

2/3/19

A Good Thing Done The Right Way
1Chron. 15:1-29

David had attempted to bring the ark back to Jerusalem the first time in the wrong way, as the pagan Philistines, instead of the way prescribed by God.

1. David and the people went down to Kirjath Jearim to the house of Abinadab where the ark had been left for the past twenty years since the Philistines had sent it away. 1Sam. 7:1-2; 1Chron. 13:7

2. The outcome was that Uzza the son of Abinadab was struck dead by God for touching the ark, so the ark was left in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months and God blessed his house. 1Chron. 13:13-14

* The Gittite “Girriy” means belonging to Gath, one of the five cities of the Philistines. 1Sam. 6:17

4. The parallel passage. 2Sam. 6:12-23

5. God’s perspective in both attempts in Chronicles is that having returned from the 70 years of captivity they are to remember the holiness of God and the ways of God, as they begin to rebuild the temple.

So David made plans to bring back the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem the second time in the right way, characterized by three things. 1Chron. 15:1-29

I. The proper preparations to transport the ark to Jerusalem. vs. 1-15

- II. The proper people appointed for service of the ark at Jerusalem. vs. 16-24
- III. The proper worship at the transporting of the ark to Jerusalem. vs. 25-29

I. The proper preparations to transport the ark to Jerusalem. vs. 1-15

- A. The well intended desire of David was now accompanied with correct instructions. vs. 1-3
 - 1. The passion of David for the city and ark of God is emphatic in First Chronicles. vs. 1
 - a. David having conquered the city of Jerusalem constructed homes for his family, “*David* built houses for himself in the City of David.” vs. 1a
 - 1) David had six wives and six sons born to him during the 7 ½ years at Hebron. 2Sam. 3:1-5; 1Chron. 3:1-4
 - 2) David had eleven more sons by his concubines. 2Sam. 5:13-16
 - 3) Thirteen are listed born in Jerusalem where he reigned for thirty-three years. 1Chron. 3:5-8
 - 4) There are two others, Nogah and Beeliada, some believe Beeliada is Eliada in the list of Samuel? 1Chron. 14:3-7; 2Sam. 13-16
 - 5) Both list states daughters, but Tamar is the only one named. 2Sam. 13:7

- b. David selected a location for the ark, “and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it.” vs. 1b-c
 - 1) The location was the Gibeon, 1Chron. 16:39
 - 2) David treasured the ark, but not the box in some form of idolatry, but as the prescribed place God would manifest His presence, the Shekinah glory, and speak to the High Priest.
 - 2. The proclamation of David about the ark. vs. 2
 - a. The correction by David was with Biblical instruction, “Then David said, “No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites.” vs. 2a
 - 1) The Levites were the order of priest divided to set families and duties.
 - 2) God had designated the family of the Kohathites to carry the furnishings and the ark. Num. 7:9; Deut. 10:8
 - b. The explanation of David is God’s revelation, “for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever.” vs. 2b
 - 1) The authority was God’s not man’s.
 - 2) The choosing was forever, it would not change.
- B.** The well intended desire of David was now put into action. vs. 3-10

- 1. The expressed purpose, “And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it.” vs. 3
 - a. The nation was no longer divided, but united under David “gathered all Israel”. vs. 3a
 - * All the tribes pledged their allegiance and dedication to David at Hebron!
 - 2) I watched a modern archeology series on Netflix that stating the kingdom of David never existed, declaring the Bible is not reliable. Feb. 2019
- b. The nation would bring up the ark to the sight prepared by David. vs. 3b-c
 - * From whatever location you begin, you always go “up to Jerusalem” and when you leave Jerusalem you always go down from Jerusalem.
- 2. The list of the priestly order. vs. 4-10
 - a. The declaration of the gathering, “Then David assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites.” vs. 4
 - b. The Levites were divided into three families. vs. 5-7
 - 1) The sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief, and one hundred and twenty of his brethren” vs. 5
 - 2) The sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, and two hundred and twenty of his brethren.” vs. 6

- 3) The sons of Gershom, Joel the chief, and one hundred and thirty of his brethren.” vs. 7
 - c. The last three are son of Kohath.
 - 1) The sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, and two hundred of his brethren” vs. 8
 - 2) The sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, and eighty of his brethren.” vs. 9
 - 3) The sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, and one hundred and twelve of his brethren.” vs. 10
- * A total of 862 men.
- C. The well intended desire of David was communicated to High Priest and Levites. vs. 11-15
- 1. The ones responsible for the proper handling of the ark were the High Priest of the family of Aaron and the heads of the Levites, “And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab.” vs. 11
 - a. The High Priest made intercession for sinners before God.
 - b. The Levites helped in all the duties necessary for the camp, furnishings, the tabernacle and sacrifices, etc.
 - 2. The command to set themselves apart to transport the ark. vs. 12

- a. Their responsibility, “He said to them, “You *are* the heads of the fathers’ *houses* of the Levites.” vs. 12a-b
 - b. Their accountability, “sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren.” vs. 12c-d
 - c. Their duty, “that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to *the place* I have prepared for it.” vs. 12e
3. The culpability for first time failure to bring the ark. vs. 13
- a. The primary fault was on the priests, “For because you *did* not *do it* the first *time*.” vs. 13a
 - b. The punitive judgment was recalled, “the LORD our God broke out against us.” vs. 13b
 - c. The personal fault of David was also expressed, “because we did not consult Him about the proper order.” vs. 13c
4. The reliability of the priests and Levites, “So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.” vs. 14
- a. The unified devotion of the priests and Levites, “they sanctified themselves”.
 - 1) God was holy.
 - 2) They must also be holy.
 - b. The one mind and heart of the priests and Levites was to, “bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel”.

- 1) The ark spoke of God's throne in heaven.
 - 2) The ark was the place where the High Priest would make atonement for the nation, once a year on Yon Kippur.
5. The acceptability of the Levites by God. vs. 15
- a. They transported the ark as prescribed in the law, "And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles." vs. 15a-b
 - 1) There were four rings on the ark, two on each side at the ends. Ex. 25:13-15
 - 2) Two poles overlaid with gold would be inserted in the rings and carried by the Kohathites. Num. 4:1-15; 7:9
 - b. They did so in conformity to the Law, "as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD." vs. 15c
 - 1) This was not an option or suggestion.
 - 2) This was God's way, the only way!

Illustration

When you are going to hire a moving company, you want to make sure they are qualified and experienced.

Application

1. The believer is commanded to study the word of God is to know exactly what is revealed and why we are to believe and obey it, like David believing and obeying how to transport the ark.

- a. We are to know God created everything, the earth, oceans, sun, moon, stars and planets. Gen. 1:1
 - b. We are to know God created all after its own kind to reproduce. Gen. 1:11, 12, 21, 24, 25
 - c. We are to know God made Adam and Eve, male and female fit to reproduce and populate the world. Gen. 1:27-28
 - d. Not the theory and lie of evolution teaching everything is the result billions of years of evolution, that is rejected by true science.
 - 1) A Christian world view will believe God's word and honored and blessed by God. Ps. 1
 - 2) "The **fool** has said in his heart, "*There is no God.*" They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good." Ps. 14:1
 - 3) "**Professing** to be wise, they became fools." Rom. 1:22
2. The believer is to understand the importance of having men and women that are called and anointed for all that goes on in the church.
- a. Being born again though repenting from sin.
 - b. Seeking God for one's call and gifts to serve.
 - c. Being trustworthy, dependable and persevering through time in the good and bad times.
 - d. Ultimately leading and overseeing others to serve by imparting ministry!
 - * "These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an **example** to the believers in word, in conduct, in love,

in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.” 1Tim. 4:11-14

The proper preparations to transport the ark to Jerusalem was acceptable to God!

II. The proper people appointed for service of the ark at Jerusalem. vs. 16-24

A. The instruction of David to the head leaders of the Levites. vs. 16-17

1. The words of David. vs. 16

- a. To the leading men, “Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren.” vs. 16a
 - 1) They had the responsibility to choose the individuals best qualified for the duties of the ark once it arrived at Jerusalem and later Gibeon.
 - 2) They had the responsibility to know the gifts and calling of the individuals, implying they were familiar with those chosen, calling them “brethren”.
- b. To worship their God, “*to be* the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals,

by raising the voice with resounding joy.” vs. 16

- 1) The singers worship of God, this is the first time musical service is mentioned with the ark of priests.
 - 2) The singers were accompanied with a variety of musical instruments.
 - 3) The attitude and manner is described with a loud voice “with resounding joy”, referring to exuberant gladness and pleasure, due to their privilege and honor to worship God.
- 2. The obedience of the Levites to the words of David. vs. 17**
- a. The leaders chose one to be the head leader, “So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel.” vs. 17a
 - 1) There must always be a leader or things become confusing and chaotic.
 - 2) True leaders are servants, not people that want people to serve them.
 - b. The leader then chose others under him, “and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of Kushaiah.” vs. 17
 - 1) These men were not inferior.
 - 2) These men were qualified in their ability to bring about the best result under a capable leader.

- B.** The assigned persons for the various service of the ark at the tent. vs. 18-24
1. The gatekeepers, “and with them their brethren of the second *rank*: Zechariah, Ben, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, the gatekeepers” vs. 18
 - a. These men were the guards at the door to maintain order and security.
 - b. Once again the reference to “second” is to their order, not inferiority.
 2. The singers, “the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, *were* to sound the cymbals of bronze.” vs. 19
 - a. These were the men that sang to God.
 - b. These men also banged the cymbals together at the right time.
 3. Those with string instruments, “Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with strings according to Alamoith.” vs. 20
 - a. There is a certain beauty and excellence in the music of string instruments.
 - b. The term Alamoith is a technical musical term for a soprano, as a young girl voice.
 4. Those with harps, “Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah, to direct with harps on the Sheminith.” vs. 21

- a. The harp “kinnowr” a small harp, a lyre, David played it before Saul. 1Sam. 16:23
- b. The musical scale was to be on the Shemihith “sh@miyniyth” the octave.
5. The head of the music, “Chenaniah, leader of the Levites, was instructor *in charge of* the music, because he *was* skillful.” vs. 22
 - a. The name Chennaniah K@nanyah”, means Yahweh establishes.
 - b. The proficiency of the instructor is qualified as skillful “biyn”, meaning to understand, discern and have insight.
6. The doorkeepers of the ark, “Berechiah and Elkanah *were* doorkeepers for the ark.” vs. 23
 - a. Berechiah means God blesses.
 - b. Lekanah “ ‘Elqanah” means God has possessed or created.
7. The trumpets, “Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, were to blow the trumpets before the ark of God.” vs. 24a-i
 - a. These priest were to blow the trumpets before the ark of God.
 - b. The word trumpets “chatsots@rah”, means clarion, a shrill, narrow-tubed war trumpet.
8. The additional doorkeepers of the ark, “and Obed-Edom and Jehiah, doorkeepers for the ark.” vs. 24j-k
 - a. Obed-Edom means “servant fo Edom”.

- b. Jehiah “Y@chiah”, means Yahweh lives.

Illustration

You want a qualified surgeon to operate on you, not a person that has seen the procedure on YouTube!

Application

1. How we have seen God work through the Pastors to disciple and teach the people of the church.

- a. To seek the Lord Jesus for all through the word.
- b. To depend on the Lord Jesus and not man for their direction in life.
- c. To trust the Lord Jesus for the wisdom necessary for life, marriage, children, etc.
 - * “Be **anxious** for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:6-7

2. How valuable it has been through the years to the church as the leaders in the various ministries have recognized individual with gifts of the Holy Spirit and encouraged them to get involved in ministry.

- a. In the ushers ministry.
- b. In the children ministry.
- c. In the teens ministry.
- d. In the music ministry.
- e. In the teaching ministry of the men and women.
- f. In the street witnessing.

- h. In the prison ministry.
- i. In missions ministry.
 - 1) “Having then **gifts** differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them.*” Rom. 12:6
 - 2) “There are diversities of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.” 1Cor. 12:4-6
 - 3) But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually **as He wills.**” 1Cor. 12:11

The proper people appointed for service of the ark at Jerusalem were enabled by God!

III. The proper worship at the transporting of the ark to Jerusalem. vs. 25-29

- A. The repentant and sanctified procession. vs. 25-26
 - 1. The long awaited journey. vs. 25
 - a. The people were many, “So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands.” vs. 25a-b
 - * Just three months before they had done it the wrong way and Uzza died!
 - b. The objective is stated, “went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom.” vs. 25b

- 1) The city of Kirhath Jearim where the house of Obed-Edom lived was in Judah, on the west part of the boundary of Judah and Benjamin.
 - 2) Eusebius stated that it was situated 9-10 Roman miles from Jerusalem on the road to Dospolis “Lydda”, due east and a bit south was Jerusalem.
 - 3) The Roman mile was 5280 feet per mile as our mile and a person can walk ten miles at a natural pace in two and a half hours, up and back would be five hours, plus any additional time required for the large procession.
- c. Their attitude is declared, “with joy.” vs. 25b
 * They understood clearly their actions were according to the word of God!
2. The loving mercy of God. vs. 26
 - a. God was with the priests, “And so it was, when God helped the Levites who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD.” vs. 26a-b
 - b. God excepted the sacrifices, “that they offered seven bulls and seven rams.” vs. 26c
 - 1) Samuel says, “And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he (David) sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep.” 2Sam. 6:13

- 2) We have already say it would take five hours up and back, plus the sacrifices!
- B. The reconciled and celebrating procession. vs. 27-28**
1. The festivity among the people. vs. 27
 - a. The festive dress, “David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark.” vs. 27a-b
 - 1) The robe was a long garment worn over a tunic by men of rank and costly from Egypt, symbolic of holiness.
 - 2) David was wearing it and the Levites that were carrying the ark on their shoulders by the poles.
 - b. The festive worship, “the singers, and Chenaniah the music master *with* the singers.” vs. 27c
 * These also had a robe of white line.
 - c. The festive King, “David also wore a linen ephod.” vs. 27d
 * The ephod “ephowd” was the priestly garment shoulder-cape or mantle worn by the ordinary priests.
 2. The rejoicing of all the people. vs. 28
 - a. The ark reached Jerusalem, “Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD.” vs. 28a
 - 1) It has been about five plus hours.
 - 2) The people have a great anticipation.

- b. The elation of the moment, “with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps.” vs. 28a-c
- 1) The long journey had not exhausted their enthusiasm.
 - 2) They were worshipping God with all their might.

C. The quenching of Joy and celebration. vs. 29

1. The time, “And it happened, *as* the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the City of David.” vs. 29a
 - * At the time when everyone was celebrating!
2. The tainted eye and evil heart of the wife of David, “that Michal, Saul’s daughter, looked through a window and saw King David whirling and playing music; and she despised him in her heart.” vs. 29b-e
 - a. The word despised “bazah” means to hold in contempt or disdain, vile.
 - * Samuel confirms this fact. 2Sam. 6:16
 - b. The problem was her heart “leb”, her inner person, the seat of passions, mind and will, who she really was as a person.
 - 1) Samuel gives more details after the festivities, “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!” 2Sam. 6:20
- 2) David was not pleased with Michal, there marriage was not the best, “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.” 2Sam. 6:21
 - * Michal never had children by David!

Illustration

God alone sees the genuineness of our hearts as we worship Him, not people, like a one-way mirror!

Application

1. Oh how important it is that when we fail and sin against God that we first go to Him and confess and repent that He would cleans us and restore us.
 - a. To be able to walk with God.
 - b. To be able with confidence to serve God.
 - c. To do all as unto the Lord with joy.
 - * “Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to

those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this* day *is* holy to our LORD. Do not sorrow, for the **joy** of the LORD is your **strength**.” Neh. 8:10

2. How important the we worship God in holiness as we hear the music and sing to Him.
 - a. That our heart be right before Him.
 - * The Saraphim declared, “And one cried to another and said: “**Holy, holy, holy** is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth *is* full of His glory!” Is. 6:3
 - b. That our minds are not distracted from Him as we worship Jesus.
 - * “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will **worship** the Father in **spirit** and truth; for the Father is seeking such to **worship** Him.” Jn. 4:23
 - c. That our words be an expression of our love for Him.
 - * “**Love** has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.” 1Jn. 4:17
3. How sad that some people for whatever the reason allow their hard or bitter hearts to quench and rob people of their worship of God.
 - a. Sometimes it is out of jealousy or envy.
 - b. At other times it is out of bitterness or hatred of a person.
 - * “looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness

springing up cause trouble, and by this **many** become **defiled**.” Heb. 12:15

The proper worship at the transporting of the ark to Jerusalem was unquestionable to God!

Conclusion

David moved to bring back the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem the second time in the right way, evident by these three things.

- I. The proper preparations to transport the ark to Jerusalem was acceptable to God!
- II. The proper people appointed for service of the ark at Jerusalem were enabled by God!
- III. The proper worship at the transporting of the ark to Jerusalem was unquestionable to God!