

2 Samuel 6

The music and exuberance that accompanies the journey of the ark are readily recognizable to us as acts of worship. The theme of the chapter is worship: the retrieval of the ark as a center of worship and the dancing of David as an example of worship. While we should not read the chapter as specific instructions for ourselves, it does provide some general principles.

First, we see the fatal punishment of Uzzah for having taken hold of the ark with good intentions but in violation of God's law. God's reaction was troubling to David, as it might be to us, but it clearly demonstrates that God's directions for worship are not to be ignored and His holiness must always be upheld.

David, in contrast, discards all royal dignity in the fervor of his dance. Does this mean we are supposed to

Questions for study and discussion:

1. Why does David take thirty thousand chosen men to retrieve the ark?
2. What does the ark represent, that David should want to place it in his city?
3. Read Numbers 4:15, 7:9 and 1 Samuel 6:7. What is wrong with the way the ark is being brought to Jerusalem?

dance like David when we worship? Probably not, but we are not to temper our enthusiasm for fear of embarrassment in the eyes of others.

Worship, then, is to lift up God and forget ourselves.

*May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.*

Notes

6:2 Little attention has been paid to the ark since it was placed in Kiriath-jearim decades before this (1 Samuel 7:1-2). The only time Saul paid attention to it was a passing intention to use it as an aid to victory in 1 Samuel 14.

6:8 Perez-uzzah means “breaking out against Uzzah.”

4. David seems put out with God in verse 8. What is the consequence of this? Have you ever felt the same?
5. When Saul acted as a priest in 1 Samuel 13, the Lord took the kingdom from him. What is different here?
6. What other kings in Jerusalem also are priests?
7. How does Michal's viewpoint differ from David's?
8. Mr. MacDonald comments on verse 23, "This is a needed reminder that a critical spirit stifles fruitfulness." How is this true?