

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

2 Samuel 5:17–18	1 Chronicles 14:8–9
<p>17 When the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek out David; and when David heard of it, he went down to the stronghold.</p> <p>18 Now the Philistines came and spread themselves out in the valley of Rephaim.</p>	<p>8 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up in search of David; and David heard of it and went out against them.</p> <p>9 Now the Philistines had come and made 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 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 it and brought it 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 jeopardy of their lives?”</p> <p>Therefore he would not drink it.</p> <p>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 was 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 was by the gate, and took it and brought it 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. Shall I drink 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.</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 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.”</p> <p>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>25 Then David did so, just as the LORD had commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer.</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.”</p> <p>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> <p>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.</p> <p>17 Then the fame of David went out into all the lands; and the LORD brought the fear of him on all the nations.</p>

David Captures Jerusalem (c. 1003/1002 BC)

2 Samuel 5:6–9a	1 Chronicles 11:4–7
<p>6 Now the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, 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.”</p> <p>7 Nevertheless, David captured the stronghold of Zion, that is the city of David.</p> <p>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>4 Then David and all Israel went to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus); and the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, <i>were</i> there.</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.</p> <p>7 Then David dwelt in the stronghold; therefore it was called 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 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 sent messengers to David with cedar trees and carpenters and stonemasons; and they built a house for David.</p> <p>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.</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 <i>was</i> with him.</p> <p>14:1 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David with cedar trees, masons and carpenters, to build a house for him.</p> <p>2 And David realized that the LORD 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 Now <i>David</i> built houses for himself 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>13:1 Then David consulted with the captains of the thousands and the hundreds, even with every leader.</p> <p>2 David said to all the assembly of Israel, “If it seems good to you, and if it is from the LORD our God, let us send everywhere to our kinsmen who remain in all the land of Israel, also to the priests and Levites who are with them in their cities with pasture lands, that they may meet with us;</p> <p>3 and let us bring back the ark of our God to us, for we did not seek it in the days of Saul.”</p> <p>4 Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.</p> <p>15:1b and he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it.</p>

The Death of Uzzah (c. 998 BC)

2 Samuel 6:1–11	1 Chronicles 13:5–14
<p>1 Now David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.</p> <p>2 And David arose and went with all the people who were with him to Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God which is called by the Name, the very name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned</p>	<p>5 So David assembled all Israel together, from the Shihor of Egypt even to the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim.</p> <p>6 David and all Israel went up to Baalah, <i>that is</i>, to Kiriath-jearim, which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, the LORD who is enthroned</p>

<p><i>above</i> the cherubim.</p> <p>3 They placed the ark of God on a new cart that they might bring it from the house of Abinadab which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were leading the new cart.</p> <p>4 So they brought it with the ark of God from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Ahio was walking ahead of the ark.</p> <p>5 Meanwhile, David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD with all kinds of <i>instruments made of fir wood</i>, and with lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets and cymbals.</p> <p>6 But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset <i>it</i>.</p> <p>7 And the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.</p> <p>8 David became angry because of the LORD's outburst against Uzzah, and that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day.</p> <p>9 So David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?"</p> <p>10 And David was unwilling to move the ark of the LORD into the city of David with him; but David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.</p> <p>11 Thus the ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-edom and all his household.</p>	<p><i>above</i> the cherubim, where His name is called.</p> <p>7 They carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart.</p> <p>8 David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all <i>their</i> might, even with songs and with lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals and with trumpets.</p> <p>9 When they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, because the oxen nearly upset <i>it</i>.</p> <p>10 The anger of the LORD burned against Uzza, so He struck him down because he put out his hand to the ark; and he died there before God.</p> <p>11 Then David became angry because of the LORD's outburst against Uzza; and he called that place Perez-uzza to this day.</p> <p>12 David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God <i>home</i> to me?"</p> <p>13 So David did not take the ark with him to the city of David, but took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.</p> <p>14 Thus the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months; and the LORD blessed the family of Obed-edom with 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 Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, on account of the ark of God."

1 Chr 15:2 Then David said, "No one is to carry the ark of God but the Levites; for the LORD chose them to carry the ark of God and to minister to Him forever."

3 And David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place which he had prepared for it.

4 David gathered together the sons of Aaron and the Levites:

5 of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief, and 120 of his relatives;

6 of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, and 220 of his relatives;

7 of the sons of Gershon, Joel the chief, and 130 of his relatives;

8 of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, and 200 of his relatives;

9 of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, and 80 of his relatives;

10 of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, and 112 of his relatives.

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

12 and said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' *households* of the Levites; consecrate yourselves both you and your relatives, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to *the place* that I have prepared for it.

13 Because you did not *carry it* at the first, the LORD our God made an outburst on us, for we did not seek Him according to the ordinance."

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

15 The sons of the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles thereon, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.

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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>.