

Gath

Gath is 'gat' in Hebrew ('winepress'). The fertile soil resulted in vineyards and the production of olives. Gath was Goliath's home town. It is one of the five Philistine cities (Gaza, Ekron, Ashkelon, Ashdod) Excavation in Gath began in 1887 and continues today. Aramean king Hazael's 1 ½ mile moat built while besieging the city in 811 BC has been uncovered.



2 Kings 12:17-18 mentions this siege, *“About that time Hazael king of Aram went up and attacked Gath and captured it. Then he turned to attack Jerusalem.”* But, Judah's king Joash took the gold from the temple and the palace and sent them to Hazael who then withdrew from Jerusalem.”

In the Bible: **Joshua 11:22**, Anakites (Giants) were destroyed in the hill country of Judah but remained in Gaza , Gath and Ashdod. **1 Sam.5:8**, the ark of God was sent to Gath from Ashdod and from Gath to Ekron. **1 Samuel 17:4** and **27:3**, Goliath is from Gath. **1 Sam. 21:10**, David goes to Achish the Philistine king in Gath. **2 Sam 1:20**, David writes a lament of Saul's death saying, 'Tell it not in Gath.' **2 Sam15:18**, men from Gath served David; **1 Kings 2:39-41**, Shimei left Solomon to go to Gath to look for his slaves, but is executed upon returning to Jerusalem; **2 Kings 12:17**, Hazael fights against Gath; **1 Chron. 18:1**, David takes Gath from the poser of the Philistines; **2 Chron.11:8**, Rehoboam built several cities into fortified cities of Judah including Gath; **2 Chron.26:6**, King Uzziah of Judah fought Gath and tore down their walls; **Amos 6:2**, a destroyed Gath is used as a prophetic example;