

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 SAMUEL 6

2 SAMUEL 6:1-4



REMINDER: WHAT IS THE ARK?

ARK OF THE COVENANT WAS THE PHYSICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD. IT WAS THE MOST SACRED OBJECT IN ISRAEL AND WAS TO BE LEFT IN THE MOST SACRED PLACE (THE "HOLY OF HOLIES" IN THE TABERNACLE). IT WAS A BOX WHICH WAS COVERED IN PURE GOLD. INSIDE THE BOX WERE 3 SACRED AND SYMBOLIC ITEMS: THE TABLETS WITH THE COMMANDMENTS, A JAR WITH MANNA AND AARON'S ROD THAT BUDDED. THE BOX WAS TOPPED WITH TWO GOLDEN ANGELIC BEINGS (CHERUBIM).

FLASHBACK: WHERE WAS THE ARK?

1 SAMUEL 4:1-11 - ARK CAPTURED BY PHILISTINES AFTER ISRAEL HANDLES IT FOOLISHLY

1 SAMUEL 5-6 - ARK BOUNCES AROUND PHILISTINE CITIES, RETURNED ON DRIVERLESS CART

1 SAMUEL 7:1-2 - ARK REMAINS IN HOUSE OF ABINADAB

THIS WAS QUITE THE NOTEWORTHY GATHERING. PRESENT IS KING DAVID ALONG WITH "ALL THE CHOSEN MEN OF ISRAEL, THIRTY-THOUSAND" (V. 1).

WHY IS THIS SUCH A SIGNIFICANT EVENT?

"BY BRINGING THE ARK TO ZION, DAVID IS SAYING THAT YAHWEH'S PRESENCE CAN NO LONGER REMAIN, SO TO SPEAK, ON THE SIDE RAIL BUT MUST BE THE CENTRAL FOCUS AND REALITY OF THE DAVIDIC KINGDOM. THE WORSHIP OF YAHWEH, THIS RULING, RECONCILING, REVEALING GOD, MUST BE AT THE HEART OF ISRAEL'S LIFE. THE ARK IN JERUSALEM PROCLAIMS THAT THE MAJESTIC, PARDONING, SPEAKING GOD IS IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE." (DALE RALPH DAVIS, "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 2 SAMUEL", PG 73)

1 CHRONICLES 13:1-4 - THEN DAVID CONSULTED WITH THE CAPTAINS OF THE THOUSANDS AND THE HUNDREDS, EVEN WITH EVERY LEADER. 2 DAVID SAID TO ALL THE ASSEMBLY OF ISRAEL, "IF IT SEEMS GOOD TO YOU, AND IF IT IS FROM THE LORD OUR GOD, LET US SEND EVERYWHERE TO OUR KINSMEN WHO REMAIN IN ALL THE LAND OF ISRAEL, ALSO TO THE PRIESTS AND LEVITES WHO ARE WITH THEM IN THEIR CITIES WITH PASTURE LANDS, THAT THEY MAY MEET WITH US; 3 AND LET US BRING BACK THE ARK OF OUR GOD TO US, FOR WE DID NOT SEEK IT IN THE DAYS OF SAUL." 4 THEN ALL THE ASSEMBLY SAID THAT THEY WOULD DO SO, FOR THE THING WAS RIGHT IN THE EYES OF ALL THE PEOPLE.

2 SAMUEL 6:5-8 - THE ARK'S APPROACH, UZZAH

UZZAH IS STRUCK DOWN BY THE LORD BECAUSE HE TOUCHED THE ARK. NO ONE WAS SUPPOSED TO TOUCH THE ARK. AND THE ARK WAS NOT TO BE PUT ON A CART, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE CARRIED, BY A SPECIAL DESIGNATION OF THE PRIESTS (THE DESCENDANTS OF KOHATH).

EXODUS 25:10-15

NUMBERS 4:15

NUMBERS 7:1-9

THE DEATH OF UZZAH IS A TRAGIC STORY. HOWEVER, IT HIGHLIGHTS THE HOLINESS OF GOD. GOD IS HOLY AND HE REQUIRES OBEDIENCE FROM HIS PEOPLE. HE TENDS TOWARDS MERCY AND GRACE BUT THAT DOES NOT NEGATE HIS HOLINESS AND JUSTICE. NO ONE WAS SUPPOSED TO TOUCH THE ARK OF THE COVENANT. UZZAH MAY HAVE MEANT WELL, BUT NO ONE WAS SUPPOSED TO TOUCH THE ARK OF THE COVENANT. IN FACT, IT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ON THE CART TO BEGIN WITH - THUS HAD DAVID AND THE PEOPLE OBEYED GOD'S WORD INITIALLY, UZZAH WOULD NOT HAVE DIED.

WE LEARNED FROM SAUL THAT PARTIAL OBEDIENCE IS NOT OBEDIENCE. ALSO, GOOD INTENTION IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR OBEDIENCE. THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING THE ARK WERE ALREADY WRITTEN AND ACCESSIBLE TO DAVID. HE AND THE PRIESTS IGNORED THEM.

2 SAMUEL 6:9-12 - THE ARK STAYS IN THE HOUSE OF OBED-EDOM AS DAVID RESETS

V. 11-12 - THE LORD BLESSED THE HOUSE OF OBED-EDOM FOR THE 3 MONTHS THE ARK WAS HOUSED THERE. THIS BLESSING SHOWED DAVID THAT GOD WAS NOT AGAINST ISRAEL, NOR THAT THE ARK WAS TOXIC (LIKE IT HAD BEEN TO THE PHILISTINES). THUS DAVID REVISITS THE BRINGING OF THE ARK TO JERUSALEM.

2 SAMUEL 6:13-15 - THE ARK'S RETURN TO JERUSALEM

V. 13 - "BEARERS" - HEBREW: *nasa*: TO LIFT, CARRY. CLEARLY DAVID INQUIRED OF THE LORD/LAW AND CORRECTED THE ERROR

THE ARK'S PROCESSION INTO JERUSALEM WAS QUITE THE SCENE. SACRIFICE, MUSICAL PRAISE, AND A DANCING KING. THERE WAS REJOICING AND CELEBRATION, AS THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN! THE LORD IS A GOD TO BE FEARED, AND CELEBRATED. DAVID DOESN'T CEASE HIS REJOICING AFTER GOD'S HOLINESS IS ON DISPLAY - HE PRAISES HIM FOR IT!

2 SAMUEL 6:16-23 - DAVID DANCES BEFORE THE LORD. MICHAL'S CRITICISM

ONCE THE ARK IS RETURNED TO ISRAEL AND PLACES IN JERUSALEM, THE ARK IS PLACED IN A TENT. MORE SACRIFICES OF THANKSGIVING ARE MADE. DAVID CELEBRATES FURTHER BY GIVING ALL OF THE PEOPLE A GIFT OF FOOD (TRANSLATORS ARE DIVIDED AS TO EXACTLY HOW TO TRANSLATE THESE WORDS NASB "DATES", ESV: "PORTION OF MEAT", KJV: "GOOD PIECE OF FLESH")

"DAVID WAS DANCING BEFORE THE LORD WITH ALL HIS MIGHT" (V. 14). HIS WIFE, MICHAL, THE DAUGHTER OF SAUL, SEES HIM AND IS EMBARRASSED FOR HIM. SHE DOES NOT THINK THIS IS APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR FOR THE KING. SHE MOCKS HIM (V. 20) AND CALLS HIM TO QUESTION WHAT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, SPECIFICALLY TO THE YOUNG WOMEN, MUST HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT HIM. DAVID RESPONDS BY SAYING HE WAS ONLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THE LORD THOUGHT.

V. 16, 20, 23 - MICHAL IS REFERRED TO AS THE "DAUGHTER OF SAUL" 3X IN THIS SECTION. NOTE THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE OLD KINGDOM OF SAUL & THE NEW KINGDOM OF DAVID.

Q - WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS INCIDENT? WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF DAVID'S ACTIONS?

"I THINK THIS MICHAL-DAVID ALTERCATION HOLDS A TELLING APPLICATION TO THE SPHERE OF OUR WORSHIP AND DEVOTION. IN OUR CHURCHES THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF FOLKS WHO ARE VERY CONCERNED WITH SERVICES AND EXTERNALS AND PROCEDURES AND MECHANICS AND MEETINGS AND DECENCY AND ORDER BUT WHO REALLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING OF THE JOY OF THE LORD. THERE ARE SOME WHO CAN MUSTER ENTHUSIASM AND GUSTO OVER PROFESSIONAL SPORTS BUT WHO SOMEHOW CANNOT FATHOM ANYTHING BUT PROFESSIONAL DETACHMENT OVER JESUS CHRIST. EXUBERANT PRAISE AND TEARS OF REPENTANCE ARE STRANGERS TO THEM. W.G BLAIKIE HAS CAREFULLY DRAWN THE BOTTOM LINE:

"THERE ARE, DOUBTLESS, TIMES TO BE CALM, AND TIMES TO BE ENTHUSIASTIC; BUT CAN IT BE RIGHT TO GIVE ALL OUR COLDNESS TO CHRIST AND ALL OUR ENTHUSIASM TO THE WORLD?" (DALE RALPH DAVIS, "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 2 SAMUEL", PG 79-80)