

“The Three” Risk Their Lives (c. 1003/1002 BC)

2 Samuel 23:13–17	1 Chronicles 11:15–19
<p>13 Then three of the thirty chief men went down and came to David in the harvest time to the cave of Adullam, while the troop of the Philistines was camping in the valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>14 David was then in the stronghold, while the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.</p> <p>15 David had a craving and said, “Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem which is by the gate!”</p> <p>16 So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, and drew water from the well of Bethlehem which was by the gate, and took <i>it</i> and brought <i>it</i> to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD;</p> <p>17 and he said, “Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this. <i>Shall I drink</i> the blood of the men who went in <i>jeopardy</i> of their lives?”</p> <p>Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did.</p>	<p>15 Now three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam, while the army of the Philistines was camping in the valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>16 David was then in the stronghold, while the garrison of the Philistines <i>was</i> then in Bethlehem.</p> <p>17 David had a craving and said, “Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!”</p> <p>18 So the three broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water from the well of Bethlehem which <i>was</i> by the gate, and took <i>it</i> and brought <i>it</i> to David; nevertheless David would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD;</p> <p>19 and he said, “Be it far from me before my God that I should do this. <i>Shall I drink</i> the blood of these men <i>who went</i> at the risk of their lives? For at the risk of their lives they brought it.”</p> <p>Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did.</p>

David Defeats the Philistines (c. 1003/1002 BC)

2 Samuel 5:19–25	1 Chronicles 14:10–17
<p>19 Then David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You give them into my hand?”</p> <p>And the LORD said to David, “Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand.”</p> <p>20 So David came to Baal-perazim and defeated them there; and he said, “The LORD has broken through my enemies before me like the breakthrough of waters.” Therefore he named that place Baal-perazim.</p> <p>21 They abandoned their idols there, so David and his men carried them away.</p> <p>22 Now the Philistines came up once again and spread themselves out in the valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>23 When David inquired of the LORD, He said, “You shall not go <i>directly</i> up; circle around behind them and come at them in front of the balsam trees.</p> <p>24 It shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then you shall act promptly, for then the LORD will have gone out before you to strike the army of the Philistines.”</p>	<p>10 David inquired of God, saying, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? And will You give them into my hand?”</p> <p>Then the LORD said to him, “Go up, for I will give them into your hand.”</p> <p>11 So they came up to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there; and David said, “God has broken through my enemies by my hand, like the breakthrough of waters.” Therefore they named that place Baal-perazim.</p> <p>12 They abandoned their gods there; so David gave the order and they were burned with fire.</p> <p>13 The Philistines made yet another raid in the valley.</p> <p>14 David inquired again of God, and God said to him, “You shall not go up after them; circle around behind them and come at them in front of the balsam trees.</p> <p>15 It shall be when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then you shall go out to battle, for God will have gone out before you to strike the army of the Philistines.”</p>

25 Then David did so, just as the LORD had commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer.

16 David did just as God had commanded him, and they struck down the army of the Philistines from Gibeon even as far as Gezer.
17 Then the fame of David went out into all the lands; and the LORD brought the fear of him on all the nations.

How Great Are Your Works (c. 1003/1002 BC)

Psalm 92

A Psalm, a Song for the Sabbath day.

- 1 It is good to give thanks to the LORD
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
- 2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning
And Your faithfulness by night,
- 3 With the ten-stringed lute and with the harp,
With resounding music upon the lyre.
- 4 For You, O LORD, have made me glad by what You have done,
I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands.
- 5 How great are Your works, O LORD!
Your thoughts are very deep.
- 6 A senseless man has no knowledge,
Nor does a stupid man understand this:
- 7 That when the wicked sprouted up like grass
And all who did iniquity flourished,
It *was only* that they might be destroyed forevermore.
- 8 But You, O LORD, are on high forever.
- 9 For, behold, Your enemies, O LORD,
For, behold, Your enemies will perish;
All who do iniquity will be scattered.
- 10 But You have exalted my horn like *that of* the wild ox;
I have been anointed with fresh oil.
- 11 And my eye has looked *exultantly* upon my foes,
My ears hear of the evildoers who rise up against me.
- 12 The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree,
He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
- 13 Planted in the house of the LORD,
They will flourish in the courts of our God.
- 14 They will still yield fruit in old age;
They shall be full of sap and very green,
- 15 To declare that the LORD is upright;
He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

David Captures Jerusalem (c. 1003/1002 BC)

2 Samuel 5:6–9a

1 Chronicles 11:4–7

6 Now the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land,

4 Then David and all Israel went to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus); and the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, *were* there.

<p>and they said to David, “You shall not come in here, but the blind and lame will turn you away”; thinking, “David cannot enter here.” 7 Nevertheless, David captured the stronghold of Zion, that is the city of David. 8 David said on that day, “Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him reach the lame and the blind, who are hated by David’s soul, through the water tunnel.” Therefore they say, “The blind or the lame shall not come into the house.”</p> <p>9a So David lived in the stronghold and called it the city of David.</p>	<p>5 The inhabitants of Jebus said to David, “You shall not enter here.”</p> <p>Nevertheless David captured the stronghold of Zion (that is, the city of David).</p> <p>6 Now David had said, “Whoever strikes down a Jebusite first shall be chief and commander.” Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, so he became chief. 7 Then David dwelt in the stronghold; therefore it was called the city of David.</p>
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I Will Walk with Integrity (c. 1003/1002 BC)

Psalm 101

A Psalm of David.

- 1 I will sing of lovingkindness and justice,
To You, O LORD, I will sing praises.
- 2 I will give heed to the blameless way.
When will You come to me?
I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.
- 3 I will set no worthless thing before my eyes;
I hate the work of those who fall away;
It shall not fasten its grip on me.
- 4 A perverse heart shall depart from me;
I will know no evil.
- 5 Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy;
No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.
- 6 My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me;
He who walks in a blameless way is the one who will minister to me.
- 7 He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house;
He who speaks falsehood shall not maintain his position before me.
- 8 Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land,
So as to cut off from the city of the LORD all those who do iniquity.

David’s Building Programs (c. 1002 – c. 998 BC)

2 Samuel 5:9b–12	1 Chronicles 11:8–9; 14:1–2; 15:1a
<p>9b And David built all around from the Millo and inward.</p> <p>10 David became greater and greater, for the LORD God of hosts was with him.</p> <p>11 Then Hiram king of Tyre</p>	<p>11:8 He built the city all around, from the Millo even to the surrounding area; and Joab repaired the rest of the city.</p> <p>9 David became greater and greater, for the LORD of hosts was with him.</p> <p>14:1 Now Hiram king of Tyre</p>

sent messengers to David
with cedar trees and carpenters and stonemasons;
and they built a house for David.

12 And David realized that the LORD
had established him as king over Israel,
and that He had exalted his kingdom
for the sake of His people Israel.

sent messengers to David
with cedar trees, masons and carpenters,
to build a house for him.

2 And David realized that the LORD
had established him as king over Israel,
and that his kingdom was highly exalted,
for the sake of His people Israel.

15:1a Now *David* built houses for himself
in the city of David;

Joy Comes With the Morning (c. 1002 – c. 998 BC)

Psalm 30

A Psalm; a Song at the Dedication of the House. A Psalm of David.

- 1 I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up,
And have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
- 2 O LORD my God,
I cried to You for help, and You healed me.
- 3 O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol;
You have kept me alive, that I would not go down to the pit.
- 4 Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones,
And give thanks to His holy name.
- 5 For His anger is but for a moment,
His favor is for a lifetime;
Weeping may last for the night,
But a shout of joy *comes* in the morning.
- 6 Now as for me, I said in my prosperity,
“I will never be moved.”
- 7 O LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain to stand strong;
You hid Your face, I was dismayed.
- 8 To You, O LORD, I called,
And to the Lord I made supplication:
- 9 “What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your faithfulness?”
- 10 “Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me;
O LORD, be my helper.”
- 11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness,
- 12 That *my* soul may sing praise to You and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

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Chronological Notes

1. I understand 2 Samuel 5:17–25 to be a flashback in the narrative to the beginning of David’s reign over Israel—thus in today’s reading the attack by the Philistines is placed prior to the capture of Jerusalem. I base my decision on two points from v. 17: a) the motive for the Philistine military mobilization is

attributed to David being crowned king over Israel, not to David's capture of Jerusalem, and b) the Philistines went up "to search" for David, something that would have been unnecessary had David established himself in Jerusalem as 2 Samuel 5:6–10 indicates.¹

2. I inserted the story of 2 Samuel 23:13–17 into the narrative of David's defeat of the Philistines just after his crowning. Both Gordon² and Merrill³ concur on this as the proper context (contra those who place it with 1 Samuel 22:4ff.). Note that, having connected the "stronghold/fortress" of 2 Samuel 5:17 with the "cave of Adullam" of 2 Samuel 23:13, Merrill asks, "Why would David be at Adullam at all if he had begun to live in Jerusalem? 2 Samuel 5:17 says that the Philistines 'went up to search for David,' their objective being Hebron, but David had left there and had gone to the 'stronghold,' that is, the cave at Adullam (cf. 2 Sam 23:13–14)."⁴
3. I left the narrative of David and Hiram in its original 2 Samuel 5 context (c. 1003/1002 BC). However, Merrill argues that the earliest Hiram's reign could have begun was 980 BC and places the narrative late in David's reign.⁵ I remain unconvinced at this time (although I'm open to being persuaded). Currently I follow Green's position that Hiram did indeed come to power early in David's reign.⁶

¹ C. F. Keil & F. Delitzsch, "Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel," *Commentary on the Old Testament*, Vol. 2, 584–85. See also Richard G. Smith, *The Fate of Justice and Righteousness during David's Reign: Narrative Ethics and Rereading the Court History according to 2 Samuel 8:15–20:26*, 68, n. 14.

² Robert P. Gordon, *I & II Samuel: A Commentary*, 229.

³ Eugene H. Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests*, 237–38.

⁴ Merrill, 238, n. 23.

⁵ Eugene H. Merrill, "The 'Ascension Year' and Davidic Chronology," *JANES* 19 (1989): 101–12. Steinmann and Young agree with Merrill on this point and have great confidence in the accuracy of Josephus' Tyrian king list (cf. Rodger Young, "Correlation of Select Classical Sources Related to the Trojan War with Assyrian and Biblical Chronologies," *JESOT* 1.2 (2012): 223–48).

⁶ Alberto R. Green, "David's Relations with Hiram: Biblical and Josephan Evidence for Tyrian Chronology," in *The Word of the Lord Shall Go Forth* (eds. Carol L. Meyers and Michael P. O'Connor; Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1983), 373–97. See also Bruno Kolberg, "Redating the Hebrew Kings," Appendix I, 343. Online: <http://www.redatedkings.com/download/Redating.pdf>.