

FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

April 4th, 2010

Celebrating the Presence of the Lord Almighty

Focal Passage: 2 Samuel 6

Cross References: 1 Samuel 6, 1 Chronicles 13:5-14, 15:25-16:3, 16:43, Psalm 47, Psalm 99, Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24.

Central Idea: The Ark of the Covenant was the very presence of the Lord Almighty in Israel. When it was constructed God gave very specific details concerning how the priests should treat the Ark. King David understood the centrality of the Ark to the worship of the LORD and became even more aware of God's power in 2 Samuel 6.

Lesson Idea: It is very easy to take the Lord's real presence for granted. True worship is acknowledging the power of God's presence and praising God for who He is. The people of Jerusalem witnessed firsthand what can happen as a result of God being real and present. We as Christians should be aware of God's power and presence through His constant Holy Spirit.

Historical Context: With the twenty years that the Ark of the Covenant was in the Philistine's territory and the forty years of Saul reign Israel had gone over sixty years without adequately honoring God's command and worshipping His presence. When David made the political decision to centralize his monarchy in Jerusalem he strengthened his influence as king. When he decides to bring back the Ark he is establishing the God-centered focus of his Kingship.

Bible in a Year Daily Readings

March 21st- 28th, 2010

Mar 28 1 Sam. 19-21
Mar 29 1 Sam 22-24
Mar 30 1 Sam. 25-27
Mar 31 1 Sam. 28-31
Apr. 1 2 Sam. 1-3
Apr. 2 2 Sam. 4-7
Apr. 3 2 Sam. 8-11
Apr. 4 2 Sam. 12-13

Read the Bible Through

Highlights of the Week:

March 28th –April 4th, 2010

1 Samuel 24, 26 David spares

Saul's life twice.

1 Samuel 28 Saul and the witch at Endor

1 Samuel 31 The death of Saul

2 Samuel 1 David mourns for Saul

2 Samuel 2, 5 David anointed King of Judah and then King of Israel

2 Samuel 9 David and Mephiboseth

2 Samuel 11-12 David and Batsheba

2 Samuel 6:1-5

The first transporting of the Ark

¹ *David again brought together out of Israel chosen men, thirty thousand in all.*

² *He and all his men set out from Baalah of Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim that are on the ark.*

³ *They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart*

⁴ *with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it.*

⁵ *David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals.*

The parallel passage in [1 Chronicles 13:5-8](#) is preceded by a paragraph (vv.1-4) in which David confers with his army officers (v.1) before announcing to the "whole assembly of Israel" (vv.2, 4) his plans to bring the "ark of our God" (v.3) to Jerusalem in accordance with the "will of the LORD our God" (v.2).

Gaebelein, Frank E. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Volume 3*. 868. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, © 1992.

QUESTIONS

1. Why was it a good decision to bring the ark back to Jerusalem?
2. Verse 2 is a great description of what the Ark really meant. How do we undervalue the presence of the Lord?
3. How does verse 3 point to possible troubles with transporting the Ark? (see 1 Samuel 6:7-8)
4. Israel's celebration in V. 5 was "before the Lord." How can we make sure that our worship is for the Lord and not for men?

2 Samuel 6:6-11

The Sin of Uzzah

⁶ *When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled.*

⁷ *The LORD'S anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God.*

⁸ *Then David was angry because the LORD'S wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah.*

⁹ *David was afraid of the LORD that day and said, "How can the ark of the LORD ever come to me?"*

¹⁰ *He was not willing to take the ark of the LORD to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.*

¹¹ *The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the LORD blessed him and his entire household.*

Since threshing floors were often places of sanctity the "threshing floor of Nacon" (v.6) may also have been a holy site. Unfortunately, it is mentioned only here, its location is unknown, and even the spelling of its name is uncertain ([1 Chronicles 13:9](#), e.g., reads "Kidon" instead of "Nacon"). "Two verbs with which *nacon* could be connected are *kun* "to be fixed or prepared", or *nakah* "to smite"; indeed the latter occurs in verse 7 ["struck him down"]. The name may have been coined to encapsulate memories of the disaster, witnessed by the great company of worshippers." In any event, the threshing floor is fraught with peril for Uzzah (whose name, ironically, means "Strength," from the same Heb. root translated "might" in v.5). Sensing that the oxen pulling the cart were stumbling (v.6) and might therefore cause the ark to fall to the ground, Uzzah "reached out to steady the ark. In so doing he "took hold of" it, and thus his doom was sealed despite whatever good intentions he may have had.

Gaebelein, Frank E. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Volume 3*. 871. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, © 1992.

QUESTIONS

1. What was Uzzah's sin?
2. Look at Numbers 4:15, was Uzzah qualified to move the Ark?
3. What are examples of possible irreverence today concerning the presence of God?
4. Who was David angry with in v. 8?

Interesting Notes

- Psalm 24 is an appropriate response to David's question in v. 9. We must be properly prepared for the presence of the Lord.
- Obed-Edom means servant of Edom and he was most likely a Kohathite Levite. His family line was blessed by God because of the Divine Presence in the Ark. (Expositors Commentary)

2 Samuel 6:12-19

The Ark Transported back to Jerusalem

¹² Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went down and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing.

¹³ When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf.

¹⁴ David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might,

¹⁵ while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

¹⁶ As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷ They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD.

¹⁸ After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty.

¹⁹ Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes.

QUESTIONS

1. What is different about this transporting of the Ark? (see vs. 13-14)
2. Why is Michal called a "daughter of Saul" in v. 16?
3. What are David and the people really celebrating?
4. What do we have to celebrate?
5. How do we celebrate with all our might?

2 Samuel 6:20-23

²⁰ When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, disrobing in the sight of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!"

²¹ David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD'S people Israel—I will celebrate before the LORD.

²² I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor."

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

QUESTIONS

1. How does David justify his actions?
2. Is David overly harsh to Michal, who earlier saved his life (1 Sam. 19:11-17)?
3. In what ways can worship of the Lord be humiliating or undignified and still be proper?

APPLICATION

It is today and every Lord's Day that we celebrate the risen Lord. We are called to celebrate Him with our very lives by living for Him alone. We must respect the presence of the Lord and the fullness of His Holy Spirit. We must be willing to be transformed by Him (Rom. 12:1-2) and live lives that are worthy of the Lord Almighty. The cross is foolishness to men but is life to those who believe and true believers will worship in Spirit and in truth.