

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

2 Samuel 5:17–18	1 Chronicles 14:8–9
<p>17 When <i>the</i> Philistines heard that they had anointed David as king over Israel, all <i>the</i> Philistines went up to seek David, but David heard and went down to the stronghold.</p> <p>18 Now <i>the</i> Philistines had come, and they spread out in the Valley of Rephaim.</p>	<p>8 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed as king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. But David heard and went out from before them.</p> <p>9 Now the Philistines came and carried out a raid 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 Then three of the thirty leaders went down and came to David at the time of the harvest to the cave of Adullam, while a group of <i>the</i> Philistines <i>were</i> camping in the valley of <i>the</i> Rephaim.</p> <p>14 Now at that time, David <i>was</i> in the stronghold, and a garrison of <i>the</i> Philistines <i>was</i> in Bethlehem at that <i>same</i> time.</p> <p>15 David said longingly, “Oh that someone would bring me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem that <i>is</i> at the gate.”</p> <p>16 So three of the mighty warriors broke into the camp of <i>the</i> Philistines, and they drew water from the well of Bethlehem that <i>was</i> at the gate, and they carried <i>it</i> and brought <i>it</i> to David. But he <i>was</i> not willing to drink it, but poured <i>it</i> out to Yahweh.</p> <p>17 He said, “Far be it from me before Yahweh that I should do this. <i>Is this not</i> the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?”</p> <p>So he <i>was</i> not willing to drink it.</p> <p>These things the three mighty warriors did.</p>	<p>15 And three of the thirty chiefs went down toward the rock to David at the cave of Adullam when the army of the Philistines was encamped in the valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>16 And David <i>was</i> then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines <i>was</i> then in Bethlehem.</p> <p>17 And David had a craving, and he said, “Who could give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem that <i>is</i> by the gate!”</p> <p>18 Then the three broke through into the camp of the Philistines and drew water from the well of Bethlehem that <i>was</i> by the gate and brought <i>it</i> and came to David. But David would not drink it and poured <i>it</i> out before Yahweh.</p> <p>19 And he said, “Far be it from me <i>that</i> I would do this before my God. Shall I drink the lifeblood of these men? For at the risk of their lives they brought <i>it</i>.”</p> <p>And he was not willing to drink it.</p> <p>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 And David inquired of Yahweh, saying, “Shall I go up to the Philistines? Will you give them into my hands?” Yahweh said to David, “Go up, for I will certainly give <i>the</i> Philistines into your hand.”</p> <p>20 So David came to Baal Perazim and defeated them there; and David said, “Yahweh has burst through my enemies before me like the bursting of water.” Therefore he called the name of that place Baal Perazim.</p> <p>21 They had left their idols there, so David and his men carried them away.</p> <p>22 Once again <i>the</i> Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>23 So David inquired of Yahweh, but he said, “You shall not go up. <i>Rather</i>, go around to their rear and come to them from opposite the balsam trees.</p> <p>24 And it shall be that when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then pay attention, for then Yahweh has gone out before you to strike down the army of <i>the</i> Philistines.”</p> <p>25 So David did thus, just as Yahweh had commanded him, and he struck down <i>the</i> Philistines from Geba all the way to Gezer.</p>	<p>10 Then David inquired of God, saying, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you put them into my hand?” And Yahweh said to him, “Go up. I will put them into your hand.”</p> <p>11 And he went up to Baal-Perazim, and David struck them there. And David said, “God has burst out against my enemies by my hand like waters burst out.” Therefore they will call the name of this place Baal-Perazim.</p> <p>12 And they abandoned their gods there. And David commanded, and they were burnt with fire.</p> <p>13 Then the Philistines carried out another raid in the valley.</p> <p>14 Then David inquired again of God. And God said to him, “You shall not go up after them. Go around from before them and come against them the opposite <i>way</i> of the balsam trees.</p> <p>15 And it shall be <i>that</i> when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then go out into battle, for God goes out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines.”</p> <p>16 And David did as God commanded him, and they struck the camp of the Philistines from Gibeon to Gezer.</p> <p>17 And the fame of David went out through all the lands. And Yahweh put the fear of him upon all the nations.</p>

### David Captures Jerusalem (c. 1003/1002 BC)

2 Samuel 5:6–9a	1 Chronicles 11:4–7
<p>6 The king and his men went to Jerusalem, to the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land. They said to David, “You will not come here, for even the blind and the lame can turn you back, saying, ‘David cannot come here.’”</p> <p>7 David captured the fortress of Zion, the city of David.</p> <p>8 David had said, “On that day when we attack the Jebusites, one must attack the lame and the blind, <i>those</i> who hate the soul of David, by <i>means of</i> the water supply.” For thus the blind and the lame would say, “He cannot come into the house.”</p> <p>9a David occupied the fortress and called it the city of David.</p>	<p>4 And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem (that <i>is</i> Jebus). And the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, <i>were</i> there.</p> <p>5 And the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, “You will not enter here.”</p> <p>But David captured the stronghold of Zion; that <i>is</i>, the city of David.</p> <p>6 Then David said, “Whoever strikes the Jebusites first will be chief and commander.” And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first and became chief.</p> <p>7 And David lived in the fortress. 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 all around <i>it</i> from the Millo and inward.</p> <p>10 David continued growing stronger and stronger, and Yahweh the God of hosts <i>was</i> with him.</p> <p>11 So Hiram, the king of Tyre, sent messengers to David, <i>along with</i> cedar trees and craftsmen skilled in wood and in stone masonry, and they built a house for David.</p> <p>12 David realized that Yahweh had established him as king over Israel and that he had exalted his kingdom because of his people Israel.</p>	<p>11:8 And he built the city all around from the Millo and up to the circuit. And Joab restored the remainder of the city.</p> <p>9 And David became greater and greater. And Yahweh of hosts <i>was</i> with him.</p> <p>14:1 And Hiram, king of Tyre, sent messengers to David and cedar trees, masons, and carpenters to build a house for him.</p> <p>2 And David knew that Yahweh had established him as king over Israel <i>and</i> that his kingdom was highly exalted for the sake of his people Israel.</p> <p>15:1a And David built houses for himself in the city of David,</p>

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

1 Chronicles 15:1b; 13:1–4
<p>15:1b and he established a place for the ark of God. And he pitched a tent for it.</p> <p>13:1 And David consulted with the commanders of thousands and hundreds, with every leader.</p> <p>2 And David said to all the assembly of Israel, “If it seems good to you and before Yahweh our God, let us send word abroad to our brothers who remain in all the land of Israel and <i>to</i> the priests and Levites with them in the cities with their pasturelands that they might be gathered to us.</p> <p>3 Then let us bring around the ark of our God to us, for we did not seek it in the days of Saul.”</p> <p>4 And all the assembly agreed to do so, for the word was pleasing in the eyes of all the people.</p>

### The Death of Uzzah (c. 998 BC)

2 Samuel 6:1–11	1 Chronicles 13:5–14
<p>1 David again gathered all the chosen men in Israel, thirty thousand.</p> <p>2 David got up and went and all the people who <i>were</i> with him, from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God which <i>is</i> called the name, the name of Yahweh of hosts, upon which the cherubim sit.</p>	<p>5 And David summoned all Israel from Shihor of Egypt up to Lebo-Hamath to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-Jearim.</p> <p>6 And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, Kiriath-Jearim of Judah, to bring up from there the ark of Yahweh God <i>who</i> is enthroned <i>between</i> the cherubim, which is called the name.</p>

<p>3 They loaded the ark of God on a new utility cart, and they carried it from the house of Abinadab, which <i>was</i> on the hill. Now Uzza and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, <i>were</i> driving the new utility cart along.</p> <p>4 So they brought it out from the house of Abinadab, which <i>was</i> on the hill with the ark of God, and Ahio <i>was</i> going before the ark.</p> <p>5 Now David and all the house of Israel <i>were</i> dancing before Yahweh, with all kinds of <i>musical instruments made from</i> ash trees, and with zithers, harps, tambourines, sistrums, and cymbals.</p> <p>6 When they came to the threshing floor of Nakon, Uzza reached out to the ark of God and took hold of <i>it</i>, because the oxen had stumbled.</p> <p>7 Then the anger of Yahweh was kindled against Uzza, and God struck him down there because of the indiscretion, and he died there beside the ark of God.</p> <p>8 David was angry because Yahweh had burst out against Uzza, and he called that place Perez-Uzza until this day.</p> <p>9 But David feared Yahweh on that day and said, “How can the ark of Yahweh come to me?”</p> <p>10 However, David <i>was</i> not willing to bring the ark of Yahweh to himself, to the city of David, so David caused it to turn <i>to</i> the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.</p> <p>11 So the ark of Yahweh remained <i>in</i> the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite <i>for</i> three months, and Yahweh blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.</p>	<p>7 And they carried the ark of God upon a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio were driving the cart.</p> <p>8 Now David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all <i>their</i> strength, and with songs, lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets.</p> <p>9 And when they came to the threshing floor of Kidon, Uzza reached out his hand to hold the ark because the cattle had stumbled.</p> <p>10 And Yahweh was angry with Uzza, and he struck him down because he reached his hand upon the ark. And he died there before God.</p> <p>11 And David was angry because Yahweh had broken out in wrath against Uzza. And that place is called Perez Uzza unto this day.</p> <p>12 And David feared God on that day, saying, “How can I bring the ark of God <i>home</i> to me?”</p> <p>13 So David did not move the ark to himself into the city of David but diverted it to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.</p> <p>14 And the ark of God remained with the household of Obed-Edom in his house three months. And Yahweh blessed the household of Obed-Edom and all that he had.</p>
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### David Learns an Important Lesson (c. 998 BC)

2 Samuel 6:12a; 1 Chronicles 15:2–15

2 Sam 6:12a It *was* told to King David, “Yahweh has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and all that *is* his because of the ark of God.”

1 Chr 15:2 Then David ordered *that* none except the Levites should carry the ark of God, for Yahweh had chosen them to carry the ark of Yahweh and to serve him forever.

3 And David gathered all Israel to Jerusalem to bring up the ark of Yahweh to its place that he had established for it.

4 And David gathered the sons of Aaron and the Levites.

5 Of the sons of Kohath: Uriel the chief and one hundred and twenty of his brothers.

6 Of the sons of Merari: Asaiah the chief and two hundred and twenty of his brothers.

7 Of the sons of Gershon: Joel the chief and one hundred and thirty of his brothers.

8 Of the sons of Elizaphan: Shemaiah the chief and two hundred of his brothers.

9 Of the sons of Hebron: Eliel the chief and eighty of his brothers.

10 Of the sons of Uzziel: Amminadab the chief and one hundred and twelve of his brothers.

11 Then David summoned Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and the Levites Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab.

12 And he said to them, “You *are* the heads of the families for the Levites. Sanctify yourselves and your brothers and bring up the ark of Yahweh, the God of Israel, to *the place* I have established for it.

13 Because the first time you did not, *and* Yahweh our God burst out against us, for we did not care for it according to the law.”

14 Then the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of Yahweh, the God of Israel.

15 And the sons of the Levites carried the ark of God according to what Moses commanded, according to the word of Yahweh, on their shoulders with the carrying poles upon them.

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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.<sup>1</sup>
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 Gordon<sup>2</sup> and Merrill<sup>3</sup> 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).”<sup>4</sup>
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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Robert P. Gordon, *I & II Samuel: A Commentary*, 229.

<sup>3</sup> Eugene H. Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests*, 237–38.

<sup>4</sup> Merrill, 238, n. 23.

<sup>5</sup> 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).

<sup>6</sup> 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>.