

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

David has become king now – not just of Judah. He is king over all Israel.

And we saw last week in chapter five that he one of his first duties as king of all Israel was to move the capital to Jerusalem and we also that God rewarded him with battles over the Philistines – and those victories were attributed to David seeking the Lord for guidance before engaging the enemy.

I want you to keep that in mind as we begin our study this evening.

[2Sa 6:1-23 NKJV] 1 Again David gathered all [the] choice [men] of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 And David arose and went with all the people who [were] with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells [between] the cherubim.

So things are looking pretty good for King David – he's coming off of a few victories over his enemy – the kingdom is united once again – new capitol.

But David knew that there was something missing, the glory of God was not in their midst there in Jerusalem.

Because in the Old Testament, the Glory of God – His presence, the *chabod*, was directly linked to the ark of the covenant – because it was at the mercy seat that the Lord choose to meet His people.

[Exo 25:21-22 NKJV] 21 "You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony (the ten commandments) that I will give you. 22 "And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which [are] on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

So David does a good thing in wanting to bring the Ark out of obscurity and back into prominence – He wants the people to experience God's presence.

The problem was that it was 13 miles up the road from Jerusalem, where it had been sitting for over 20 years – one has to go back to 1 Samuel 7 to find a reference to the Ark of the Covenant.

I had you make a note of the last portion of verse 2 –

Where it speaks about dwelling between the cherubim.

That was the mercy set – it was supposed to be a picture of God's throne room in heaven. As He dwells in the midst of heavenly angles.

In the Gospel of John, we see the same picture when Mary Magdeline sees the tomb open and looks inside it and she sees the two angels sitting there – one on each end.

3 So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which [was] on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

So they show up to where the Ark had been sitting and then they place it on a new cart.

David wanted to make sure that the Ark was not placed on a cart that had hay on it or one that had worn wheels – they use a new cart.

There is a problem with this –

You see God didn't design the Ark for it to be transported by cart.

God designed it with rings on each end so that it would be carried using poles and He restricted who could carry it.

Only certain Levites were allowed to carry it – the sons of Kohath.

It was the Philistines who put the Ark of the Covenant on a cart when they had defeated the Israelites in battle – and they proceeded to parade it around their cities before God struck them with painful hemorrhoids.

One of the lessons that we can learn from this event is that sometimes we think that all God cares about is that things get done, that perhaps He doesn't care about how we do things.

That is not the case – He wants us to be obedient to His Word.

4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which [was] on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. 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.

So the Ark is in the process of being moved now –

And Ahio and Uzzah accompany the Ark – they grew up in the house where the Ark resided for 20 years.

And now it looks like a parade as they make their way toward Jerusalem.

6 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. 7 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.

I find it interesting that the incident happened at Nachon's threshing floor – because the threshing floor is where wheat was separated from the chaff.

Putting the Ark on a new cart was man's idea – not Gods

David was going about it the wrong way – the scriptures do not reveal that he sought the Lord before he decided to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem –

If he had studied God's word, he would have realized that what he was doing was wrong in the eyes of the Lord.

So cart was coming along and 1 Chronicles tells us that the ox stumble and the cart starts tipping over and Uzzah reaches out his hand to touch and God strikes him right there.

Why did God strike Uzzah???

Because the Lord had forbidden anyone other than the sons of Kohath to touch it.

[Num 4:15 NKJV] 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. These [are] the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.

You see, God is holy – He provided specific instruction on how to approach Him.

Uzzah was unholy – so therefore his punishment was death.

In the same way, God has provided a way for us to approach Him.

And that was provided for us through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

[2Co 5:21 NKJV] 21 For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The only way we can approach a Holy God is if we do something about our sin. We can't clean ourselves up, but Jesus can.

8 And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day. 9 David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" 10 So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

David was angry because he was confused – he thought he was doing a good thing – However, David didn't fully understand God's holiness – and until he did, he was going to miss out on God's presence.

So the parade comes to a halt and the Ark is moved into the house of Obed-Edom.

But notice the question that David asks?

How can the ark of the Lord come to me?

He still desires the presence of God upon his people – he still wants to bring the Ark to Jerusalem.

11 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. 12 Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that [belongs] to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness.

For three months the ark sat in Obed's house.

But in those three months, David searched the scriptures to find out how he was going to bring the presence of God to his people doing it God's way.

And he hears word that Obed and his family have been blessed by the presence of God in his house – and he wants that blessing for Jerusalem –

So after searching the scripture and being in prayer – he read the details in Exodus on how to move the Ark of the Covenant.

This time – no new cart – carried by those that God allowed to carry it.

13 And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep.

Even though the moving of the Ark did not require sacrifices, David felt he needed to do it. So from Obed's house until Jerusalem, they sacrificed an animal every 6 steps that they took.

14 Then David danced before the LORD with all [his] might; and David [was] wearing a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

David doesn't hold back here in his praise to the Lord.

He is singing – dancing – with shouting!!!

He has even removed his royal robe and has adorned himself in the garments that were being worn by the others during the procession into Jerusalem.

I had a friend in church who loved studying the word of God – he would go to bible studies – he would listen to studies on tape.

However, he was not a big fan of worship.

He didn't clap, sing out loud or raise his hands in worship –

He simply chose to be reserved during this time.

The way I see it – if we can go to a ballgame and shout and jump when someone hits a homerun or someone scores a touchdown – why can't we do the same for the Lord.

16 Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

Michal was the wife that Saul had given to another man and Abner returned to David.

She hated David as he offered praised to the Lord because she felt that it somehow wasn't dignified for a king to be doing that.

17 So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. 18 And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. 19 Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece [of meat], and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.

As the presence of God comes to Jerusalem – David offers a sacrifice.

But notice that he offers the sacrifice to the Lord first before he blessed the people.

Make a note of this example – that it is only after we spend time blessing the Lord that we can be a true blessing toward others.

20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" 21 So David said to Michal, "[It was] before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play

[music] before the LORD. 22 "And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor." 23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

When David goes home – he is berated by Michal

And David responds by saying that the dancing and singing was not intended for her – that it was unto the Lord.

If we were to evaluate our own worship, I would have to say that many times we err on the side of being too cautious.

Some of us might not raise our hands or sing out loud because we are concerned about what the person next to us might think –

I have caught myself worshipping in my car and then I come to a stop light or going through the drive thru – I have caught myself lowering the volume???

That is worrying about what the Michal's in our lives are going to say.

I think we need to worry more about what God thinks?

We need to be more like David.

And the chapter ends with the scripture telling us that Michal did not have any children.

We don't know if David refused to have further relationships with her because of the incident here or maybe God simply chose not to bless her with children.

Before the Ark of the Covenant arrived in Jerusalem – we saw that it spent three months in the house of Obededom and that the Ark blessed his house.

Turn with me to 1 Chron 26

[1Ch 26:4-8 NKJV] 4 Moreover the sons of Obed-Edom [were] Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sacar the fourth, Nethanel the fifth, 5 Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, Peulthai the eighth; for God blessed him. 6 Also to Shemaiah his son were sons born who governed their fathers' houses, because they [were] men of great ability. 7 The sons of Shemaiah [were] Othni, Rephael, Obed, and Elzabad, whose brothers Elihu and Semachiah [were] able men. 8 All these [were] of the sons of Obed-Edom, they and their sons and their brethren, able men with strength for the work: sixty-two of Obed-Edom.

At the house of Obededom, the family was blessed with children because of God's presence with the Ark.

Yet at David's house, the pride of Michal is going to keep her from receiving God's blessing in her life.

[2Sa 7:1-29 NKJV] 1 Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, 2 that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains." 3 Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that [is] in your heart, for the LORD [is] with you."

Chapter seven begins with David be blessed by a season of peace –

And during this season of peace, we find David speaking to Nathan the prophet about what he could do for the God that has been so gracious to him.

A few chapters ago, we found out that David was living in a custom palace –

And now he sees that the Ark of the Covenant sits in a tent – and he wants to do something about it.

He wants to build a temple for the Ark.

So he consults Nathan and Nathan pretty much says – do what your heart tells you to do.

4 But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, 5 "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? 6 "For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. 7 "Wherever I have moved about with all the

children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?' " "

God seemed honored and “surprised” that David offered to build Him a house. It was as if God said to David, “You want to build Me a house? No one ever offered to do that before, and I never commanded anyone to do it.”

But before He gives David the answer, He is going to remind him what He has done for him.

8 "Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. 9 "And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who [are] on the earth. 10 "Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, 11 "since the time that I commanded judges [to be] over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that **He will make you a house.**

So David wants to build God a house and God first reminds him of his purpose.

His purpose involved shepherding his people.

His purpose involved defeating the Philistines.

However, that purpose does not involve building a house for Him.

In first Chronicle 22, David tells Solomon the reason that God did not allow him to build a house for Him.

It was because he had shed too much blood.

Therefore Solomon was going to be the one who would build the temple.

David would still be involved by providing the materials for the temple.

God gives David the design – He just doesn't allow him to build it.

At the end of verse 11, **God tells David that he is going to build a house for him.**

Well I thought David already had a house – he did

God is promising that all **future kings** would come from David's descendants.

You see, Eventually, even the Messiah, God's ultimate King, would come from the line of David.

Jesus would be the very Savior of the world. He, being God, would one day take on human flesh, being born in the lineage of King David, and would humble Himself by dying on a cross to pay for our sins.

The very best thing in the entire world would come through David. But it wouldn't come from David building a temple.

All the good would come from what God would do for David, not what David would do for God.

Amen

Let's pray...

