

FPFWC Christian Development



God Offers Praise

September 2021

Fall Quarter

September 11, 2021

Lesson #2 – Praise In Dance

SCRIPTURE TEXT – 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-19

ICE BREAKER –

1. *What is an appropriate response for someone who finds your worship practices "undignified"?*

Key Verse: David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.—2 Samuel 6:5

LESSON BACKGROUND

Today's lesson focuses on the relocation of the ark of the covenant to David's new capital city, Jerusalem (see the parallel account in 1 Chronicles 15). The ark of the covenant was Israel's most sacred object. It was an ornate chest constructed to God's specifications in about 1446 BC.

The lid of the ark was called the mercy seat. That lid featured two winged cherubim facing each other from opposite ends; that's where God said He would meet with Moses (Exodus 25:10–22). One detail of the ark's construction is especially important for today's lesson: the gold rings and wooden staves (see 2 Samuel 6:3, below). The ark itself contained the Ten Commandments, Aaron's rod, and manna from Israel's wilderness wanderings (Hebrews 9:4; compare Exodus 40:20). These were reminders of deliverance from Egypt and provisions on the way to the promised land.

The ark was housed in the innermost part of the tabernacle, "the holy place" (Leviticus 16:2). Only the high priest was ever allowed to enter, and that only once a year after extensive acts of ritual cleansing (16:3–25). That ark was so holy that those responsible for its upkeep and transportation were not allowed to touch it, lest they die (Numbers 4:15, 20; see 2 Samuel 6:5, below).

After God led the Israelites into the promised land, they forsook the covenant during the period of the judges (about 1380–1050 BC). Repeated numerous times was the dreary cycle of *rebellion, retribution, repentance, and restoration*.

As that period drew to a close in the days of Samuel, the Philistines captured the ark of the covenant and took it to Ashdod (about 1070 BC). That was a city near the Mediterranean coast and about 45 miles west of Jerusalem. But God inflicted health problems on the Philistines, so they sent the ark back to Israel (1 Samuel 5:6–6:12).

The cart transporting the ark made its way to the Israelite city of Bethshemesh (1 Samuel 6:13–15). Unfortunately, the people there disrespected the ark by gazing on its contents, and 70 people died as a result (6:19). So residents sent it

to Kirjathjearim, where it stayed for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1–2) until the days of King David.

The first seven and a half years of David's reign were a time of distraction as he was occupied with securing his position as king (2 Samuel 1:1–5:5). Having successfully done so, and having secured Jerusalem as his capital as well as defeating the Philistines again (5:6–25), David turned his attention to the ark.

LESSON COMMENTARY

6:1. As Laney points out, David was always “intensely interested in the worship of Yahweh,” in contrast to Saul (*First and Second Samuel*, 95). David now demonstrated again that he was “a man after [God's] own heart” (1Sm 13:14) by bringing the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. It had been neglected during the reign of Saul, another evidence of Saul's spiritual indifference (Laney, *First and Second Samuel*, 95).

Chosen men were men trained and skilled as warriors. These valiant men were usually used in major military offensives. But David called on these men to bring the ark of God from Baale-judah (a Gibeonite town [cf. Jos 9:17] that was assigned first to Judah (cf. Jos 15:60), then to Benjamin (cf. Jos 18:28) (Unger, *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*, 743), to Jerusalem. This town was also known as Kiriath-jearim, and was located about nine miles northeast of Jerusalem. In case the Philistines attempted to attack Israel during this procession, David had **thirty thousand** men on hand ready for battle.

6:2. The ark had been at **Baale-judah** since the days of Samuel, before the birth of the monarchy (cf. 1Sm 7:1), for approximately 70 years. The ark symbolized God's presence; it was like His earthly throne. David wanted to show by moving the ark that the presence and worship of the Lord were central to Israel and to his reign.

6:3. As the Philistines had placed the ark on a new cart (cf. 1Sm 6:7), so now God's people **placed the ark of God on a new cart**. Actually, the ark was never to be placed on any cart. The Levites were to carry it in order to insure that it was treated with reverence (cf. Nm 4:15; Dt 10:8).

6:4–5. The procession was a joyful one, with music being played on several kinds of musical instruments: **instruments made of fir wood**, and **lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets and cymbals**.

6:14. David danced **with all his might** before the Lord, that is, he invested all of his physical strength in the dance, demonstrating the full engagement of his whole being in this act of worship. And he did so **before the LORD**, that is, in His presence. **Wearing a linen ephod**, part of the priestly garment, David was not usurping priestly authority. He was expressing heartfelt worship of the Lord.

6:15. The celebration was loud! The people brought the ark with **shouting** and blowing of the **trumpet**. David may have composed Ps 24 for this occasion. The presence of the Lord, the King of glory, accompanied the ark into the city of David, Jerusalem, the very place that had been an unconquerable Jebusite stronghold for centuries.

3. Michal Despises David (6:16–19)

6:16. When the ark entered **the city of David**, **Michal** observed the scene from a window. This is the first time Michal is mentioned since chap. 3. The ark's coming to David's city was a stupendous event in Israel's history, but this did not impress her. Instead she noticed her husband, King David, **leaping** (another physical expression of David's joy) **and dancing**. In her mind David's expressive worship was beneath the king's dignity. So she **despised** him, that is, she held him in contempt and scorn, just as the giant Goliath had despised and ridiculed young David (cf. 1Sm 17:42). But her sentiments were not in harmony with the wonder of the moment.

6:17. David pitched a **tent** in Jerusalem for the ark and in worship he offered **burnt offerings** (symbolizing full devotion and commitment to the Lord) and **peace offerings** (symbolizing peace and fellowship with the Lord and with one another). About David as priest, see comments at 6:13.

6:18–19. In a pastoral manner (cf. Nm 6:22–27), David spoke words of blessing to the people in the Lord's name. And he gave each person **a cake of bread**, a cake of **dates**, and a cake of **raisins**. No doubt the people returned home with joy in their hearts, tangible tokens of God's blessing in their hands, with God's blessing pronounced over them, and rejoicing that the ark of God was now present in David's city.

LESSON NUGGET – David was not one to quit because of a mistake, so he did it again- God's way. David expressed his worship and praise publicly, without shame, and God accepted them. Acts 3:1-10 is another example of fervent praise to God.

Sources: *Moody Bible Commentary, Standard Lesson Commentary, The Essential Everyday Bible Commentary, The Jeremiah Study Bible and Wiersbe Expository Outlines on the New Testament*