

FLANNEL BOARD FRIDAY

PART 5 DAVID AND GOLIATH

Goliath's Disorder

There are many medical experts who believe that Goliath was suffering from acromegaly. This is a disorder caused by a tumor on the pituitary gland, resulting in an overproduction of growth hormones and giving one poor eyesight (1 Samuel 17:43-44).

Goliath's Head

After defeating the giant, the Bible says, "David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem..." (1 Samuel 17:54). This surprising because the city of Jerusalem would not be called by that name until 15 years later.

The Place of a Skull

It is believed by some that Goliath's head was buried in Jerusalem. Specifically, in a place that became known as Golgotha, which means "The Place of a Skull" (Matthew 27:33; Mark 15:22; John 19:17). Golgotha represents in Greek letters, an Aramaic word that sounds similar to the Hebrew word for skull.

EVEN MORE TO THE STORY

Did You Know?

- In Italy, Goliath is given superhero status much like Hercules. He is considered a hero fighting just causes and defending the helpless with amazing strength.
- In some Jewish tradition, Goliath and David were related to each other through Ruth. In this tradition, Goliath was a son of Orpah, the sister-in-law of Ruth.
- Islam has the story of David and Goliath in the Muslim holy book, The Qur'an.

Quick Fact

In some Christian and Jewish traditions, the name Golgotha refers to the location of the skull of Adam. A common version states that Shem and Melchizedek traveled to the resting place of Noah's Ark, retrieved the body of Adam, and were led by angels to Golgotha where they buried him. The first mention of this is by Origen (185-253 AD). He writes: "I have received a tradition to the effect that the body of Adam, the first man, was buried upon the spot where Christ was crucified."

Questions to Ponder

- Why do you think the author includes so many details about the size and weight of Goliath, his weapons, and his armor (1 Samuel 17:4-7)?

- David referred to Goliath by the phrase "uncircumcised Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:26, 36). Why do you think David chose that phrase? What do you think that meant?

- Read 1 Samuel 17:45-47. What is David's motivation for fighting against Goliath? What does David's motivation reveal to you about David's relationship with God?
