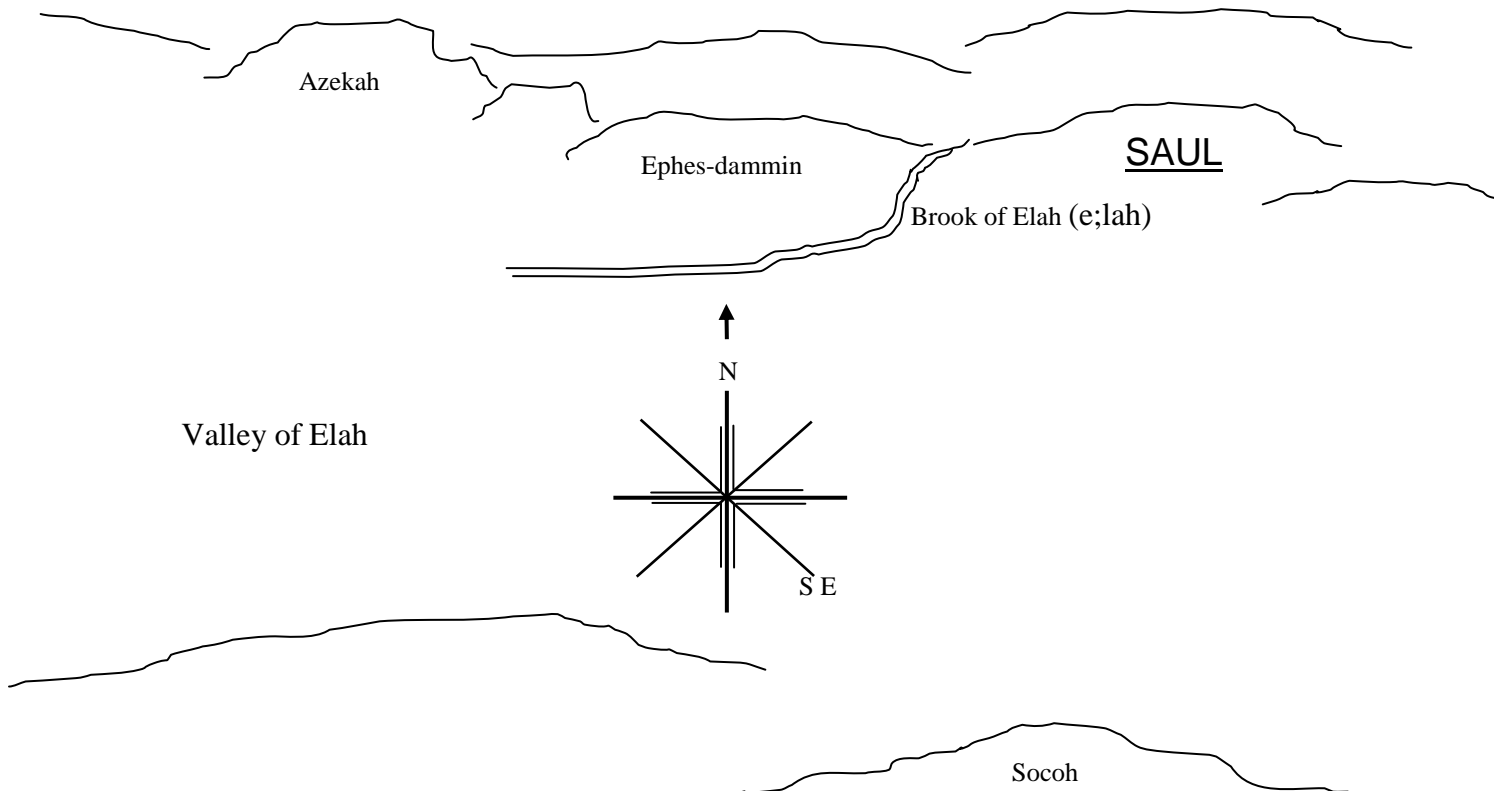


5 smooth stones

1, the border threatened, I Sam 17:1-8

I Samuel 17:1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh (*so'-ko*) which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah (*a-ze'-kah*), in Ephes-dammim (*eh'-fes dam-meem'*).



Standing on the valley floor looking North-West, with Socoh directly behind, one could see the prominent hill of Azekah and the small village that nestled there. Searching for the source of the intense noise, jeering, laughter and smoke, a huge army could be seen camping a few miles to the East of Azekah, at a place called Ephes-Dammim. Continuing to look to the East was king Saul's blocking forces. Between Ephes-Dammim and Saul's army ran a small brook where small boys could find the "perfect" stones – not too light nor too heavy.

They were old enemies! The event we will look at, took place approximately a thousand years before Christ but, the seeds of the conflict, went back much more than thousand years before - to the time of Noah.

5 smooth stones

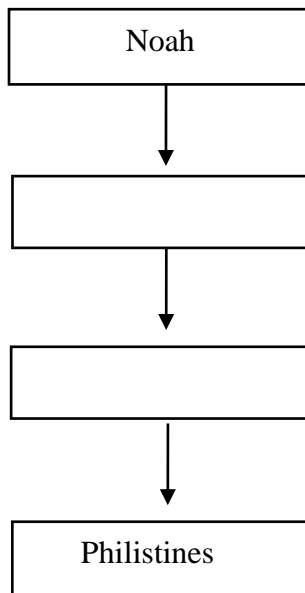
1, the border threatened, I Sam 17:1-8

Gen 8:18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. 19 Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by their families from the ark.

[1.] Genesis 8:18, Noah went out, and his sons, Go to Genesis 10:1, and jot down the names of Noah's sons.


[2.] Gen 10:14, Philistines, Who does this verse say they came from?

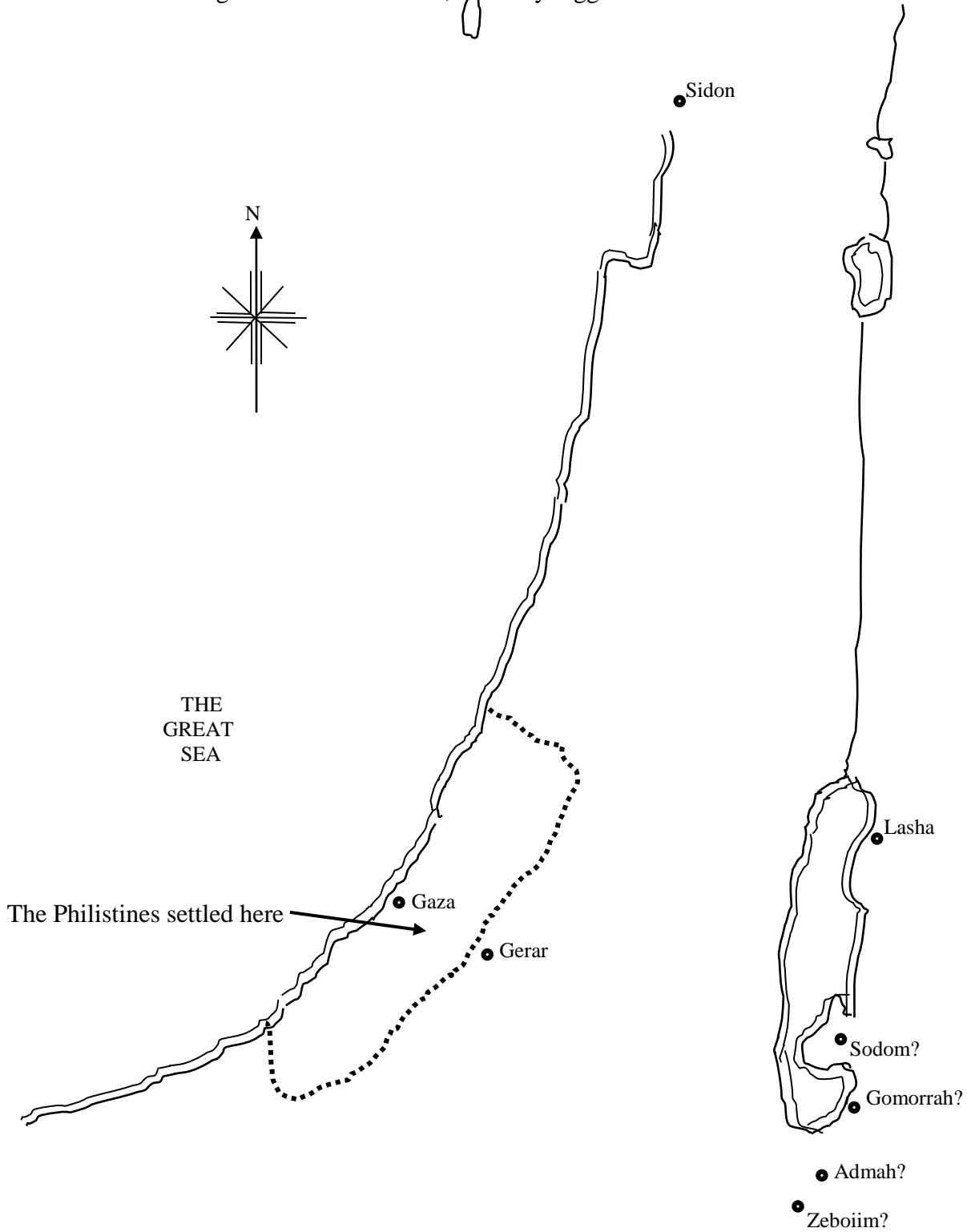
[3.] From Genesis 10:6-14, And the sons of, Fill in the empty rectangles (below) to show how the Philistine came from Noah.



5 smooth stones

1, the border threatened, I Sam 17:1-8

[4.] Gen 10:18-19, On the map below, draw a line that shows the territory of the Canaanites.
Hint: Your drawing should look like this,  only bigger!

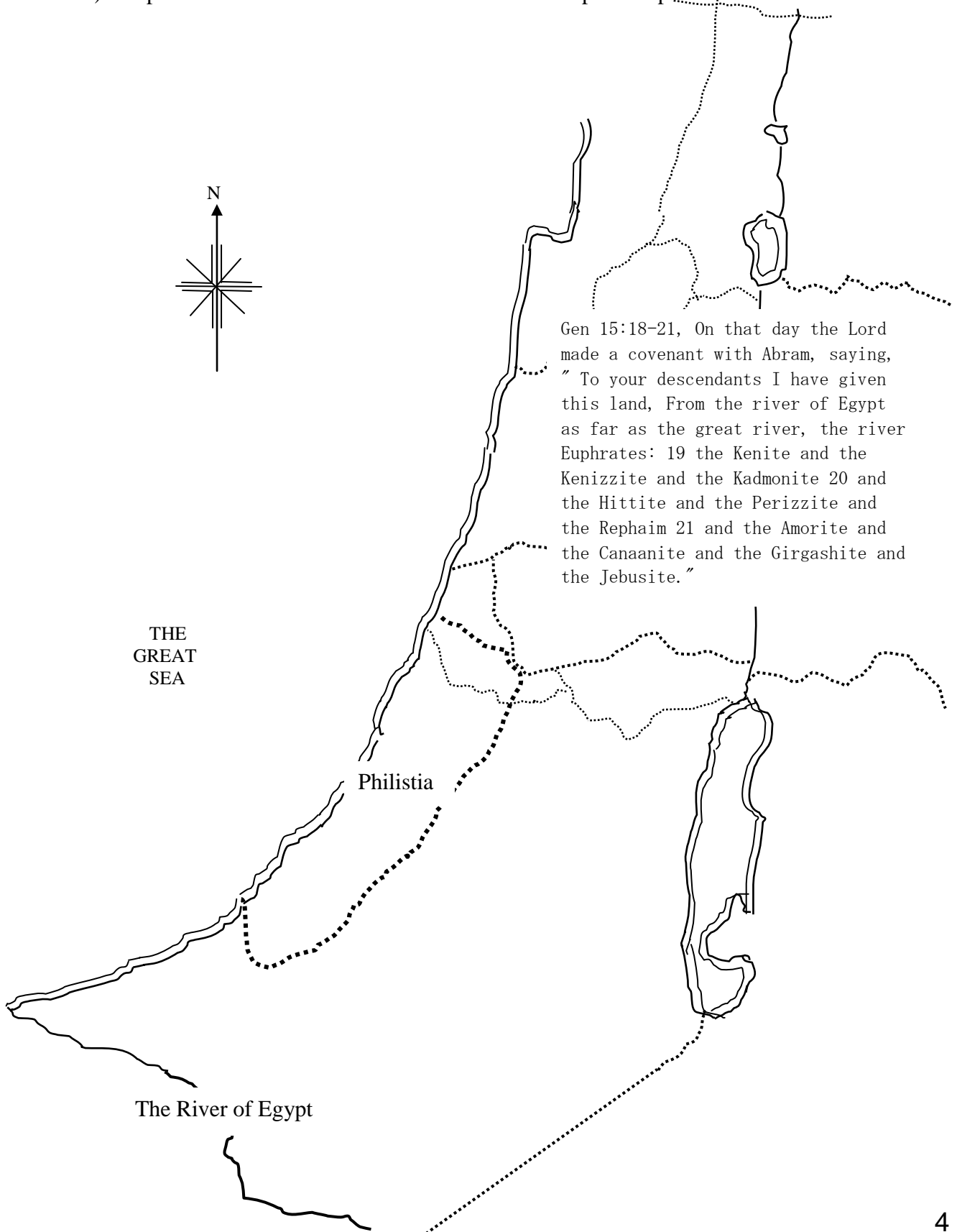


5 smooth stones

1, the border threatened, I Sam 17:1-8

Euphrates River

About 500-yrns later or a little over 2,000-yrns before Christ, God appeared to Abraham (Gen 15:18-21) and promised his descendants their own land. A map of the promised land is below.



5 smooth stones

1, the border threatened, I Sam 17:1-8

Again about 500-ys after that, God freed the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt, and told them to go take the land He had promised. At the beginning of their journey, God spoke to Moses. Ex 13:17, Now when Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was near; for God said, " The people might change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt."

[5.] Ex 13:17, when they see war, What would this "war" be about?

Back to I Sam 17:1

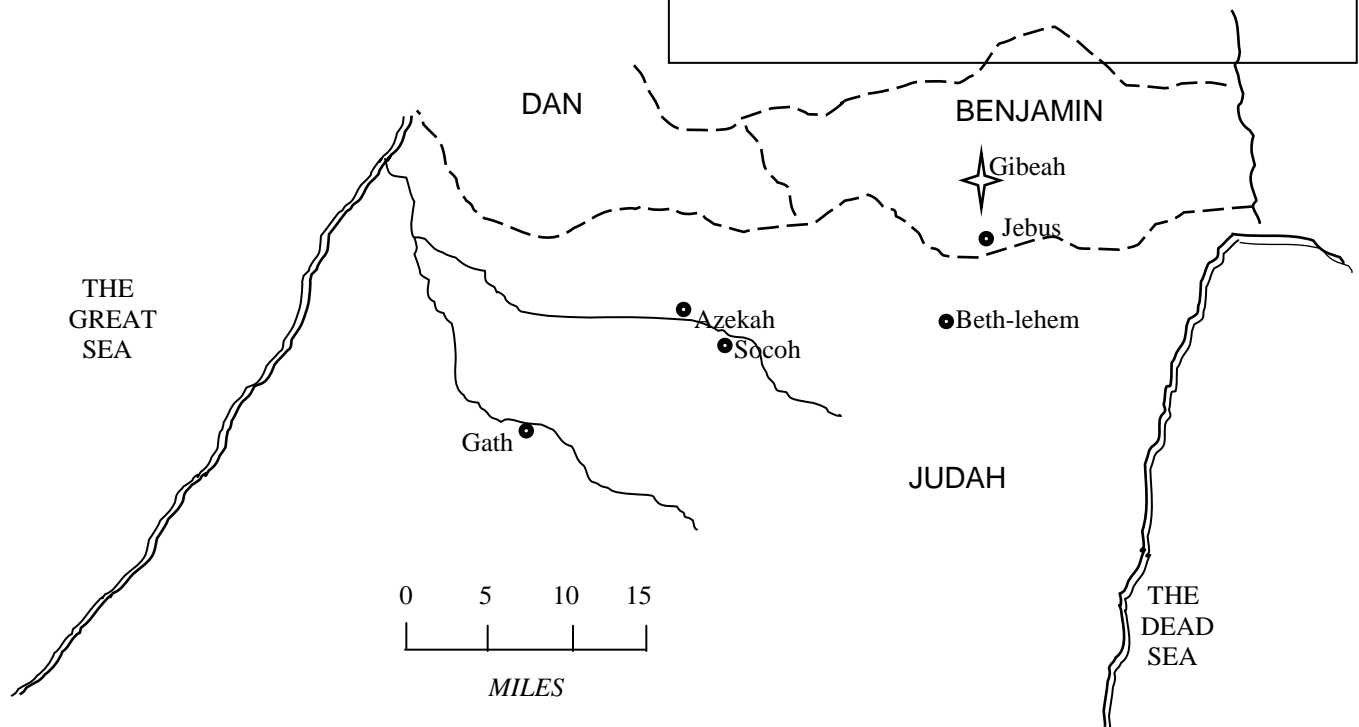
I Sam 17:1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim.

2 Saul and the men of Israel were gathered and camped in the valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array to encounter the Philistines.

[6.] I Sam 17:1, Ephes-dammim, Check a concordance and write down the English meaning of this place?

[7.] Review I Samuel 15:34, When he was king (of all Israel), where did Saul "hang his hat"?

[8.] v:2, Reviewing the map below, from Gibeah to the battle, how many miles did Saul march his army



5 smooth stones

1, the border threatened, I Sam 17:1-8

3 The Philistines stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.

4 Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

5 He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 He also had bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin slung between his shoulders.

7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron; his shield-carrier also walked before him.

[9.] v:3, stood on the mountain, OK, so far, who is attacking who?

[10.] v:4, Goliath, A real live Sasquatch from Gath. When we use his "name" in our speaking, what do we mean?

[11.]v:4 again, six cubits and a span, True or false, Goliath could stand in a room, with an 8-foot ceiling, without stooping.

[12.] v:5-6, List the bronze implements that Goliath wore to protect himself.

[13.] v:7, shield-carrier, Describe what you think the job of the shield-carrier might be.

[14.] v:5-7, From the physical description of Goliath, circle the words, from the following that, to you, best describe this guy.

sledge hammer; agile; brick wall; delicate; twinkle toes; speed; plod; Abrams tank; finesse

[15.] As a born again Christian, write down the description of one of the giants you face today.

5 smooth stones

1, the border threatened, I Sam 17:1-8

8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them, "Why do you come out to draw up in battle array? Am I not the Philistine and you servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me.

II Cor 10:3-5, For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh , 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

[16.] v:8, Why do you come out to draw up in battle array? **If Saul was initially confident in intercepting the Philistines, what would have changed his mind?**

[17.] v:8 again, Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. **Why was this a whole new way to fight a war?**

[18.] II Cor 10:3-5, we do not war according to the flesh, **Here Paul was describing a new way to fight a war. Write down a few differences in Christian warfare, that he mentioned**

[19.] II Cor 10:3-5 again, weapons of our warfare, **How does one become proficient in the use of these weapons.**

[20.] II Cor 10:3-5 again, weapons of our warfare, **Just for fun, what might happen if a Christian used spiritual weapons as well as conventional ones?**

5 smooth stones

1, the border threatened, I Sam 17:1-8

NOTES