

David—the King After God's Own Heart

2 Samuel 5, 6, 1 Chronicles 13, 15, 16 (1 Chronicles picks up David's story when he becomes king. It brings in a different perspective than 2 Samuel, and provides rich details which are not given in 2 Samuel).

Finally, after years of waiting, David was made king by ALL of Israel. David knew that God had established him as king and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of God's people Israel. David took the city of Jerusalem and called it the city of David. His family grew with more sons and daughters who were born to him as he took more wives.

Moving the Ark of the Covenant: David consulted with the leaders of Israel. (9-1) They wanted to gather up the people and bring the ark of God up, because Israel did not seek it in the days of Saul. They agreed to do this, for it was right in the eyes of the people.

Sometimes, it is good to stop in the middle of a story in the Bible and just remember a little bit. Where was the ark? Why hadn't Saul been seeking God? The ark of God was in a house. It had been captured by the Philistines, but they sent it back to Israel on a new cart. The Israelites took it down off the cart and put it in a house. When Saul became king, seeking God was not on his priority list: he offered a sacrifice himself (right action but with the wrong person), then (with the exception of one priest who escaped) he had all the priests in the town of Nob killed, and at the end of his life, he consulted a witch. We can watch him drifting away from God. Now here is David, as a brand-new king, wanting to bring the people back to God! And so, his plan was to bring the Ark of the Covenant out of the house and set it up in a tent in Jerusalem.

So, David assembled the people to bring up the ark of God. The ark of God is called by the name of the Lord who sits enthroned above the cherubim. They put the ark on a new cart. Uzzah and Ahio were driving the cart. (9-2) And all Israel was celebrating before God with all of their might—with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and cymbals and trumpets!

(9-3) They came to the threshing floors and one of the oxen stumbled. (9-4) Uzzah reached up to steady the ark, and when he touched it, God's anger was kindled and he struck Uzzah and Uzzah died!

David was angry because God broke out at Uzzah and David was also afraid of God. He did not bring the ark of God to Jerusalem, but put it in Obed-edom's house for three months.

Let's stop again and think about this situation. God's people were trying to come back to Him. They were moving the ark of God out of a house so they could restore the worship He required. Why would God strike down Uzzah just because he was trying to keep the ark from falling? Their new king was angry that God did that, and then was afraid of God. And now the whole plan to move the ark was changed. Do you think the people were disappointed....and sad over Uzzah's death....and maybe a little angry too. They were trying to come back to God. And now this happened!

*But what is beautiful about David, is that instead of staying angry and losing faith in God, he pushed through and went to God's Word for the answer. And he found it! The ark of God represented God's presence. It was holy. Only the high priest was supposed to go into the Most Holy Place (where it was to stay), and that only one time a year. They were NEVER to touch it, lest they die. If they moved it, it was not to be moved on a cart, but carried by the priests. Although David had the **right** motive (to come back*

to God and seek Him) it was in the **wrong** way (moving the ark on a cart). God's people needed to move it the way God commanded, not the way the Philistines moved it. Now let's get back to the story.

Moving the Ark in the way God prescribed: (9-5) The ark had stayed in Obed-edom's house for three months. And God had blessed his house. David assembled the people again. But this time, the LEVITES (who were the priests) carried the ark because that was the way God commanded. That is why God struck Uzzah the first time because they did not seek God to move it according to God's Word. David got hundreds of priests and Levites together—some would carry the ark. Some would sing songs of joy. Others would play instruments. And some would be gatekeepers. *What David was doing was very important—he was getting people involved in the worship of God.)*

As the Levites brought the ark up out of Obed-edom's house, they took six steps and offered a sacrifice to God. The elders and commanders rejoiced. And God helped them. (9-6) They brought the ark up to Jerusalem with shouting, and singing and playing their instruments. And King David was dancing and celebrating.

They set the ark of God inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. David blessed the people in God's name and distributed to all Israel—both men and women-- a loaf of bread, a portion of meat and a cake of raisins.

And on that day, David appointed that thanksgiving be sung to the Lord by Asaph and his brothers. Here are some of the lyrics: Sing praises to God. Tell of His wondrous work. Remember what God has done. Remember His covenant with our fathers. Sing to God. Tell of His salvation daily. Declare His glory and His works. God is great. He is to be greatly praised. He is to be feared above all gods. Worship Him. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

Then David taught the priests to take care of the ark and to offer the burnt offerings in the mornings and evenings, just as God commanded, and to do all that was written in the law of the Lord.

All the people departed to their homes, and David went home to bless his household.

What a difference a leader makes. Can your students contrast the differences in David and Saul?

God gave Saul a different heart. He surrounded Saul with men of valor. But Saul refused to completely obey God. He kept going further and further away from God. He killed a town of priests. He divided his country in search of his best commander. And at the end of his reign, he consulted a witch.

David was a man after God's own heart. He wanted to seek God. He began by bringing the nation together to bring the ark to Jerusalem. But he moved it like the Philistines did instead of how God commanded. David was angry that God struck Uzzah. But instead of walking away from God because of his anger and fear, he turned to God's Word. There he found the problem. They had not obeyed God.... even though they were trying to come back to Him, it was not in accordance with God's Word.. So, David tried again. This time doing it as God commanded. David also got hundreds of priests involved in service—offering sacrifices, as God commanded, singing, praising, etc. He publicly offered thanksgiving to God. David was moving the nation back to God. David had his heart in seeking God. It was important for him to be obedient as well! The death of Uzzah helped them all to see the importance of obedience....and it helps us still today!