

### 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 David had been designated king over Israel, they all went up to search for David. When David heard about it, he went down to the fortress.</p> <p>18 Now the Philistines had arrived and spread out in the valley of Rephaim.</p>	<p>8 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of all Israel, all the Philistines marched up to confront him. When David heard about it, he marched out against them.</p> <p>9 Now the Philistines had come and raided 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 At the time of the harvest three of the thirty leaders went down to David at the cave of Adullam. A band of Philistines was camped in the valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>14 David was in the stronghold at the time, while a Philistine garrison was in Bethlehem.</p> <p>15 David was thirsty and said, “How I wish someone would give me some water to drink from the cistern in Bethlehem near the gate!”</p> <p>16 So the three elite warriors broke through the Philistine forces and drew some water from the cistern in Bethlehem near the gate. They carried it back to David, but he refused to drink it. He poured it out as a drink offering to the LORD</p> <p>17 and said, “O LORD, I will not do this! It is equivalent to the blood of the men who risked their lives by going.”</p> <p>So he refused to drink it. Such were the exploits of the three elite warriors.</p>	<p>15 Three of the thirty leaders went down to David at the rocky cliff at the cave of Adullam, while a Philistine force was camped in the Valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>16 David was in the stronghold at the time, while a Philistine garrison was in Bethlehem.</p> <p>17 David was thirsty and said, “How I wish someone would give me some water to drink from the cistern in Bethlehem near the city gate!”</p> <p>18 So the three elite warriors broke through the Philistine forces and drew some water from the cistern in Bethlehem near the city gate. They carried it back to David, but David refused to drink it. He poured it out as a drink offering to the LORD</p> <p>19 and said, “God forbid that I should do this! Should I drink the blood of these men who risked their lives?” Because they risked their lives to bring it to him, he refused to drink it. Such were the exploits of the three elite warriors.</p>

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

2 Samuel 5:19–25	1 Chronicles 14:10–17
<p>19 So David asked the LORD, “Should I march up against the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?” The LORD said to David, “March up, for I will indeed hand the Philistines over to you.”</p> <p>20 So David marched against Baal Perazim and defeated them there. Then he said, “The LORD has burst out against my enemies like water bursts out.” So he called the name of that place Baal Perazim.</p> <p>21 The Philistines abandoned their idols there, and David and his men picked them up.</p> <p>22 The Philistines again came up and spread out in the valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>23 So David asked the LORD what he should do. This time the LORD said to him, “Don’t march straight up. Instead, circle around behind them and come against them opposite the trees.</p> <p>24 When you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the trees, act decisively. For at that moment the LORD is going before you to strike down the army of the Philistines.”</p> <p>25 David did just as the LORD commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines from Gibeon all the way to Gezer.</p>	<p>10 David asked God, “Should I march up against the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?” The LORD said to him, “March up! I will hand them over to you!”</p> <p>11 So they marched against Baal Perazim and David defeated them there. David said, “Using me as his instrument, God has burst out against my enemies like water bursts out.” So that place is called Baal Perazim.</p> <p>12 The Philistines left their idols there, so David ordered that they be burned.</p> <p>13 The Philistines again raided the valley.</p> <p>14 So David again asked God what he should do. This time God told him, “Don’t march up after them; circle around them and come against them in front of the trees.</p> <p>15 When you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the trees, then attack. For at that moment the LORD is going before you to strike down the army of the Philistines.”</p> <p>16 David did just as God commanded him, and they struck down the Philistine army from Gibeon to Gezer.</p> <p>17 So David became famous in all the lands; the LORD caused all the nations to fear him.</p>

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

2 Samuel 5:6–9a	1 Chronicles 11:4–7
<p>6 Then the king and his men advanced to Jerusalem against the Jebusites who lived in the land. The Jebusites said to David, “You cannot invade this place! Even the blind and the lame will turn you back, saying, ‘David cannot invade this place!’”</p> <p>7 But David captured the fortress of Zion (that is, the city of David).</p> <p>8 David said on that day, “Whoever attacks the Jebusites must approach the ‘lame’ and the ‘blind’ who are David’s enemies by going through the water tunnel.” For this reason it is said, “The blind and the lame cannot enter the palace.”</p> <p>9a So David lived in the fortress and called it the City of David.</p>	<p>4 David and the whole Israelite army advanced to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus). (The Jebusites, the land’s original inhabitants, lived there.)</p> <p>5 The residents of Jebus said to David, “You cannot invade this place!”</p> <p>But David captured the fortress of Zion (that is, the City of David).</p> <p>6 David said, “Whoever attacks the Jebusites first will become commanding general!” So Joab son of Zeruiah attacked first and became commander.</p> <p>7 David lived in the fortress; for this reason it is 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 David built all around it, from the terrace inwards.</p> <p>10 David’s power grew steadily, for the LORD God who commands armies was with him.</p> <p>11 King Hiram of Tyre sent messengers to David, along with cedar logs, carpenters, and stonemasons. They built a palace for David.</p> <p>12 David realized that the LORD had established him as king over Israel and that he had elevated his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.</p>	<p>11:8 He built up the city around it, from the terrace to the surrounding walls; Joab restored the rest of the city.</p> <p>9 David’s power steadily grew, for the LORD who commands armies was with him.</p> <p>14:1 King Hiram of Tyre sent messengers to David, along with cedar logs, stonemasons, and carpenters to build a palace for him.</p> <p>2 David realized that the LORD had established him as king over Israel and that he had elevated his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.</p> <p>15:1a David constructed buildings 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 he then prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it.</p> <p>13:1 David consulted with his military officers, including those who led groups of a thousand and those who led groups of a hundred.</p> <p>2 David said to the whole Israelite assembly, “If you so desire and the LORD our God approves, let’s spread the word to our brothers who remain in all the regions of Israel, and to the priests and Levites in their cities, so they may join us.</p> <p>3 Let’s move the ark of our God back here, for we did not seek his will throughout Saul’s reign.”</p> <p>4 The whole assembly agreed to do this, for the proposal seemed right to 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 assembled all the best men in Israel, thirty thousand in number.</p> <p>2 David and all the men who were with him traveled to Baalah in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts, who sits enthroned between the</p>	<p>5 So David assembled all Israel from the Shihor River in Egypt to Lebo Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath Jearim.</p> <p>6 David and all Israel went up to Baalah (that is, Kiriath Jearim) in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who sits enthroned between the cherubim—the ark that is called by his</p>

<p>cherubim that are on it.</p> <p>3 They loaded the ark of God on a new cart and carried it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart.</p> <p>4 They brought it with the ark of God up from the house of Abinadab on the hill. Ahio was walking in front of the ark,</p> <p>5 while David and all Israel were energetically celebrating before the LORD, singing and playing various stringed instruments, tambourines, rattles, and cymbals.</p> <p>6 When they arrived at the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and grabbed hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled.</p> <p>7 The LORD was so furious with Uzzah, he killed him on the spot for his negligence. He died right there beside the ark of God.</p> <p>8 David was angry because the LORD attacked Uzzah; so he called that place Perez Uzzah, which remains its name to this very day.</p> <p>9 David was afraid of the LORD that day and said, "How will the ark of the LORD ever come to me?"</p> <p>10 So David was no longer willing to bring the ark of the LORD to be with him in the City of David. David left it in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.</p> <p>11 The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months. The LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his family.</p>	<p>name.</p> <p>7 They transported the ark on a new cart from the house of Abinadab; Uzzah and Ahio were guiding the cart,</p> <p>8 while David and all Israel were energetically celebrating before God, singing and playing various stringed instruments, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets.</p> <p>9 When they arrived at the threshing floor of Kidon, Uzzah reached out his hand to take hold of the ark, because the oxen stumbled.</p> <p>10 The LORD was so furious with Uzzah, he killed him, because he reached out his hand and touched the ark. He died right there before God.</p> <p>11 David was angry because the LORD attacked Uzzah; so he called that place Perez Uzzah, which remains its name to this very day.</p> <p>12 David was afraid of God that day and said, "How will I ever be able to bring the ark of God up here?"</p> <p>13 So David did not move the ark to the City of David; he left it in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.</p> <p>14 The ark of God remained in Obed-Edom's house for three months; the LORD blessed Obed-Edom's family and everything that belonged to him.</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 David was told, "The LORD has blessed the family of Obed-Edom and everything he owns because of the ark of God."

1 Chr 15:2 Then David said, "Only the Levites may carry the ark of God, for the LORD chose them to carry the ark of the LORD and to serve before him perpetually.

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

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

5 From the descendants of Kohath: Uriel the leader and 120 of his relatives.

6 From the descendants of Merari: Asaiah the leader and 220 of his relatives.

7 From the descendants of Gershon: Joel the leader and 130 of his relatives.

8 From the descendants of Elizaphan: Shemaiah the leader and 200 of his relatives.

9 From the descendants of Hebron: Eliel the leader and 80 of his relatives.

10 From the descendants of Uzziel: Amminadab the leader and 112 of his relatives.

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

12 He told them: "You are the leaders of the Levites' families. You and your relatives must consecrate yourselves and bring the ark of the LORD God of Israel up to the place I have prepared for it.

13 The first time you did not carry it; that is why the LORD God attacked us, because we did not ask him about the proper way to carry it."

14 The priests and Levites consecrated themselves so they could bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

15 The descendants of Levi carried the ark of God on their shoulders with poles, just as Moses had ordered according to the divine command.

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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>.