

II Samuel 6:1-23

Lesson #7, Bringing the Ark of God to Jerusalem

No other king of Israel was so seriously absorbed in the issue of how his people worshipped as was David. He personally composed the core of the biblical Psalter which has served as a foundation of Jewish and Christian musical expression in worship from his day to modern times. . . . David's very first effort to establish national worship in Jerusalem occurred soon after he moved into his city of David. The monarch rightly recognized the prominent function of the ark of the covenant which had been crafted in the lifetime of Moses. The name of Israel's God was then designated as 'the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim', the angelic figures which overshadowed the ark (I Sam. 4:4). Thus the very presence of Jehovah was with the ark of the covenant.¹

Peril in Moving the Ark

Now David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ² And David arose and went with all the people who were with him to ^aBaale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God which is called by the Name, the very name of **the Lord of hosts who is enthroned above the cherubim.**

^a Josh 15:9, 10; I Sam 7:1

[1.] What is the other name for Baale-judah?

[2.] Reviewing I Samuel chapters 4-7, write down the reason/s that the ark was at Baale-judah.

[3.] According to I Chron. 15:1, where was David planning to relocate the ark?

[4.] ^{v:3} They placed the ark of God on a new cart. **Where might David have gotten the idea to use a new cart (I Sam 6:1-7)?**

³ They placed the ark of God on a new cart that they might bring it from the house of Abinadab which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were leading the new cart.

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Note: Before we go any farther, let's take a little rabbit trail and review Numbers 4:1-15 to see God's instructions for transporting the ark.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 2 "Take a census of the descendants of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, by their families, by their fathers' households, 3 from thirty years and upward, even to fifty years old, all who enter the service to do the work in the tent of meeting. 4 "This is the work of the descendants of Kohath in the tent of meeting, concerning the most holy things.

5 "When the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons shall go in and they shall take down the veil of the screen and cover the ark of the testimony with it; 6 and they shall lay a covering of porpoise skin on it, and shall spread over it a cloth of pure blue, and shall insert its poles. 7 "Over the table of the bread of the Presence they shall also spread a cloth of blue and put on it the dishes and the pans and the sacrificial bowls and the jars for the drink offering, and the continual bread shall be on it. 8 "They shall spread over them a cloth of scarlet material, and cover the same with a covering of porpoise skin, and they shall insert its poles. 9 "Then they shall take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand for the light, along with its lamps and its snuffers, and its trays and all its oil vessels, by which they serve it; 10 and they shall put it and all its utensils in a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put it on the carrying bars. 11 "Over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall insert its poles; 12 and they shall take all the utensils of service, with which they serve in the sanctuary, and put them in a blue cloth and cover them with a covering of porpoise skin, and put them on the carrying bars. 13 "Then they shall take away the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth over it. 14 "They shall also put on it all its utensils by which they serve in connection with it: the firepans, the forks and shovels and the basins, all the utensils of the altar; and they shall spread a cover of porpoise skin over it and insert its poles.

[5.] For starts: (Gen 46:11) who was Kohath?

[6.] v:3, What were the ages of the men who were to perform this service?

[7.] v:5-6, Who covers the ark and with what is it to be covered?

Note: We'll get to this!

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15 "When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy objects and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is to set out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them, so that they will not touch the holy objects and die. These are the things in the tent of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.

[8.] v:15 says the sons of Kohath shall carry all the furnishings . . . but not touch them!
How could they do that?

[9.] v:15, what happens if they did touch them?

[9.] Let's talk together. Do you think God was really serious about these instructions?

OK, back to II Sam 6:4, Bringing the Ark of God to Jerusalem.

4 So they brought it with the ark of God from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Ahio was walking ahead of the ark. 5 Meanwhile, David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the Lord with all kinds of instruments made of fir wood, and with lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets and cymbals.

6 But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it. 7 And the anger of the Lord burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.

8 David became angry because of the Lord's outburst against Uzzah, and that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. 9 So David was afraid of the Lord that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?"

[10.] v:4-5, Every one seems to be having a good ol time. If any thing is amiss, what would it be?

[11.] v:7, died, You know what, I need a little help here! Weren't these guys trying to a job to help the citizens of Jerusalem worship the Lord? What went wrong?

[12.] v:8, What was David's first reaction to the death?

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10 And David was unwilling to move the ark of the Lord into the city of David with him; but David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. 11 Thus 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.

Now it was told King David, saying, "The Lord has blessed the house of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, on account of the ark of God." David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom into the city of David with gladness.

13 And so it was, that when the bearers of the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. 14 And David was dancing before the Lord with all his might, and David was wearing a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of the Lord with shouting and the sound of the trumpet.

ephod, a covering, attire of the Levitical priesthood was formally an ordinary garment worn especially it would seem by women. Samuel wore an ephod as a child Unger's Bible Dictionary

[13.] According to v:9, how was David's relationship toward the Lord?

[14.] v:9, What question was David asking himself?

[15.] During all of this do you believe the Lord was revealing something of Himself to David? If so, what?

[16.] v:10 and 11, Describe David's change of plan?

[17.] v:11, How long did David wait before he tried moving the ark again?

[18.] According to I Chron 15:2-15 we see that David was not just pouting while the ark was at the house of Obed-edom. What did he learn?

[19.] Does it seem fair that God does not accept from His children, a plan that seems to work for the ungodly?

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Always lurking in the background for David was a family out of control. As his star rose in the nation, dark shadows were ever present in the recesses of his polygamous house.²

16 Then it happened as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David that Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

17 So they brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the tent which David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. 18 When David had finished offering the burnt offering and the peace offering, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts. 19 Further, he distributed to all the people, to all the multitude of Israel, both to men and women, a cake of bread and one of dates and one of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed each to his house.

20 But when David returned to bless his household, Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "How the king of Israel distinguished himself today! He uncovered himself today in the eyes of his servants' maids as one of the foolish ones shamelessly uncovers himself!"

v:20, foolish ones, (heb) reyq, (eng) rake; libertine promiscuous; II Tim 3:6, For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

[20.] Considering the above statement, why might God require I Tim 3:2, "the husband of one wife," for His church leaders?

[21.] v:16, After a hard days work, what was waiting for David when he arrived at his "home sweet home"?

[22.] v:18-19, How did David show that he desired the same blessing for his kingdom that was given to Obed-edom?

[23.] v:20, Would you say that that Michal was concerned about David's image as the reigning king or a blast to hurt him?

Let's do a little Michal research. See you on the "flip side" OK, next page!

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I Sam 14:49, Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan, and Ishui, and Melchi-shua: and the names of his two daughters were these; the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal :

[24.] So Michal was whose daughter?

I Sam 18:20, And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

[25.] Who was Michal's choice?

I Sam 18:27-28, Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife. 28 And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him.

[26.] So did Michal get her guy?

I Sam 19:11-17, Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain. 12 So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped. 13 And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth. 14 And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick. 15 And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him. 16 And when the messengers were come in, behold, there was an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster. 17 And Saul said unto Michal , Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?

[27.] For whom Did Michal put her life on the line?

I Sam 25:42-44, And Abigail hasted, and arose, and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife. 43 David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they were also both of them his wives.

[28.] Do you believe that David loved only Michal or were the wheels coming off?

I Sam 25:44, But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.

[29] If you were Michal how would you be feeling about now?

II Sam 3:13-16, And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee: but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face. 14 And David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal , which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines. 15 And Ish-bosheth sent, and took her from her husband, even from Phaltiel the son of Laish. 16 And her husband went with her along weeping behind her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, Go, return. And he returned.

[30] What might be Michal's true feelings about being traded like a horse or donkey?

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II Sam 5:13-16, Meanwhile David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron; and more sons and daughters were born to David. 14 Now these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada and Eliphelet.

[31] So how was it working out for Michal and her snug little marriage with David?

[32.] If you were counseling Michal, what hints would her life give you as to her reason for wanting to explode?

[33.] At this point in time (II Sam 6:16) what do you believe was Michal's true opinion in general?

OK, back to II Sam 6:21, we will call this "David lashes back"!

21 So David said to Michal, "It was before the Lord, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel; therefore I will celebrate before the Lord. 22 "I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be humble in my own eyes, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished."

[34.] v:21 and 22, Why was what David said true?

[35.] Did David understand Michal?

23 Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

Many tragedies befell Michal who had once loved David. This venomous outburst secured for her a childless life. Many days of worship end in careless words and strife! Joy in the assembly of God's people and benefits intended for the family may be strangled by hostilities within that very family. Sharp words have tragic consequences, as we see so vividly illustrated here³

Chantry, Walter J, David *man of prayer man of war*; ¹page 167 and 168, ²page 173, ³page 173 and 174