

The Philistines Immediately Try to Kill David (c. 1003/1002 BC)

2 Samuel 5:17–18	1 Chronicles 14:8–9
<p>17 But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard <i>of it</i>, and went down to the hold.</p> <p>18 The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.</p>	<p>8 And when the Philistines heard that David was anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek David. And David heard <i>of it</i>, and went out against them.</p> <p>9 And the Philistines came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.</p>

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

2 Samuel 23:13–17	1 Chronicles 11:15–19
<p>13 And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam; and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>14 And David <i>was</i> then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines <i>was</i> then <i>in</i> Bethlehem.</p> <p>15 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which <i>is</i> by the gate!</p> <p>16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that <i>was</i> by the gate, and took <i>it</i>, and brought <i>it</i> to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.</p> <p>17 And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: <i>is not this</i> the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives?</p> <p>therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.</p>	<p>15 Now three of the thirty captains went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the host of the Philistines encamped in the valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>16 And David <i>was</i> then in the hold, and the Philistines' garrison <i>was</i> then at Bethlehem.</p> <p>17 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, that <i>is</i> at the gate!</p> <p>18 And the three brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that <i>was</i> by the gate, and took <i>it</i>, and brought <i>it</i> to David: but David would not drink <i>of it</i>, but poured it out to the LORD,</p> <p>19 And said, My God forbid it me, that I should do this thing: shall I drink the blood of these men that have put their lives in jeopardy? for with <i>the jeopardy of</i> their lives they brought it. Therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mightiest.</p>

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

2 Samuel 5:19–25	1 Chronicles 14:10–17
<p>19 And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.</p> <p>20 And David came to Baalperazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim.</p> <p>21 And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.</p> <p>22 And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>23 And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; <i>but</i> fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.</p> <p>24 And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.</p>	<p>10 And David enquired of God, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines? and wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto him, Go up; for I will deliver them into thine hand.</p> <p>11 So they came up to Baalperazim; and David smote them there. Then David said, God hath broken in upon mine enemies by mine hand like the breaking forth of waters: therefore they called the name of that place Baalperazim.</p> <p>12 And when they had left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire.</p> <p>13 And the Philistines yet again spread themselves abroad in the valley.</p> <p>14 Therefore David enquired again of God; and God said unto him, Go not up after them; turn away from them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.</p> <p>15 And it shall be, when thou shalt hear a sound of going in the tops of the mulberry trees, <i>that</i> then thou shalt go out to battle: for God is gone forth before thee to smite the host of the Philistines.</p>

<p>25 And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.</p>	<p>16 David therefore did as God commanded him: and they smote the host of the Philistines from Gibeon even to Gazer. 17 And the fame of David went out into all lands; and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.</p>
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David Captures Jerusalem (c. 1003/1002 BC)

2 Samuel 5:6–9a	1 Chronicles 11:4–7
<p>6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither. 7 Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same <i>is</i> the city of David. 8 And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, <i>that are</i> hated of David's soul, <i>he shall be chief and captain.</i> Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house. 9 So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David.</p>	<p>4 And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which <i>is</i> Jebus; where the Jebusites <i>were</i>, the inhabitants of the land. 5 And the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, Thou shalt not come hither. Nevertheless David took the castle of Zion, which <i>is</i> the city of David. 6 And David said, Whosoever smiteth the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain. So Joab the son of Zeruiah went first up, and was chief. 7 And David dwelt in the castle; therefore they called it the city of David.</p>

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 round about from Millo and inward. 10 And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts <i>was</i> with him. 11 And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house. 12 And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.</p>	<p>11:8 And he built the city round about, even from Millo round about: and Joab repaired the rest of the city. 9 So David waxed greater and greater: for the LORD of hosts <i>was</i> with him. 14:1 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and timber of cedars, with masons and carpenters, to build him an house. 2 And David perceived that the LORD had confirmed him king over Israel, for his kingdom was lifted up on high, because of his people Israel. 15:1a And <i>David</i> made him houses in the city of David,</p>

David Prepares to Bring the Ark to Jerusalem (c. 998 BC)

1 Chronicles 13:1–4; 15:1b
<p>15:1b and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent. 13:1 And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, <i>and</i> with every leader. 2 And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, If <i>it seem</i> good unto you, and <i>that it be</i> of the LORD our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren every where, <i>that are</i> left in all the land of Israel, and with them <i>also</i> to the priests and Levites <i>which are</i> in their cities <i>and</i> suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us: 3 And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul. 4 And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.</p>

The Death of Uzzah (c. 998 BC)

2 Samuel 6:1–11

1 Again, David gathered together all *the* chosen *men* of Israel, thirty thousand.

2 And David arose, and went with all the people that *were* with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth *between* the cherubims.

3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that *was* in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.

4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which *was* at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

5 And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of *instruments made of fir wood*, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing-floor, Uzzah put forth *his hand* to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook *it*.

7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for *his* error; and there he died by the ark of God.

8 And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day.

9 And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?

10 So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obededom the Gittite.

11 And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obededom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obededom, and all his household.

1 Chronicles 13:5–14

5 So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor of Egypt even unto the entering of Hemath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjathjearim.

6 And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, *that is*, to Kirjathjearim, which *belonged* to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth *between* the cherubims, whose name is called *on it*.

7 And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drave the cart.

8 And David and all Israel played before God with all *their* might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.

9 And when they came unto the threshing-floor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled.

10 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God.

11 And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzza: wherefore that place is called Perezuzza to this day.

12 And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God *home* to me?

13 So David brought not the ark *home* to himself to the city of David, but carried it aside into the house of Obededom the Gittite.

14 And the ark of God remained with the family of Obededom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obededom, and all that he had.

David Learns an Important Lesson (c. 998 BC)

2 Samuel 6:12a; 1 Chronicles 15:2–15

2 Sam 6:12a And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obededom, and all that *pertaineth* unto him, because of the ark of God.

1 Chr 15:2 Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever.

3 And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it.

4 And David assembled the children of Aaron, and the Levites:

5 Of the sons of Kohath; Uriel the chief, and his brethren an hundred and twenty:

6 Of the sons of Merari; Asaiah the chief, and his brethren two hundred and twenty:

7 Of the sons of Gershon; Joel the chief, and his brethren an hundred and thirty:

8 Of the sons of Elizaphan; Shemaiah the chief, and his brethren two hundred:

9 Of the sons of Hebron; Eliel the chief, and his brethren fourscore:

10 Of the sons of Uzziel; Amminadab the chief, and his brethren an hundred and twelve.

11 And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab,

12 And said unto them, Ye *are* the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, *both* ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto *the place that* I have prepared for it.

13 For because ye *did it* not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.

14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

15 And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD.

Scripture quotations are from The King James Version (KJV). The KJV is in the public domain.

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>.