

2 Samuel Chapter 06 Commentary

2Sa 6:1 ¶ "Again, David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 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. 3 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. 4 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. 5 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."

Once established as King over all Israel, David desires to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem. Why? David knows that Israel needs to turn back fully to God. David knows that by bringing the ark of God, close to where their earthly king is, will be a reminder to Israel that their real king is God. This reminds us; we, as God's people, should recognize our position as servants, and acknowledge that we are servants to our King, Jesus the Christ.

King David has been established as king over all Israel, and God has empowered Israel to overcome the attempts made by the Philistines to overthrow David. David now gets the people together and sets out to fetch the ark of God from Gibeah and carry it to Jerusalem, where he has prepared a place for it to be near him. Notice that this is not just a whim of David, who is a man after God's own heart, but David has communicated the need to revive the proper use of ark in Israel, to which the people agree. Thus, we understand that Israel is indeed being led, by their king, to return to God with their whole heart, and to serve the Lord in faithfulness.

We see that they are not followings God's commandments about how the ark was to be handled, because they put the ark upon a cart.

As they begin the journey to Jerusalem, David, and all Israel, play upon the musical instruments. They are rejoicing that the ark of God is going to Jerusalem to be near the King. Why? Because Israel now realizes that God is again looking upon them with favor, because of King David, and they understand they must turn back to God and worship him only.

6 ¶ "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. 7 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. 8 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. 9 And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me? 10 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 Obedom the Gittite."

When the ark was returned by the Philistines who had captured it and whom God punished severely, it was placed at the house of Abinadab, who was a Levite, in Kirjathjearim. From there they journeyed as far as Nachon's threshing floor when the ark shook upon the cart and Uzzah put forth his hand to steady the ark. God's anger was kindled against Uzzah, who was a Levite but not a Kohathite, because he had touched the ark of God, and none were to touch the ark, or move it, but those whom God appointed to the task, which were the Kohathites. Obviously, Uzzah was not authorized to touch the ark of God. Only the Levitical priests were authorized the move the ark, specifically assigned to the Kohathites, seen in: ***Nu 4:15 "And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation."***

When we consider that it has been a very long time since the ark of God was moved for it has been stationary in the land of promise for a very long time, David may have never known of the proper way to move it, when they made this first attempt to bring the ark to Jerusalem. This would give a valid reason why David did not understand why God slew Uzzah. The death of Uzzah made David afraid to move the ark further, because if God killed Uzzah for doing the wrong thing, David was guilty of doing something wrong, even though he may not know what it is, and he might well fear that God would smite him also.

They leave the ark of God at the house of Obedom, who was also a Levite. David admits that they had not followed the Lord's due order in attempting to move the ark this first time, seen in: **1Ch 15:13; 11 "And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab, 12 And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. 13 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."** This tells us that the next time they move it, they will follow God's order and do it properly and with success.

This is a reminder to us today: every child of God has their proper position to fill in the church of God. We should not attempt to fulfill an office that is not ours, nor usurp the use of an office that is not ours to fulfill, lest it bring God's wrath upon us.

11 "And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obedom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obedom, and all his household. 12 ¶ And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obedom, 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 Obedom into the city of David with gladness. 13 And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings. 14 And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod."

The ark remains in the house of Obedom for three months, and Obedom and his house are blessed because of the presence of the ark of God. They inform David of this blessing upon Obedom and his house. The blessing of the house of Obedom, and all he has, is evidence to king David that God's wrath is satisfied.

We have such evidence, of blessings upon God's children for following God's commandments, in the New Testament in: **1Pe 2:6-8; 6 "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."** Jesus is an obstacle to sinners who disregard the word of God. However, for the obedient, Jesus is our ready refuge, and walking in obedience to God, we enjoy the blessings of God's presence and communion.

David has been advised how the ark was to be moved, and he comes to fetch it to Jerusalem. We know this from: **1Ch 15:13; 11 "And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab, 12 And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. 13 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."** In David's defense, it has been a very long time since Israel has seen the ark of God moved as commanded by God. They saw this regularly on the wilderness journey. However, they have been in the land of promise for a long time now, and they have not seen the proper order of moving the ark of God carried out.

This is a reminder to us today: every child of God has their proper position to fill in the church of God. We should not attempt to fulfill an office that is not ours, nor usurp the use of an office that is not ours to fulfill, lest it bring God's wrath upon us.

A lesson here for us: we are to follow the commandments of the Lord, and the example set by Jesus Christ, because in so doing; we will be walking in the presence of the Lord, and we can rejoice with sacrifices of thanksgiving, for the forgiveness of former sins, and for the blessings of the Lord bestowed upon us. We should always rejoice that the very presence of God, as the ark of God represents Christ in us, is with us all the time, in the form of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

"And David danced before the LORD with all his might;" We do find in the Old Testament in several places about dancing, which are related to worship of the Lord. One is found in: **Ps 149:3; 1 ¶ "Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. 2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. 3 Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp."** In the Old Testament: there are scriptures that include men and

women dancing, and many that have only the women dancing, in worship to the Lord. However, when we get to the New Testament; there is no mention of dancing that is related to worship of God.

15 "So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. 16 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. 17 And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. 18 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. 19 And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to everyone a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So, all the people departed everyone to his house."

We see all Israel, and King David, rejoicing that the ark of God is being placed in Jerusalem. Israel, after a long time of trying to live by their own wants and desires, seems now to have returned to worshipping God. David is leading them in this by bringing the ark to Jerusalem, that Israel's attention may once more be focused upon God, who is the real king over Israel.

Do our actions cause people to rejoice in the Lord? They should, but if they don't, we need to amend our lives; not to conform to the world; but to conform to the pattern set by Jesus. If we follow this pattern of Jesus, God will be getting praise and thanksgiving from their people.

It is noted that David's wife, Michal, sees King David "**leaping and dancing**" before the Lord, and she despises him for it. We remember that Michal is David's first and proper wife. Her actions, and her despising of her true husband, give us a prophetic picture, of how the Jews rejected Jesus when he came the first time.

We see that when the ark is resting in the tabernacle that David has prepared for it, David completes making his offerings and sacrifices to the Lord, and David blesses the people of God in the name of the Lord. King David has a proper perspective of who, and where, the blessings come from, and thus conveys this reminder to Israel. After blessing the people: David gives each one a cake of bread, a piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine, and they go to their respective homes.

We see here a picture of the communion that is transpiring with Israel, their King, and their God. Each gets a cake of bread, Jesus Christ is the bread of life; each gets a piece of flesh, Jesus told us we must eat his flesh which is the bread of life; and a flagon of wine, picturesque of the atoning blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This scene reminds us; King David is in full communion with God and with all of Israel, which reminds us that King Jesus is in full communion with all of God's people. We humans lose sight of this; for we oftentimes set up barriers to fellowship with others when there is no need. May God help us to be in full communion God and with all his people, whoever they may be, and wherever we may meet them, but most especially in the assembly of the congregations of God's people.

20 ¶ "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, who uncovered himself today in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! 21 And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore, will I play before the LORD. 22 And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour. 23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death."

After this feast is over, David returns to bless his own household. His wife, Michal, meets him and tells him that his dancing was a despicable sight, falsely accusing him of lewdly exposing himself to the handmaids. David tells Michal: it was before the Lord I danced, not to fleshly pleasure. David tells her that his dancing had nothing to do with the handmaids or lewdness. David reminds Michal: because your own father would not obey the Lord, God chose me, over him, to be king over God's people. As you have falsely accused me of uncovering myself before the handmaidens, of those handmaids will I be had in honor, and you will not enjoy my intimate presence anymore unto your death. We are told that Michal never had a child.

There is a lesson here which warns us against being quick in our judgments of others. As Michal has falsely accused David, we are very subject to making false accusations against others. We must find out the intents of the heart of any person we are getting ready to accuse, or we may do as Michal and make a false accusation. Making a false, or unfounded, accusation to a person will most certainly stir up wrath against us from them, as we see the result with David and his sharp rebuke of his wife. Remember, when we make accusations against others, we should at the very least do it to their face as Michal did, not be off spreading tales and slander against another. Also, when we make an accusation against another child of God, we are making an accusation against God. Wherefore, not only do we stir the wrath of man and their remonstrations, we also shall receive from God his rebukes of our carelessness and sin of false accusations.

"Therefore, Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death." In reading Matthew Henry's commentary, I was reminded of a commandment of God, which I had thought of earlier when David sent for Michal to be returned to him and then I had forgotten it. According to the commandment of God, David was not allowed to have Michal as his wife again because she is defiled, as seen in: **De 24:4; 1 ¶ "When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. 2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife. 3 And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; 4 Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance."** Seeing that Michal was not supposed to be David's wife, after being given to another husband by her father Saul. It is now a proper thing for Michal to be put away, and no longer be in intimate relations with King David.

There is another prophetic picture to be seen here. We find in: **Jer 3:1 ¶ "They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD."** We see here that God is telling Israel you have played the harlot with many different lovers, however, if you return to me with your whole heart, and serve me in righteous obedience, you will be restored in mercy to a right relationship with God. Wherefore, we see that though the leader of Israel rejected God, yet God, in his mercy, extended to Israel the same blessing of Salvation by the grace of God, as he did to the Gentiles.

What lessons can we draw from this chapter in summary? God has given his people a prescribed order of doing things in a way to please God, and to bring glory and honor to his name. Jesus Christ established the church, and Jesus set up the proper order for her to live out her life before God. If you are a Child of God, you fall under the umbrella of following **"thus saith the Lord,"** with particular emphasis on **Mt 22:37 "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."** and **Mt 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."** in all that we do and say. Living our lives, after the example set by Jesus, will always bring glory to God and blessings in our lives. Living thus, we can come and sit down at the communion table and break bread, drink wine, and partake of the body of our Saviour and Lord. We will be enabled to see that the presence of God is in our midst, and we shall know that our Redeemer lives. What do you mean? The ark of God is representative of Jesus. How, you ask? Remember the mercy seat that was placed upon the ark, and God said he would communicate with Israel from above the mercy seat? Well, the mercy seat, Jesus Christ, has come into the world; and as the mercy seat covered the written commandments of God that were to be obeyed by Israel, which they failed in doing as well as we. Therefore, figuratively, the shed blood of Jesus Christ has come between God, who is offended by our sinfulness, and our inability to keep his commandments, covered us with that redeeming blood from the penalties thereof. Hallelujah! Thank you, King Jesus, for revealing yourself to us.