

## 2 Samuel 6 - Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

- The chapter will begin with David finally taking his rightful place on the throne as king of all Israel instead of being king of the tribe of Judah.
- Once the remaining tribes finally acknowledged and accepted David as their king, David establishes Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital.
- In so doing, this is just the beginning of David's reign, in that, God through him, will chart the course of the most important nation on earth.

1 Again David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim.

- We are so off to a good start here with what David does here by virtue of his first priority being that of bringing the ark of God to Jerusalem.
- If you really think about it, Israel has a tremendous amount of work ahead of them to build things like an infrastructure, and roads, etcetera.
- The reason I point that out is because David's top concern is not building those things rather, it's seeking first God's presence at the center.

Matthew 6:33 (NIV) — 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- I believe that this is perhaps amongst the most powerful and profound lessons a Christian can ever learn in their walk with Jesus Christ.
- More specifically, that of first prioritizing and centralizing Jesus Christ in every arena of a Christians life; marriage, family, and occupation.
- The problem is there is always something of infinitely less importance clamoring for our attention, seeking to become another distraction.

- Actually, this was Saul's fate in the sense that the ark wasn't even on his priority list at all, as evidenced by it sitting in a house for decades.
- Saul was derailed, distracted, and utterly defeated in acquiescing to the distraction of eliminating the perceived threat of, ironically, David.
- The point being is that these distractions can come in many forms such as an enemy, even a friend, but in the end, they lead to our end.

- There's something else here before we move on to verse three, and it has to do with David choosing thirty thousand choice men of Israel.
- If my math is correct, that's about ten thousand less than the entire population of Kaneohe. To me this speaks of how big this was to David.
- The reason I say that is because David didn't need that many men to bring the ark to Jerusalem, which was a distance of about ten miles.

3 So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

- So, that good start we were off to at the beginning, well, our good start is no longer a good start because of what we're told is a new cart.
- We have a huge problem here, and it's one for which David will come to realize in very short order, as it relates to setting the ark on a cart.
- The problem with setting the ark on a cart is that God commanded it be made with permanent poles so as to be carried by God's people.

Alan Redpath of this said, "The ark was nothing less than the burden of the Lord, and the burden of the Lord was to be carried on the hearts of the Levites."

- You'll forgive my play on words here, but the Lord was to be carried on the hearts of His people, not flashy new carts made by His people.
- I find it interesting that we're twice told in one verse that this was a new cart. This because, often times, we're good at coming up with new.
- However what comes packaged with the new carts of man is the fleshly uncircumcised hearts of man, which is unacceptable in God's sight.

Again, Alan Redpath says it best this way, "We want God's presence very much, don't we? But we like to hitch His presence to some of our new carts. We like to add Him to our list of organizations, to load Him on top of the mechanics of a busy life, and then drive. How much of our service is really in the energy of the flesh, I wonder! So often we put forth our hands, but not our hearts."

- This begs the question of where in the world did they come up with this whole cart idea thing, answer, from none other than the Philistines.
- Herein lies one of the many life lessons woven into the fabric of this account, namely, doing the right thing, but in the wrong Philistine way.
- The truth of the matter is we are all prone to do a right spiritual thing, but in the wrong worldly way. As we will soon see, it can be deadly.

4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. 5 Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals. 6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.

- Couple of thoughts here on this intense account of Uzzah's death, the first of which is, the nature of the names of both Uzzah and Ahio.
- Allow me to explain where I'm going with this, one has aptly noted the name Uzzah means "strength" and the name Ahio means "friendly."
- This is textbook when it comes to the flesh, such that, we forge ahead in the strength of the flesh while we fane a friendly smile on our face.

One commentator said it this way, "Much service for the LORD is like this—a new cart, a big production, with strength leading and friendly out front—yet all done without inquiring of God or looking to His will. Surely David prayed for God's blessing on this big production, but he didn't inquire of God regarding the production itself. This was a good thing done the wrong way."

- The second thought has to do with what might be argued as a disproportionate judgment on God's part to kill Uzzah for what he had done.
- Moreover, God's judgment could be seen as unjust in light of the fact that a similar fate didn't befall the Philistines who did the same thing.
- While this may seem to have merit, one need look no further than to God commanding the Israelites not the Philistines concerning the Ark.

- Moreover, God couldn't turn a blind eye to this under the banner of "at least the Israelites are finally bringing the ark of God to Jerusalem."
- This because, we are to be obedient in the small things and the big things alike. Simply put, Uzzah's "error," was an act of disobedience.
- The take away is that we cannot get away with switching that which is labeled "disobedience" with the label of an "error," or a "mistake."

8 And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day. 9 David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" 10 So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. 11 The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.

- At first read, David's reaction of anger and fear seems a little over the top, as it were, but, this is understandable given the circumstances.
- More specifically, David's emotions went from the height of excitement to the depth of bewilderment both dramatically and very publically.
- And, it's evidenced by what David does next, which is to take the ark to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite where it remains for 3-months.

- It's important to take note of how that the Lord blessed Obed-Edom and all his household, once the ark of God was placed in their house.
- To me, the significance of this is twofold, first, because Obed-Edom was from the tribe of Levi, God was able to bless his entire household.
- Second, God wanted David to know that it wasn't the ark that was the problem; it was David's mishandling of the ark that was the problem.

Charles Spurgeon - Obed-Edom's prosperity was a sure token that the Lord was ready to bless all who would treat his ark with reverence. When God blesses men of like passions with ourselves, we are encouraged to expect that He will bless us also."

12 Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. 13 And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. 14 Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

- Lest you think that David is being hyper-emotional and acting inappropriately by dancing, you may wish to first consider why he does this.
- Notice we're told that he "danced before the Lord with all his might." In other words, he was doing this unto the Lord and before the Lord.
- The point being is he wasn't doing this because his favorite team just scored. You'll forgive the silliness of this, but we do this all the time.

16 Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

- This is perhaps one of the saddest verses in all the Bible. Here we're told that David's wife Michal despised him in her heart for doing this.
- I point this out because one of the worst things a wife can ever do is have a critical spirit towards her husband who makes a spiritual effort.
- The question becomes, why does she have so much disdain towards him. I believe the answer is she didn't feel a king should act this way.

Again, I think Spurgeon says it best this way, "No doubt, there are particularly nice and dainty people who will censure God's chosen if they live wholly to his praise, and they will call them eccentric, old-fashioned, obstinate, absurd, and I don't know what besides. From the window of their superiority they look down upon us."

17 So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. 18 And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. 19 Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house. 20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" 21 So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD. 22 And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor." 23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

- Kindly allow me to share with you a number of very practical truths that are here in this last part of the chapter for the remainder of our time.
- First, like David, we should always see ourselves as having an audience of one, namely, the Lord Himself, not others that are around us.
- Second, like Michal, we do err greatly when we compare someone to others, good or bad, because God has a unique calling on all of us.

- Third, conflicts as husband and wife are inevitable, and can sometimes be healthy, however, a critical spirit will kill a marriage relationship.
- Actually, a critical spirit will kill any and all relationships, and sadly, like with Michal, it can also lead to a life of fruitlessness and barrenness.
- It's believed Michal was barren because David was so hurt by his wife's critical and cutting accusations he'd never have relations with her.

One commentator of this said, "Michal's barrenness was not necessarily the result of Divine judgment. It may be that David never had marital relations with her again. Nevertheless, the principle stands: there is often barrenness in the life and ministry of the overly critical."

- The fourth and final truth that's here has to do with imposing the templates of the past on the present, which is what Michal did with David.
- Let me explain, Michal's fatal mistake was that she expected David to model that which was modeled before her by her own father, Saul.
- Furthermore, one can't help but think that her father unduly influenced her concerning David at the time that Saul was trying to kill David.

- I'll take it a step further and suggest that when Saul took her from David and married her to another, she probably got an ear full, as it were.
- She probably heard things like, that David is no king Michal. You deserve better than him Michal. You are the king's daughter my Michal.
- It shouldn't come as any surprise that she would jump at the first opportunity to echo the same cutting criticisms as if from Saul himself.

I'll close with one final quote from Charles Spurgeon, "She acted rather as the daughter of Saul than as the wife of David, and therefore like her father she died, leaving no heir to the throne of Israel."