

# 1 Chronicles

## Chapter 14

### *David's Wives and Children*

**And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also masons and carpenters to build a house for him. 2 And David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that his kingdom was highly exalted for the sake of his people Israel. 3 And David took more wives in Jerusalem, and David fathered more sons and daughters. 4 These are the names of the children born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 5 Ibhah, Elishua, Elpelet, 6 Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, 7 Elishama, Beeliada and Eliphelet.**

**14:1–17** The Chronicler backtracks to pick up material from 2Sa 5 deferred to this point (see note on 13:1–14). The three-month period that the ark remained with Obed-Edom (13:14) was filled with incidents showing God’s blessing on David: the building of his royal house (vv. 1–2), his large family (vv. 3–7) and his success in warfare (vv. 8–16)—all because of the Lord’s blessing (vv. 2, 17). (CSB)

Three factors demonstrating that “the LORD had established [David] as king over Israel”: (1) building activity with the help of a foreign king, Hiram of Tyre (vv 1–2); (2) conditions permitting domestic tranquility and growth of his family (vv 3–7); (3) double defeat inflicted on the Philistines, who threatened the independence of the land (vv 8–17). (TLSB)

**14:1** *Hiram*. Later provided materials and labor for building the temple (2Ch 2). His mention here implies international recognition of David as king over Israel and a treaty between David and Hiram. (CSB)

Glory of David’s kingdom is immediately apparent in the goodwill gesture of Hiram, king of Tyre. With this assurance, David knew that the Lord had established him as king. (TLSB)

**14:2** *for the sake of His people Israel*. David viewed government as God’s blessing for His people. (TLSB)

**14:3–7** David’s family. Cf 2Sm 5:13–16. David’s prosperity resulted in his enlarged family. This collateral genealogy is almost identical to 3:5–8. (TLSB)

**14:4** *children*. Some are mentioned only here. The names of a few have variant forms in other lists. (TLSB)

**14:1–7** God establishes David’s house and his household in Jerusalem. Our station in life, whether humble or exalted in the eyes of the world, is established for the sake of God’s good purposes. In mercy, He has established our heavenly home through Christ. • O Lord, welcome me as Your child for the sake of Your only-begotten Son. Amen. (TLSB)

### *Philistines Defeated*

**8 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. But David heard of it and went out against them. 9 Now the Philistines had come and made a raid in the Valley of Rephaim. 10 And David inquired of God, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?” And the LORD said to him, “Go up, and I will give them into your hand.” 11 And he went up to Baal-perazim, and David struck them down**

**there. And David said, “God has broken through my enemies by my hand, like a bursting flood.” Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim. 12 And they left their gods there, and David gave command, and they were burned. 13 And the Philistines yet again made a raid in the valley. 14 And when David again inquired of God, God said to him, “You shall not go up after them; go around and come against them opposite the balsam trees. 15 And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then go out to battle, for God has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines.” 16 And David did as God commanded him, and they struck down the Philistine army from Gibeon to Gezer. 17 And the fame of David went out into all lands, and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.**

**14:10–16** David seeks consultation with Yahweh (vv 10, 14; 2Sm 5:19a, 23); God announces the giving of the enemy into David’s hands (v 10b; 2Sm 5:19b); the Lord goes out before the enemy (v 15; 2Sm 5:24). The enemy’s gods are burned (v 12; 2Sm 5:21), and their army is obliterated (v 16; 2Sm 5:25). (TLSB)

**14:11** *break out ... Perazim.* The Hebrew underlying the name of this place where the Lord broke out against the Philistines is the same as that underlying the word used in 13:11 when the Lord broke out against Uzzah. (CSB)

**14:12** *gave command and they were burned.* 2Sa 5:21 does not mention burning but says that David and his men carried the idols away. Many have seen here an intentional change on the part of the Chronicler in order to bring David’s actions into strict conformity with the law, which required that pagan idols be burned (Dt 7:5, 25). However, some Septuagint (the Greek translation of the OT) manuscripts of Samuel agree with Chronicles that David burned the idols. This would indicate that the Chronicler was not innovating for theological reasons but was carefully reproducing the text he had before him, which differed from the Masoretic (traditional Hebrew) text of Samuel. (CSB)

A rushed retreat. David shows no fear of the idols because of his confidence in the Lord. (TLSB)

**14:15** *marching in the tops of the balsam trees.* A reference to the angelic hosts God sent to do battle for David with the Philistines. (TLSB)

**14:17** *the LORD brought the fear of him upon all the nations.* Here and elsewhere the Chronicler uses an expression that refers to an incapacitating terror brought on by the sense that the awful power of God is present in behalf of his people (see Ex 15:16). Thus David is seen by the nations as the very representative of God (similarly Asa, 2Ch 14:14; Jehoshaphat, 2Ch 17:10; 20:29). (CSB)

David’s victory, brought by the Lord, resolved the issue that precipitated the war. He passed the test brought by the Philistines. (TLSB)