

Example of Old Testament Textual Criticism

II Samuel 21:19

וַיִּדָּא אֶלְחָנָן בֶּן־יֶעֱרִי אֲרָגִים בַּיַּת הַלְחָמִי אֵת גְּלִית הַגִּתִּי וַעֲזַן חֲנִיתוֹ כַּמְנֹר אֲרָגִים:

Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, the Bethlehemite, struck down Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. (ESV)

I Chronicles 20:5

וַיִּדָּא אֶלְחָנָן בֶּן־יֶעֱוֹר אֶת־לַחְמִי אַחֵי גְלִית הַגִּתִּי וַעֲזַן חֲנִיתוֹ כַּמְנֹר אֲרָגִים

Elhanan the son of Jair struck down Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. (ESV)

Proposed Original Text

אַחֵי גְלִית הַגִּתִּי וַעֲזַן חֲנִיתוֹ כַּמְנֹר אֲרָגִים וַיִּדָּא אֶלְחָנָן בֶּן־יֶעֱרִי אֲרָגִים בַּיַּת הַלְחָמִי

Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, the Bethlehemite, struck down the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

Note that I Chronicles leaves out 7 letters shortening the name of Jaare-oregim to Jair and turning “the Bethlehemite” into the name Lahmi.

Also note that II Samuel turns אחי “brother of” into the definite direct object marker את .