

# BRING UP THE ARK OF GOD

## 2 SAMUEL 6

Text: 2 Samuel 6:2

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<sup>2</sup>And David arose, and went with all the people that *were* with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth *between* the cherubims.

### Introduction:

While David was certainly grateful for the peace that existed in Israel in those days; he knew that Israel was still far away from the Lord. During the days of Saul, Israel had lost sight of their relationship with the Lord. David wanted to make that situation right. He wanted to bring his people back to God.

To do this, David knew that he was going to have to lead the nation to go after God. Our passage opens with David leading a massive army to retrieve the Ark of the Covenant from the house of a man named Abinadab. David knew that Israel would never be where they needed to be with the Lord until the Ark was restored as the centerpiece of Israelite worship and everyday life.

The Ark of the Covenant was built at the command of the Lord.

(Read Exodus 25:10-22)

This Ark was vital to worship in Israel. It was symbolic of God's presence among His people. It was often carried into battle in front of the soldiers. It was central to their lives; their worship and their relationship with God. But, the Ark had not been kept in the central position that it deserved; and, as a result, neither had God.

Back in the days of Eli, some 75 years earlier, the Ark had been taken by the Philistines.

### **1 Samuel 4:11**

<sup>11</sup> And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

However, God punished the Philistines all the time the Ark was in their possession, 1 Sam. 5-6. Their solution was to place the Ark on a new cart and allow the cattle that pulled the Ark take the box back to Israel. So, after 75 years, David is about to take Israel and lead them to go after God.

We do not have an Ark like Israel did; but we still need the presence of God just as much as they did. We need God on us and we need His power and His manifest

presence in our lives and our worship. This passage has something to say about this matter of going after God and bringing back His presence and His power.

Notice with me some of the simple insights that are contained in this passage:

## **1. THE DESIRE OF DAVID'S HEART (VS. 1-2)**

### **2 Samuel 6:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Again, David gathered together all *the* chosen *men* of Israel, thirty thousand. <sup>2</sup> And David arose, and went with all the people that *were* with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth *between* the cherubims.

David was a man who cared about the things that God cared about, who loved what God loved, hated what God hated; and whose heart beat was in time with God's heart, because David was a man after God's own heart.

#### **A. David had a Holy Desire**

- David's desire is clear. He wants the Ark returned to its place as the centerpiece of worship and devotion in Israel.

- He wants God placed back in the center of the national consciousness.
- David was seeking to unify a formerly divided nation with God as their true King once again.
- David desired God's presence, God's blessing and God's guidance.

#### B. David had an Honest Desire

David was motivated by no ulterior motives. He was not after glory or power; David merely wanted to see God restored to His proper place as the God of the nation of Israel.

He strongly desired that God would be glorified among the people of Israel.

#### C. David had a Humble Desire

- David knew that neither he nor Israel would amount to anything without the presence and power of God.
- David knew they did not possess the power or the ability to fend for themselves. They needed God.

- They needed His presence and His power. Therefore, David sat out to bring the Ark back to Jerusalem to restore it to a place of prominence in the eyes of the nation.

We need hearts like that which David possessed. We need a heart that beats for God, His power and His presence.

## **2. THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF DAVID'S HEART (VS. 3-10)**

David's motives in bringing the Ark to Jerusalem were proper; but his methods were faulty. Instead of being successful; David's methods for transporting the Ark resulted in the death of a man named Uzzah.

Notice why David's plan failed:

A. Created by a Faulty Decision (vs. 3)

### **2 Samuel 6:3**

<sup>3</sup> *And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.*

- The Bible says that they “set the Ark of God upon a new cart...” David’s first problem was rooted in the fact that he either forgot or ignored the clear command of God as to how the Ark was to be transported. The Ark was to be lifted by means of two golden staves which were to be passed through golden rings fashioned on the corners of the Ark.
- The Ark was then to be lifted up and carried upon the shoulders of a family of Levites known as the Kohathites.
- David made good plans and good preparations, but he neglected to do it God’s way. He paid a high price for this decision.
- Another flaw that mars David’s decision is the fact that he did not seek God before he made it.
- Up to this moment, David has always gone to the Lord for guidance and direction. Time and time again, David asks the Lord for help.
- Here, he does not seek the Lord, but he just assumes that God will bless him because he is doing a good thing.

- Another problem David has is that his methods were the same methods that had been used by the world. When the Philistines had the Ark and wanted to return it to Israel, they had placed it on a new cart as well.

(Read 1 Samuel 6:7-15)

### B. Caused by Foolish Disobedience (vs. 4-7)

#### **2 Samuel 6:4-7**

*<sup>4</sup> And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark. <sup>5</sup> And 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. <sup>6</sup> And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. <sup>7</sup> And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.*

- For the first two miles of their journey, then the oxen shook the cart and threatened to dump the Ark off the cart. At this point, Uzzah reached out his hand in an effort to steady the Ark and prevent it from falling. This seems like a logical thing to do, but God did not agree.

- He killed Uzzah on the spot! You see, the Ark was not only supposed to be carried only on the shoulders of the Kohathites; it was never to be touched by human hands

Note these truths:

- These verses teach us that God is very interested in the details. We may think that God does not care about the little things in life; but He does! When God gives a command, He expects it to be followed to the letter.
- God's blessings come only through obedience.
- Failing to seek God's will is just as dangerous as ignoring what He has already told you to do. His children should always pray before they make a move.
- Trying to carry out God's business using the methods of the world is a recipe for disaster. We have no business trying to carry the church on the new carts of the world's wisdom.



- We are often guilty of reaching out with our hands instead of reaching up with our hearts. We are guilty of trying to do spiritual work in the power of the flesh. We attempt to do the work of God with our hands and never really get under the burden. That will never work and God will not bless it.

### C. Culminated in a Fleshly Display (vs. 8-10)

#### **2 Samuel 6:8-10**

*<sup>8</sup> And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day. <sup>9</sup> And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me? <sup>10</sup> So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obededom the Gittite.*

- David became angry. Possibly he was angry with the Lord; more likely he was angry with himself and his own foolishness. But, instead of repenting and doing things the Lord's way, David chose instead to forget the whole business.
- He dismissed the people and left the Ark where it was. David stopped praising and he started pouting.

### **3. THE DEVOTION OF DAVID'S HEART (vs. 11-19)**

David was afraid to bring the Ark up, but a man named Obed-edom was glad to have it in his house. When David closed the door to God, Obed-edom opened his door and God blessed him as a result.

When David hears about this, he experiences a change in attitude. He returns to the house of Obed-edom with a desire to carry out God's will God's way.

Something has happened in David's heart that made him a candidate for what God wanted to do for him.

Notice David's Heart:

#### A. Change in David's Attitude (vs. 11-12)

##### ***2 Samuel 6:11-12***

*<sup>11</sup> And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obededom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obededom, and all his household.*

*<sup>12</sup> And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obededom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obededom into the city of David with gladness.*

David had forgotten the reasons why he went after the Ark in the first place. He is reminded when he hears of the blessings being heaped upon the house of Obed-edom. David goes after the Ark and brings it home.

## B. Change in David's Approach (vs. 13)

### **2 Samuel 6:13**

*<sup>13</sup> And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.*

Either someone told David how the Ark was supposed to be moved, or he read the Law for himself.

### **1 Chronicles 15:13-15**

*<sup>13</sup> For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order. <sup>14</sup> So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. <sup>15</sup> And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD.*

Either way, he went and got it and brought it home the right way. This time there would be no shortcuts and no disobedience; David would do it the right way. He would do it the Lord's way!

## C. Change in David's Actions (vs. 14-19)

### **2 Samuel 6:14-19**

<sup>14</sup> *And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. <sup>15</sup> So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. <sup>16</sup> And 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 dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. <sup>17</sup> And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. <sup>18</sup> And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. <sup>19</sup> And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house.*

He has laid aside his pouts and replaced them with shouts. David's heart has been transformed and he is getting what went after. He went after God and he is returning with presence and power of God. David's life, and the nation of Israel, would never be the same again.

Close:

David went after God the wrong way and he paid a high price for his disobedience. However, when he started doing things God's way, his life was revolutionized.

He was after God, and God's presence and power, and he got it all when he did it God's way.

Are you seeking God and His power and presence in your life? Are you seeking Him His way?