

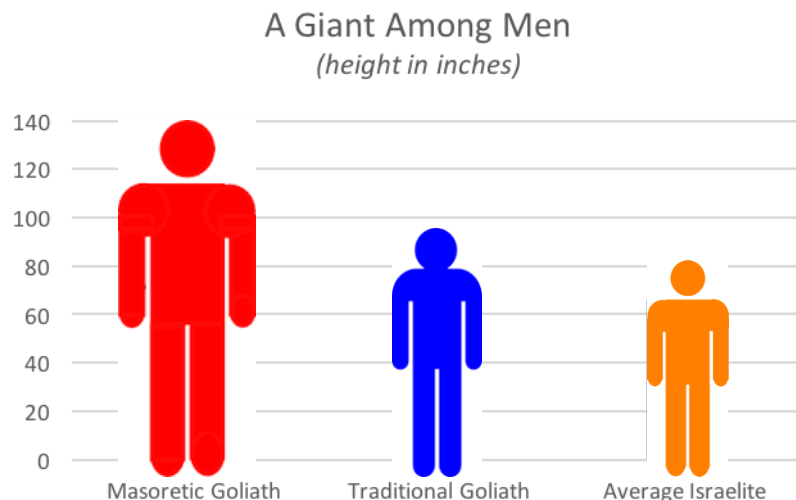
How Tall Was Goliath?

The Masoretic Text¹ of the Old Testament gives an account of Goliath's height that dramatically differs from older sources (such as the Dead Seas Scrolls,² the 4th century CE Septuagint,³ or Josephus' 1st century CE history of the Jews⁴).

The **Masoretic Text** says Goliath was "six cubits and a span." That means he was **9 feet 9 inches** tall. A bigggg dude.

The **traditional sources** say he was "four cubits and a span." Which would make him **6 feet 9 inches** tall.

Even the latter would have made Goliath seem like a giant. **Average adult male** height at the time of the Book of Judges was about **5 feet 6 inches**.⁵



¹ The Masoretic Text, compiled between the 7th and 10th centuries, is the authoritative Hebrew and Aramaic text of the Tanakh in Rabbinic Judaism. The Masoretic Text defines the books of the Jewish canon, their precise letter-text, and their pronunciation (Masorah).

² Written (per current scholarly consensus) sometime between 3rd century BCE and 1st century CE. Discovered 1946-1956.

³ The Septuagint (Latin *septuaginta*, "seventy") is a translation of the Hebrew Bible into Koine Greek. Its Roman numeral, LXX, refers to the supposed seventy Jewish scholars who translated the five books of Moses into Koine Greek in early 3rd century BCE in Egypt under the sponsorship of Ptolemy II.

⁴ Titus Flavius Josephus (37 – c. 100 CE). From his book *Antiquities of the Jews* (c. 94 CE), somewhat less well-known today than his history of the Roman-Jewish War, *The Jewish War* (c. 75 CE).

⁵ See from ChristianAnswers.net, "What Can 792 Teeth Tell Archiologists About Ancient Israelites?".
<http://www.christiananswers.net/q-abr/abr-a004.html>