
PASSAGE THOUGHTS

Lesson 41: God's Covenant with David

David had been made king of all Israel and had defeated one of her greatest enemies, the Philistines. The Philistines had been driven back from Geba all the way to Gezer which removed them from the Canaanite land. Still David never had peace with the Philistines during his reign.

David consulted with the military leaders. He suggested that they gather the people and bring back the ark of the LORD which had not been considered during the days of Saul (1 Chr. 13:1-3). The assembly agreed, and David gathered the people from the border of Egypt in the south to the border of Hamath in the north. He had a focus toward the God of Israel, and he was eager to turn the people back toward God. As the people gathered to move the ark, they were celebrating with all their might.

However, in David's eagerness, he overlooked one important point. According to Numbers 4:5-6, 15 the Kohathites had been instructed not to touch the holy objects when they carried them to avoid death. They were to carry the ark on their shoulders on poles placed in rings at the corners of the ark. Perhaps David was not familiar with this requirement; however, the priests should have known what to do. Ignorance of God's law does not remove us from responsibility and consequences. Uzzah's death got David's attention. He did not move the ark any further. He was angry and afraid. David stopped the ark, and the people went home.

First Chronicles then tells how Hiram, the king of Tyre, sent cedar trees and laborers to build a house for David. David recognized that his kingdom was highly esteemed for the sake of God's people, Israel. In the meantime David got the instructions right. He explained that they had not followed God's ordinance previously (1 Chr. 15:12-15). The ark was to be carried by the Levites. Again they assembled the people, and this time they brought the ark to Jerusalem.

By following the ordinance properly there was no more disaster. David and the

people could truly celebrate. When David removed his outer kingly garments and rejoiced in humility before God, it was with a clean heart. David loved his God, and he rejoiced in being able to bring the dwelling place of God back to the people of Israel. First Chronicles 15 gives more of the details.

Michal's response to David's actions shows a different focus. When we realize that Michal was Saul's daughter and had not accompanied David in celebrating the return of the ark, we see a possible explanation. Saul did not value the ark of the LORD as David did so Michal had no precedence for valuing the ark. David had already tried to bring back the ark once, so she should have had some idea of its importance to David. Perhaps she had an appreciation of David as a king, but she did not seem to have an appreciation for his love for his God.

David was not about to change his love for God, which was far more important than his love for a wife or anyone else. It says that Michal despised David in her heart. It does not appear that she had a heart for David's God. She seemed to be more concerned with appearances before the world. She considered David to be a fool rather than join him in his offerings to God. We do not have any record of her change of heart.

David wanted to build a permanent structure for the ark of the LORD, and Nathan the prophet agreed. However, God had other plans, and Nathan had to explain the plan to David. David wanted to build a house for God, but instead God promised an everlasting house for David. Here we see the promise of the coming Son of God. David's response was to praise God for His greatness and goodness.

What can you praise God for today? Do you spend more time looking for what God can do for you, or what you can do for God? How? You may want to read David's related praise Psalm 89.


PRAYER: *Father, help us desire to praise Your name.*



PREPARE to SHARE: Review the passage, and use the questions to help draw the passage together in order to strengthen your relationship with God, your family and others.



FOCUS: David loved God, and God established him an everlasting kingdom.

A. OBSERVE  :

1. Who are the main and other characters?
2. Where is the action taking place, and what are the characters doing?
3. What words or phrases: a. occur frequently; b. should be defined for the students (include a definition)?
 - a.
 - b.
4. What qualities, promises and/or commands of God do you see in this passage?

B. SUMMARIZE  :

1. Into what 2-4 sections would you divide this passage? Label the sections.

What information can be added by cross references?

2. Make a summary statement of ten words or less uniquely identifying the passage.

C. APPLY  :

1. From this passage what can you:
 - a. praise God for?
 - b. thank God for?
 - c. pray for yourself, your class and others?
2. To apply this passage you would:
3. To apply this passage a student would:
4. What applications can be made as questions?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

D. SHARE  :

1. What important points do you want to communicate to your class, and how?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

PASSAGE SUMMARY

Lesson 41: God's Covenant with David

After David was established as king, he gathered thirty thousand chosen men of Israel and took them to Baale-judah. There they began to move the ark of God from the land of Abinadab to Jerusalem. They put the ark on a new cart and moved it down the hill toward the threshing floor.

In the meantime David and all the men of Israel were celebrating. They were playing all kinds of instruments, and some were made of fir wood. There were lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets and cymbals. While they were celebrating, the ark almost fell from the cart because of the oxen. When Uzzah reached out to steady the **ark**, the LORD struck him down because of his irreverence. Uzzah died there that day.

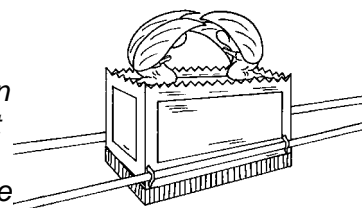
David was angry about Uzzah's death and named the place Perez-uzzah. Then David was afraid to move the ark any further. So David left the ark at the house of Obed-edom the Gittite for three months. While the ark was there, God blessed that household. When David heard that Obed-edom was being blessed because of the ark, David rejoiced and sent for the men to **carry** the ark to Jerusalem. When the ark had been safely moved six paces, David made a sacrifice of an ox and a fatling (2 Sm. 6:2, 13, 26).

David was rejoicing before the LORD by dancing and shouting with the trumpet blowing. As they entered the city, Michal looked out the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD without his outer kingly garments. She despised him in her **heart**.

David brought the ark to its place inside the tent he had made for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. David blessed the people in the name of the LORD. Then David gave all the men and women a cake of bread, and one of dates and one of raisins. Then the people went home.

At home Michal accused David of being undistinguished and of acting foolishly before the maids without his kingly garments. But David explained that he was celebrating to the LORD who

had chosen him to be the ruler of all Israel. David explained that he would be humble in his own eyes and that he was not being undistinguished before the maids. It is not likely that Michal would have raised children who loved God.



Now David was living in his house, and the LORD had given him peace from all his enemies. David pointed out to Nathan, the prophet, that he was living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God was dwelling in a **tent** of curtains. Nathan told David to go ahead and do what he wanted to do because the LORD was with him.

But that night God told Nathan to go to his servant, David. Nathan was to explain that he was not the one to build a house for God to dwell in. God had taken David from being a shepherd of sheep and had made him the **king** of Israel. God had been with David everywhere he went. And God had destroyed David's enemies. God said He would make David's name great among the people. God would establish Israel in their own place and give them rest from their enemies. God would establish David's kingdom with his son. God said that David's son would be the one to build a **house** for God's name. God would not take His lovingkindness from David's son as was done with Saul. David's throne would be established forever. So Nathan told David all that God had said.

David went and sat before God and remembered what God had done for him with a grateful heart. David praised God for His greatness and thanked Him for His promises.

QUESTIONS: What did David want to do for God?
What was God's promise to David?

BIBLE VERSE: 2 Samuel 7:16 "And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."



SUMMARY WORKSHEET: *Write answers and prepare well.*



1. What lesson focus could you communicate to a friend? (Consider truths about God and current applications.)

2. How will you present the lesson? (Read the passage summary for ideas.)

Beginning statement:

Outline, dialogue, action, sounds, illustrations, etc.:

Ending statement:

3. What questions could you ask? (Use: who, what, when, where; and how and write answers.)

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.