**Israel in the World:  
A Light to the World**

# David's Faith

## I Samuel 17

32 And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. 36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

# David's Faith

## I Samuel 17

40 Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine...

45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand."...

49 And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

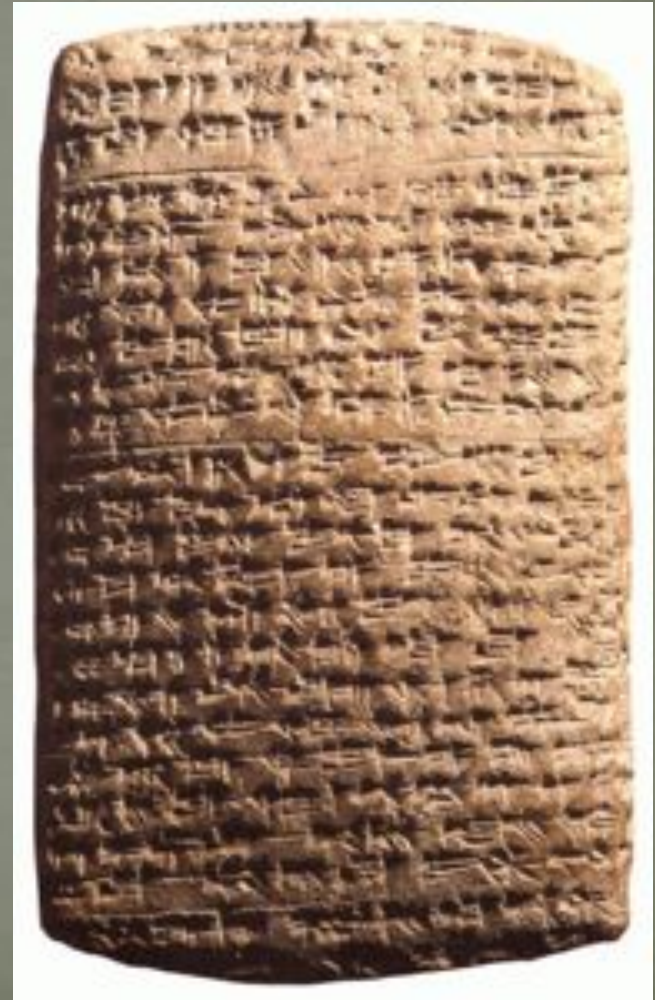
# Amarna Letters: Saul

Diplomatic correspondence found at Amarna, Pharaoh Akhenaten's capital

Hebrew king of the hill country north of Jerusalem, called "Labayu", translates as "Great Lion"

David refers to Saul's warriors as lions  
Psalm 57:4

My soul is among lions;  
I lie among the sons of men  
Who are set on fire,  
Whose teeth are spears and arrows,  
And their tongue a sharp sword.



# Amarna Letters: Saul

**I Sam. 13:3-4**

3 And Jonathan attacked the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. Then Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, “Let the Hebrews hear!” 4 Now all Israel heard it said that Saul had attacked a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel had also become an abomination to the Philistines. And the people were called together to Saul at Gilgal.

**Amarna letter EA252**

Saul defends his retaking of one of his cities from the Philistines.

“It was in war that the city was seized. When I had sworn my peace... the city, along with my god, was seized. I am slandered before the king, my lord. Moreover, if an ant is struck, does it not fight back and bite the hand of the man hat struck it? How at this time can I show deference and then another city of mine will be seized?”

David Rohl, *A Test of Time: The Bible – From Myth to History* (Century, 1995), 205-219.

# Amarna Letters: Saul

EA254, Labayu's third letter to Pharaoh:

Labayu's son has joined the Habiru: Hebrew marauders

"Moreover, the king wrote for my son. I did not know that my son was consorting with the Habiru. I herewith hand him over to Addaya (the Egyptian commissioner)." (Rohl, 215)

EA245, Labayu is killed in battle

EA366, the ruler of Gath wrote to Pharaoh:

"Let the king, my lord, be informed that the Habiru who was raised up against the lands; the god of the king, my lord, delivered him to me, and I have smitten him." (Rohl, 219)

Panicky letters from Abdiheba, king of Jerusalem to Pharaoh Akhenaten

EA290: "The land of the king has deserted to the Habiru."

EA287: "the sons of Labayu... who have given the land of the king to the Habiru."

# Amarna Letters: David

Letter from Ishbaal / Ishbosheth, Saul's son, to Pharaoh Akhenaten:

“Say to Yanhamu, my lord: Message of **Mutbaal**, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord. How can it be said in your presence: ‘Mutbaal has fled. He has hidden **Ayab**’? How can the **king of Pella** flee from the commissioner, agent of the king, his lord? As the king, my lord, lives, as the king, my lord, lives, I swear Ayab is not in Pella. In fact, he has been in the field (i.e. on campaign) for two months. Just ask **Benenima**. Just ask **Dadua**. Just ask **Yishuya**.” (David Rohl, *A Test of Time*, 228)

<u>EA 256</u>	<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Context Notes</u>
Mutbaal	Ish'baal	Ishbaal	reigning in
Israel			
Ayab	Yo'av	Joab	
Benenima	Ba'anah	Baanah	II Samuel 4, a raider
Dadua	Dwd	David	reigning in Hebron
Yishuya	Yishay	Jesse	

# Amarna Letters: David

“David took the stronghold of Tsiyon [Zion], that is, the city of David.” -2 Samuel 5:7

Letter from the king of Gezer to the Pharaoh  
EA298: “Tianna is at war with me.”

(David Rohl, *A Test of Time*, 226-227)

EA 298

Tian[na]

Hebrew

Tsiyon

English

Zion

Note: The Hebrew ‘ts’ is often interchanged with a ‘t’ in other west Semitic languages (e.g. Aramaic, Phoenician)

(David Rohl, *A Test of Time*, 227)



# Amarna Letters: David

Letter from Yapahu, king of Gezer, to Pharaoh Akhenaten

“To the king, my lord, my god, my sun, the sun in the sky. Thus [says] Yapahu, governor of Gezer, your servant, the dust at your feet, the groom of your horses. I surely fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my sun, the sun in the sky, seven times and seven times, on the stomach and on the back. I have surely heard the words of the messenger of the king my lord. May the king, my lord, the sun in the sky, care for his land. Since the Hapiru are stronger than us, may the king, my lord, help me to escape from the Hapiru, so that the Hapiru do not destroy us.”

T.C. Mitchell, *The Bible in the British Museum: Interpreting the Evidence* (London: British Museum Press, 2004), 36.

# Merneptah Stele

Oldest archaeological direct reference to Israel:

*Libya has come to ruin,  
Hatti is pacified;  
Canaan has been plundered into every  
sort of woe:  
Ashkelon has been overcome;  
Gezer has been captured;  
Yano'am is made non-existent.  
Israel is laid waste and his seed is not;*

*“Israel”*



*It's A Small World After All:  
Israel, the Phoenicians,  
and the Ships of Tarshish*

# Phoenicia



# Israel's Phoenician Ally

Alphabet (Phonics, Phoenetic)

Glasswork

Purple

Craftsmen / Alliance with Israel

Maritime Trade

Ships of Tarshish

# Ships of Tarshish

“From the Bible we learn that the ships of Tarshish were the largest seagoing vessels known to the Semitic world, and the name was eventually applied to any large ocean-going vessel... The ships of Tarshish became proverbial as an expression of sea power.”

Barry Fell, *America B.C.: Ancient Settles in the New World*, 93.

# Phoenician Port Cities



# Solomon's Expedition

“For the king had a fleet of ships of Tarshish at sea with the fleet of Hiram. **Once every three years the fleet of ships of Tarshish** used to come bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.”

-I Kings 10:22  
and II Chronicles 9:21

Joint venture trade expeditions

*It only takes a few weeks to sail across the Mediterranean Sea. Where were they trading that took 3 years?*



*Phoenician traders presenting monkeys to the Assyrian king  
Relief from Palace of Ashurnasirpal II, Nimrud, circa. 865 BC  
British Museum*



# Solomon's Expedition





Image Landsat  
Image IBCAO  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Google earth

# Circling Africa

An Egyptian Pharaoh sponsored a Phoenician expedition to circumnavigate Africa around 600BC. The Greek historian Herodotus provides an account of the journey.

“And so the Phoenicians set out from the Erythraean Sea (Red Sea) and sailed the Southern Sea. Whenever autumn came, they would put in to shore at whatever region of [Africa] they happened to have reached in order to sow seeds. There they would wait for the harvest, and after reaping their crops, they would sail on again. This they did for **two years, and in the third**, they came around through the Pillars of Heracles [Straits of Gibraltar] and returned to Egypt. They mentioned something else which I do not find credible, though someone else may: that when they were sailing around [Africa], **the sun was on their right side as they went.**”

Herodotus 4.42 (*The Landmark Herodotus: The Histories*, translated by Andrea Purvis, 299)