

1 Chronicles 13 - David Relocates the Ark to Jerusalem

II. David prepares to build the temple (1 Chr 10:1—29:30)

(3) David brings the Ark to Jerusalem (1 Chr 13:1—16:43)

(A) Because of Uzzah's mishandling of the Ark it was brought only as far as Obed-Edom's home (13:1-14)

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(3) David brings the Ark to Jerusalem (1 Chr 13:1—16:43) (Cf. 2 Sam 6:1-11)

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1 Then David consulted with the captains of the thousands and the hundreds, with every leader.

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1 Later, David conferred with every officer in charge of groups of thousands and groups of hundreds.

1 And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and 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 *word* everywhere to our kinsmen who remain in all the land of Israel, and to the priests and Levites who are with them in their cities with pasture lands, that they meet with us;

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;

2 Then he addressed the entire community of Israel, "If it seems good to you and something from the Lord our God, let's spread word to all of our relatives who remain throughout the entire land of Israel, including the priests and descendants of Levi in the cities and pasture lands, so they can gather together with us.

2 And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, If it seem good unto you, and that it be of the LORD our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren every where, that are left in

all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us:

- After David had taken Jerusalem from the Jebusites and made it the capital of the then-united Israel and Judah, he was eager to make it the religious center as well

— This could not be done, however, until the Ark of the Covenant was returned to a permanent resting place in Jerusalem

3 and let us bring back the ark of our God to us, since we did not seek it in the days of Saul."

3 and let us bring back the ark of our God to us, for we did not seek it in the days of Saul."

3 Then let's bring the Ark of God back to us, because we didn't consult it during Saul's reign."

3 And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul.

- During Saul's reign, the Philistines held the Ark captive, and once it was returned, it was held in a private residence

4 Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for this was right in the eyes of all the people.

4 Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

4 The entire community consented, because doing so pleased all the people.

4 And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

- The Ark plays a central role in 1 Chr 13-16

— It was a symbol of God's grace and presence, and the actual place where God had chosen to reside among His people (Ex 25:22). It was where God manifested His grace.

— David's desire to bring the Ark into Jerusalem showed his concern that God would dwell among His people (Cf. Ex 19:3-6; 25:8)

5 So David assembled all Israel together, from the Shihor of Egypt to the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim.

5 So David assembled all Israel together, from the Shihor of Egypt even to the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim.

5 So David assembled all of Israel—from the Shihor River of Egypt to Lebo-hamath—in order to bring the Ark of God from Kiriath-jearim.

5 So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor of Egypt even unto the entering of Hemath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjathjearim.

- Here we see the dangers of relying on human counsel in spiritual matters...this is a sidelight on the days of Saul
- During this period, the worship of God in the Tabernacle was entirely omitted
- As a result, the entire tabernacle organization was broken up: the Levites were scattered. Now word is sent out throughout the land that David wants to bring up the Ark to Jerusalem.

6 David and all Israel went up to Baalah, *that is*, to Kiriath-jearim, which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, the LORD who is enthroned *above* the cherubim, where His name is called.

6 David and all Israel went up to Baalah, *that is*, to Kiriath-jearim, which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, the LORD who is enthroned *above* the cherubim, where His name is called.

6 David, accompanied by all of Israel, went up to Baalah (the former name of Kiriath-jearim), which belonged to Judah, to bring from there the Ark of God, the LORD, who sits enthroned on the cherubim, and who is called the Name.

6 And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kirjathjearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it.

7 And they carried the ark of God **on a new cart** from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart.

7 They carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart.

7 They mounted the Ark of God on a new cart, bringing it from Abinadab's home, with Uzzah and Ahio driving the cart.

7 And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drave the cart.

- "...on a new cart" - they completely disregarded the previous instructions on how to handle the Ark (Ex 25:13-14; Num 4:15)

— This is doing a right thing in a wrong way. God is specific about holy things, and His holiness should never be taken for granted.

— The Philistines placed the Ark in a cart (1 Sam 6:7f) when they returned it to the Israelites. They were not struck dead because they were not in a covenant relationship with God.

8 David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all *their* might, with songs and with lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets.

8 David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all *their* might, even with songs and with lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals and with trumpets.

8 David and all of Israel were dancing in the presence of God with all of their might with songs, harps, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets.

8 And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.

- Worship can never replace obedience to God's revealed will (Cf. 1 Sam 15:22-23)

— There is always power present in God's presence

9 When they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, because the oxen nearly overturned *it*.

9 When they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, because the oxen nearly upset *it*.

9 As they approached Chidon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to steady the ark, because the oxen had stumbled.

9 And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled.

10 But the anger of the LORD burned against Uzza, so He struck him because he had put out his hand toward the ark; and he died there before God.

10 The anger of the LORD burned against Uzza, so He struck him down because he put out his hand to the ark; and he died there before God.

10 Just then, the anger of the LORD blazed against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he had put his hand on the ark, and he died right there in the presence of God.

10 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God.

- Yahweh is holy, and His people should not take His presence among them lightly (Cf. Lev 10:1-11; Num 16)

— God's presence is real, and His people must deal with it in harmony with His character (Cf. Ex 25-31)

— We should not be tempted to regard the rituals and physical objects used in worship as common

11 Then David became angry because of the LORD'S outburst against Uzza; and he called that place Perez-uzza *as it is* to this day.

11 Then David became angry because of the LORD's outburst against Uzza; and he called that place Perez-uzza to this day.

11 David flew into a rage because the LORD had killed Uzzah. As a result, that place was called Perez-uzzah to this day.

11 And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon

Uzza: wherefore that place is called Perez-uzza to this day.

- With great pageantry the procession made its way until it hit a rough place in the road and the cart on which the Ark was riding began to jostle and tip

— Instinctively, Uzza reached out to keep the Ark from falling, and for his sacrilege he was struck dead

- The Law of Moses stipulated that the ark was to be carried by the Levites using poles inserted through its corner rings (Ex 25:13-14; Cf. 1 Chr 15:2,13,15)

— The impropriety of David's action and its subsequent punishment by the Lord resulted in a delay of three months in the movement of the ark, a time when it was sheltered in the house of Obed-Edom (13:13)

— Because of its presence in his home, God blessed Obed-Edom and his family (v14)

— A proper attitude toward the things of God brings blessing while a cavalier spirit brings divine displeasure

12 David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God *home* to me?"

12 David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God *home* to me?"

12 But David feared God that day, and asked "How am I to bring the Ark of God to me?"

12 And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me?

13 So David did not take the ark with him to the city of David, but took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

13 So David did not take the ark with him to the city of David, but took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

13 As a result, David would not take the ark into the City of David for it to be in his care. Instead, he took it to the home of Obed-edom the Gittite.

13 So David brought not the ark home to himself to the city of David, but carried it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

14 And the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house for three months; and the LORD blessed the family of Obed-edom and all that he had.

14 Thus the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months; and the LORD blessed the family of Obed-edom with all that he had.

14 So the Ark of God remained in the care of Obed-edom's household for three months, and God blessed Obed-edom's household, along with everyone associated with it.

14 And the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-Edom, and all that he had.

- God had given explicit directions as to how the Ark was to be carried

— Other parts of the Tabernacle could be transported on carts, but not the Ark. The Ark was never to be carried on a wagon. It was to be borne on the shoulders of the sons of Kohath.

— Why? The Ark speaks of Christ, and He is to be carried, even today, by individuals

Today there are many who are putting their hands in the Lord's work where they should not be putting them. They are interfering with the Lord's work. Just so in the case of the Ark—the man who interfered was put out of the way. [J.V. McGee]