

## David Bringing Up The Ark and Prosperity - Part Five

*by Charles E. Wigg*

### **David Brings Up The Ark**

After experiencing great military successes, Davids thoughts turned towards the Ark of the covenant. To achieve such success, David just humbly sought directions from the Lord, and obeyed what God told him to do. However in bringing up thr Ark, he sought no such directions, neither did he inquire og God as to His will. He treated this also as a military matter, and assembled his army; "the chosen men of Israel." He also employed Philistine ideas and means to achieve this.. It was the Philistines who many years earlier had put the ark on a new cart. The Ark was the symbol of the presence of the God of Israel, "that dwelleth between the cherubim".

However though his intentions were good, his methods were not. As he discovered later God had said in His word how the Ark was to be transported; it was to be carried on the shoulders of the Kohathites. It all ended in disaster, when one of those who drove the cart put out his hand to steady the Ark when the oxen stumbled. This action implied that the Mighty God, was not able to take care of that which was the symbol of His presence. God was angered by the audacity of Uzzah, and took his life away. This displeased David, but also made him to fear God all the more.

Later he must have consulted the word of God, and there he learned that God had decreed that it was only the Kohathites, the sons of Levi that were to carry the Ark. He did not consult with the military men as he had done in the first instance, but called the priests and the Levites to sanctify themselves for the task of bringing up the Ark to Jerusalem, to the tent that he had erected for it. There is a lesson for us to learn from this. When we seek to glorify God, and to serve Him, we must do it God's way. There are so many today, who seek to glorify God, by adapting the music of the world, and the things of the world to use for this purpose. The result is spiritual death, disaster. The world may approve and lend its support, may patronize the meetings or concerts where this is done, but God is angry when we depart from His word and its clear instructions.

It seems that David's conduct, when the Ark was brought up, was a mixture of both good and bad. To get the whole picture, we must read both 2Sam. 6, and 1Chron. 13-17. In Chronicles we are told that David wore a robe of fine linen, but in 2Sam. we are told that he wore a linen ephod. The robe of fine linen would be correct, but the linen ephod was the garment of the priests. And it was to be worn only by them. However it seems that in his excessive joy and excitement even these were removed by him, and he danced "before the Lord", in a shameful way, as one of the lewd fellows. It is rather sad that some use this to justify their own carnal excesses. It seems to me that Michal had greater discernment than David at this point, but she paid dearly for daring to rebuke her husband, as she was put away, and lived the rest of her life in widowhood. Yet David wrote a lovely Psalm as the result of this experience, and also introduced singing, and music into the worship of God, neither of which were commanded under the law. Much of this lovely Psalm is included in Psalm 105.

He also instituted the continual service of praise, and commanded the priests to minister before the Ark continually.

### **Prosperity and Blessing**

David was tuly blessed of God, and even his northern neighbor was moved by God to offer his support, to show his appreciation of David by sending men to build a palace for him. However David realized that this was not deserved, nor was it gained by his own effort. He realized that it was the goodness of the God that he loved and sought to serve

Thus while Nathan the Prophet was with him in his house, he asked the question, "Why should I dwell in a house of cedar, while the Ark of God is housed in a tent?" Nathan could see what David desired, that was to build a house, or temple as a resting place for the Ark. Nathan then encouraged him to do all that was in his heart thinking that this idea came from God. But God did not permit David to do what he desired, but promised to give him a

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son, who would be a man of peace, and he would build the house. God made promises to David, which would finally be fulfilled only when his Greater Son, (the Lord Jesus), would come.

David was deeply touched by the message of God, sent to him through Nathan. Though he did not know, as we do the greatness and glory of the plan of God. Thank God for the One who calls Himself, "The Root and Offspring of David the bright Morning Star". How we long for the moment of His coming for us, then His later coming with us.

This moved David to enter the presence of God, (where the Ark was), and there while seated, he prayed a lovely prayer of thanksgiving and of praise. He was truly 'Lost in wonder, love and praise' This was perhaps one of the greatest moments of his adult life. It was followed by further victories. Like the One of whom he was a type, he reigned until all his enemies were under his feet. The great people of God were now free to enjoy the rich inheritance that God gave them.

### **The Kindness of God**

God had showed so much kindness to David, and now he wanted to show that kindness to others. I doing so, he would manifest the deep feelings of the heart of God. To whom would he show that kindness? No doubt there were many that we would regard as candidates, but he wished to show his love to his enemies, and so he inquired "Is there yet any of the house of Saul, that I may show them kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

Jonathan had one son, Mephibosheth, but he was lame on both his feet. His nurse, in her panic, accidentally did him a life long injury when he was a child. No doubt she thought that the slaughter of Saul and Jonathan was the greatest possible disaster, when it proved to be the greatest blessing. The wonderful thoughts that this subject brings to mind, deserve a paper by itself. So we will leave that until a latter time.

David excelled in the way that he showed such kindness to one so unworthy, and so unlikely a candidate for his kindness. The chapter stands alone in Holy writ, for it's sheer beauty, and for the outshining of the very heart and nature of God, in the actions of David. But the Son of David has shown you and I much greater kindness. He has bestowed on us much greater blessings. In this chapter, (2Sam. 9), we see a beautiful picture of what God has done for us, poor sinners of the Gentiles. Mephibosheth could ask, "WHY should my Lord the King look on such a dead dog as I am?" We may well ask, "Why should God set his love on such as I am?" The answer to that question we will never know or understand, but praise the Lord, we don't have to be able to understand it. All we need to do is to believe it, to rejoice in it, to glorify God for it.

Mephibosheth was rescued from his isolation and his poverty, made as one of the Kings sons, and became a millionaire, all because of the kindness of David. We too have been rescued from the distance that sin had brought between God and ourselves. We have heard the King of Kings say, "Fear not". All our sins have been forgiven. We have become heirs of God and "joint heirs with Jesus Christ, heirs of His unsearchable riches, and we have the privilege of dining daily on the rich dainties of the Lord's table, through reading His word, and communing with Him. Not only this, but our Lord Jesus has gone away to His Father's house to prepare a special place for us. Soon he will come again and receive us to Himself, then we shall revel in His presence for eternity. This is so much more than David could do for Mephibosheth.