

**1Chronicles 14:1 ¶ Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and timber of cedars, with masons and carpenters, to build him an house.**  
**1Chronicles 14:2 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.**

Hiram, king of Tyre, sent messengers to David along with prime cedar timber and skilled masons and carpenters to build him a palace. David took this as another sign that the LORD had firmly established him as king over Israel before the nations.

Though there is no mention of an alliance, it would make sense to me that some sort of agreement must have been made between the two kings. Tyre was the kingdom of the Phoenicians in the area of today's Lebanon. It was known for its great cedar trees and expertise in the shipping industry among other things.

The IVP OT Commentary adds some insight concerning the choice of cedar for a palace: "Beautiful grain, sweet-smelling aroma and durability combined to make cedar the wood of choice for most temples and palaces of the ancient world. High resin content inhibited the growth of fungus."

**1Chronicles 14:3 And David took more wives at Jerusalem: and David begat more sons and daughters.**

**1Chronicles 14:4 Now these *are* the names of *his* children which he had in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon,**

**1Chronicles 14:5 And Ibhar, and Elishua, and Elpalet,**

**1Chronicles 14:6 And Nogah, and Nepheg, and Japhia,**

**1Chronicles 14:7 And Elishama, and Beeliada, and Eliphalet.**

Sadly, it is note that David took even more wives in Jerusalem. Verses 4-7 give the names of his children that were born in Jerusalem.

*Deuteronomy 17:15–17 "Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee....Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away...."*

It seems that though David had great faith in the LORD and often sought His will and direction, he ignored God's command not to multiply wives and followed the customs of other kings. He would certainly suffer the consequences of that choice!

Guzik adds this note: "Chronicles makes no mention of David's sin with Bathsheba, but after the murder of her husband she was one of the more wives that David added to his household in Jerusalem."

The following events are also in the record of 2Samuel 5.

**1Chronicles 14:8 ¶ And when the Philistines heard that David was anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek David. And David heard of it, and went out against them.**

**1Chronicles 14:9 And the Philistines came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.**

**1Chronicles 14:10 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.**

**1Chronicles 14:11 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.**

Once the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, they came up to the valley of Raphaim, the land of the giants, to confront him in war. They knew David's reputation as a warrior. They figured they had better deal with him immediately before he was able to get more powerful.

David sought the LORD's will concerning what to do. The LORD told him to go and fight the Philistines, and He would deliver them into David's hand. David and his troops met the Philistines at Baalperazim in battle and defeated them. The defeat is pictured as water bursting forth from a break in whatever was holding it back. He gave all glory to the LORD for giving him the victory.

The IVP Old Testament Commentary added this insight on the place the Philistine's chose to meet David in battle: "...the Valley of Rephaim turns east-southeast toward the area between Bethlehem and Jerusalem. It joins the north-south road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and then heads northeast into Jerusalem. This would be a strategic location for the Philistines to cut David off from potential reinforcements from Judah."

**1Chronicles 14:12 And when they had left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire.**

**1Chronicles 14:13 And the Philistines yet again spread themselves abroad in the valley.**

**1Chronicles 14:14 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.**

**1Chronicles 14:15 And it shall be, when thou shalt hear a sound of going in the tops of the mulberry trees, *that* then thou shalt go out to battle: for God is gone forth before thee to smite the host of the Philistines.**

David and his troops burned all the idol images that they found on the battlefield.

The Philistines were not to be deterred and once again gathered in the valley of Rephaim. David again sought the LORD's will concerning what to do; he didn't just assume to know what to do based on past experience. This time the LORD told him not to go out and meet the enemy, but to go behind them and approach from a stand of mulberry/balsam trees. When he heard the sound of marching in the tops of the trees, he was to attack and know that the LORD went before them.

So what was the sound of marching in the trees? I believe it was the forces of the angels going before them.

**1Chronicles 14:16 David therefore did as God commanded him: and they smote the host of the Philistines from Gibeon even to Gazer.**

**1Chronicles 14:17 And the fame of David went out into all lands; and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.**

David did exactly as the LORD had command him and slaughtered the Philistines from Geba to Gazer.

News of these decisive victories over the Philistines quickly spread to the surrounding nations, and the LORD caused all of them to fear David.