

David, Shepherd and King
#16 David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem
2 Samuel 6 (5/30/2010 AM)

David's name is found over 1,000 times in the Bible. More is written about him than about any other biblical character. Sixty-six chapters are dedicated to David. He is mentioned in the New Testament more than any other Old Testament person, fifty-nine references. Twelve times Jesus is called "the Son of David." God's description of David is the key element of his life. Acts 13:22, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will." David's heart is clearly seen in his desire to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Zion.

1. David's Desire to Bring up the Ark (1-2)

From Its 70 Year Resting Place

The Ark was a wooden box overlaid with gold both inside and out (Pic). It had a solid gold top, called the Mercy Seat, out of which two cherubim were sculpted. It had previously been in the Tabernacle in Shiloh (Pic) in the days of Eli the priest when Samuel was a young man. 1 Samuel 4-7 records that it was taken in battle by the Philistines and kept for 7 months. God brought such judgment upon them that they sent the Ark back to Israel. It came to the Levitical city of Beth Shemesh. Some of the men of that city looked into it and God struck them dead. They asked the men of Kirjath Jearim (also called Baale Judah, Joshua 15:9) to come and take it. It is mentioned once during Saul's reign as being taken into battle, 1 Samuel 14:18. It was apparently then returned to the house of Abinadab.

• **David's primary purpose was spiritual**

The Ark was the center piece of Israel's worship of Jehovah. It was the first piece of furniture made for the Tabernacle. It contained the tablets of the law, a golden pot of manna, and Aaron's rod. The Ark was placed in the Holy of Holies behind the veil. Only once a year on the Day of Atonement was the High Priest permitted to enter. He would sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat to cover the sins of the people for one year. The New Testament word for "mercy seat" means "the place of propitiation." Propitiation in the New Testament means satisfaction. The Ark is a picture of Jesus Christ. 1 John 4:10, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

God had protected the ark all of these years. The Ark disappeared when the Babylonians destroyed the temple. Some believe it is buried under the Temple mount.

David certainly understood the political implications of bringing the Ark to Jerusalem as a way of uniting the tribes. The Ark symbolized the presence of the LORD among His people. (2) "The ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the Lord of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim."

David's First Priority was to Get His Spiritual House in Order

2. David's Disobedience in Bringing up the Ark (3-5)

David's Motives Were Pure

David wanted to honor God. David understood that Jehovah was the true King of the nation. He knew that God desired to have a central place of worship for the nation, Deuteronomy 12. There is no indication that David sought the Lord's instruction in this matter.

• **David did the right thing, but in the wrong way**

(3) “So they set the ark of God on a new cart...”

This was a direct violation of God’s Law. Some believe that David did this out of ignorance. If so, he should have consulted the priests to discover God’s will in the matter. He actually does this later as we will see. The Law was very specific in this matter. [Numbers 4:11](#), “And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die.”

The Ark was made with 4 gold rings at each corner through which 2 gold poles were inserted, [Exodus 25](#). The Ark was to be carried by the Kohathites on their shoulders. There is some indication that the poles were to be left in the Ark at all times.

Such was the case when it was placed in Solomon’s Temple, [2 Chronicles 5](#). David was imitating the Philistines. This was how they had sent the Ark back, [1 Samuel 7](#).

Certainly David’s desire was that the Ark would transform Zion into the connecting point between heaven and earth. David had a procession of 30,000 chosen men. Certainly many others lined the 8 mile route. David introduced music into the worship of Jehovah. It was a time of tremendous celebration.

(5) “Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the Lord on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.”

[1 Chronicles 13:8](#), adds “with all their might.”

Sincerity and Passion Cannot Substitute for Obedience

3. [Uzzah’s Fatal Action](#) (6-7)

He Touched the Ark

Threshing floors at times were paved with stone. Ruts in the ground and even the stone would occur over time.

(6-7) “And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.”

Imagine the sudden shock and the horror in the midst of great celebration. At first glance God’s response seems extreme. The Hebrew word “error” means fault.

Uzzah’s intentions were good, but he was at fault. Even the Kohathite Levites who were designated to carry the Ark were forbidden to touch it. [Numbers 4:15](#), “And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die.”

• **Uzzah profaned the LORD**

It means to treat something holy as if it were something common, ordinary or vulgar. Uzzah’s name means “strength.” It comes from the Hebrew root “might.” Uzzah’s apparent innocent action was a sacrilege because the Ark was holy. The word holy means set apart.

The Ark was set apart because it was the visible emblem of the invisible presence of Jehovah with His people.

(2) “The ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the Lord of Hosts...”

Leviticus 22:31-32, “Therefore you shall keep My commandments, and perform them: I am the Lord. You shall not profane My holy name...”

Uzzah and Ahio were “the sons of Abinadab” (3). They grew up with the Ark in their home. We must all beware of becoming too informal with what is sacred.

Uzzah’s Profanity Came out of His Familiarity

In the New Testament we do not have an emblem of God’s presence, but we experience the reality of His presence.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

4. David’s Angry Reaction (7-11)

David Became Indignant with God

(8) “And David became angry because of the LORD’s outbreak against Uzzah.”

The KJV has “displeased.” The word means to glow or grow warm most often to blaze up. David experienced a flash of anger against the Lord. He was so angry he renamed the threshing floor “Perez Uzzah” (8) which means “the outbreak against Uzzah” to commemorate the event. We often respond this way. We disobey God’s word, calamity occurs and we get angry with God. David should not have been surprised that Uzzah died, but that they all lived.

• David’s emotion turned to realization

(9) “David was afraid of the Lord that day.”

That is a good thing. After his emotions cooled down David experienced a moment of clarity.

Psalm 111:10, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments.”

David’s fear caused him to seek the truth.

(9) “How can the ark of the Lord come to me?” David was saying in essence “what do I do now?” We said last week “What do you do when you don’t know what to do?” You seek the Lord through His word and prayer. David did what he could do. He had the ark taken to the “house of Obed-Edom the Gittite” (11). This man was a Levite who was a descendant of the Kohathites. They were entrusted to watch over the Ark and God blessed his home.

David Confessed His Fault, Consulted God’s Word, and Corrected His Conduct

David again purposed to bring the Ark to Zion. This time he did it God’s way. He instructed the priests and Levites.

1 Chronicles 15:12-13, “He said to them, ‘You are the heads of the fathers’ houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it. For because you did not do it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order.’”

David went above and beyond what God required. He sacrificed before and after the journey. He celebrated with great fervency and humility (12-18) & 1 Chronicles 15, and God was pleased.