

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT BROUGHT TO JERUSALEM

Introduction:

1. David has finally been anointed as King over all Israel.
2. One of his first acts was to take the city of Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel and the place for the house of God.
3. After defeating the Philistines, David was ready to move the Ark of the Covenant to its new home in Jerusalem.

I. Background of the Ark of the Covenant

- A. The pattern for the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:8-22).
 1. It was covered in pure gold.
 2. It contained the law of God.
 3. It was crowned with the mercy seat.
 4. It was where God's presence communed with Israel.
- B. The Day of Atonement at the mercy seat (Leviticus 16).
- C. The covering of the Ark when it was moved (Numbers 4:1-6).
- D. God spoke from the mercy seat (Numbers 7:89).
- E. Thus, the Ark of the Covenant was a symbol of God's presence with the people of Israel.
- F. It was to be treated with reverence and respect – as sacred and holy – because it was the place where God made Himself known to His people.

II. Recent History of the Ark of the Covenant

- A. Sadly, the Israelites came to see the Ark as a kind of “magic box” that would assure them of success and victory – even if they were unfaithful to God.
- B. Thus, they brought it with them to battle against the Philistines and it was taken from them (1 Samuel 4:1-13).
- C. The Philistines were plagued while the Ark was among them, and they sent it back to Israel upon a cart (1 Samuel 5 – 6).
- D. Since that time, the Ark had been kept at Kirjath-jearim in the house of Abinadab (1 Samuel 7:1-2).

III. Moving the Ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6:1-5; 1 Chron. 13:1-8)

- A. Now, David desired to bring the Ark to Jerusalem.
 1. As one nation
 2. To right the wrongs of the past
- B. The congregation agreed and Israel came together for this purpose.

2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 13

- IV. The Sins of Israel in Relation to the Ark (2 Sam. 6:6-8; 1 Chron. 13:9-11)
- A. They transported the ark in the wrong way (vs. 3; Numbers 7:1-9).
 - B. They transported the ark by the wrong people (vs. 3; Numbers 3:10; 4:15).
 - C. They rejoiced in their ignorance and error (vs. 5; 1 Chron. 13:8).
 - D. Uzzah touched the ark (vs. 6; 1 Chron. 13:9).
 - E. Notice that Uzzah's sin was the result of other sins that had preceded it.
 1. As a result, David was displeased – literally, “angry, furious, to burn with anger or vexation.”
 2. He does not seem to be angry with God, but grieved that sin has taken place.
 3. The word for ‘breach’ literally means, “To break forth or an outburst.”
 4. This was God “breaking forth” in judgment upon one who had trespassed His will (cf. 5:20; Exo. 19:22, 24; Psa. 106:23; Eze. 22:30).
 - F. The ultimate sin was their failing to consult and follow the Word of God!
- V. The Restoration of God's Plan (2 Sam. 6:9-13; 1 Chron. 13:12-14; 15:1-26)
- A. David asked the appropriate question, which should have been asked at the first, “How shall the ark of the Lord come to me?”
 - B. Because of God's punishment, David had a deeper reverence, respect, and fear of Him.
 - C. Thus, he wanted to know God's will concerning this matter.
 - D. For three months, the ark remained in the house of Obed-edom, while David sought the answer.
 1. While the ark was there, this man's household was blessed.
 2. This indicates that they had a different attitude toward the ark than had been shown by Uzzah or the rest of Israel.
 3. Obed-edom was a Levite, descended from Merari and a porter or doorkeeper of the ark (1 Chron. 15:18-24; 16:38).
 - E. When David returned to bring the ark to Jerusalem, he came with the knowledge of God's will.
 - F. He declared that only the Levites were to carry the ark (1 Chron. 15:1-2).
 - G. Thus, he gathered the Levites to carry out their duties (1 Chron. 15:3-12).
 - H. He understood that because they had not followed God's instructions the first time, they had sinned and had been punished (1 Chron. 15:13).
 1. He declared that they had not sought God after the “due order.”
 2. That phrase refers to the ordinance or judgment of God (cf. 1 Cor. 11:2; 14:40).
 - I. This time they did everything “as Moses commanded according to the word of the Lord” (1 Chron. 15:14-15).
 - J. As a result, when they had taken 6 steps, they stopped and offered sacrifices to the God – demonstrating both penitence and gratitude.
 - K. Thus, the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem.
 - L. This is a beautiful picture of true restoration...
 1. Recognition of one's sin and God's judgment
 2. Return to the Scriptures
 3. Repentance of sin
 4. Responding with submission and obedience
 5. Rejoicing

2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 13

VI. The Rejoicing of David

(2 Sam. 6:14-23; 1 Chron. 15:27 – 16:43)