

Church of God Sunday School

THE ARK IS BROUGHT TO JERUSALEM

2 Samuel 2:1 — 6:23; 1 Chronicles 11:1 — 16:43

The first king of Israel—King Saul—was dead! Who would be the next king? Many, many years ago God told the Prophet Samuel to anoint a young shepherd to be the second king of Israel. That young man was David.

After David had mourned the death of King Saul and his sons, he asked God where he should go. God told David to go to Hebron. There the men of Judah made David their king, and David ruled for seven-and-a-half years.

For a while some of the other tribes of Judah followed Saul's son, Ishbosheth (*ish-BOH-sheth*). (This was not in God's will for He had made it very clear that David was to be the next king of Israel.) "But David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker."

Ishbosheth "had two men that were captains of bands." Pretending to need wheat, the two men came into Ishbosheth's house and found him taking a nap. They murdered him and then hurried to tell David what they had done. They were sure this would please David.

When the captains told David what they had done, he told them of the servant who had brought the news of Saul's death. That servant thought he would receive a reward when he lied, saying he had killed Saul. He was wrong! David told them that servant was killed.

Then David said to the captains, "How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed?" These two men also died for their wicked deed.

After the death of Ishbosheth, David was anointed "king over Israel." David moved to Jerusalem and built his palace on Mount Zion, one of the mountains inside Jerusalem. David called this place "the city of David."

Soon the Philistines heard that David was King of

Israel. They wanted to fight David and the Israelites. When David heard that they were coming, he talked to God about it. God promised victory over the Philistines.

David and his men fought and won the battle as God had said. The Philistines fled so quickly, they left their idols behind. David and his men found the idols and destroyed them.

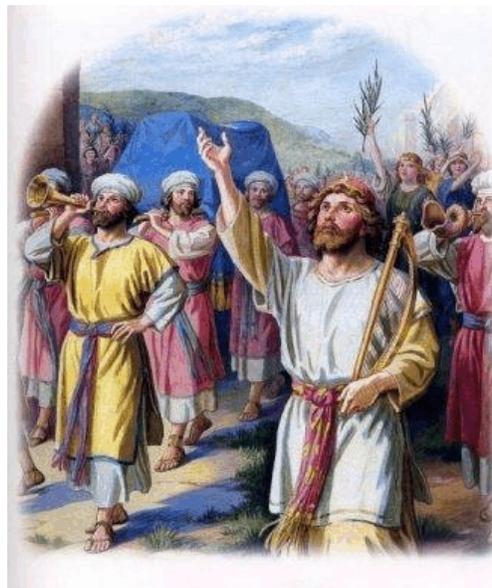
But the Philistines came back. Again, David asked the Lord what to do. This time God told David not to go out and meet the enemy. David and his men were to come behind the Philistines and wait under the "mulberry trees." When they heard a sound of marching in the tops of the trees, it would be a sign that God was going to "smite the host of the Philistines." David did as God said, and a great victory was won that day!

David was truly the King of Israel. All of Israel knew it, and Israel's enemies knew it too! David wanted to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. It had been in the house of Abinadab (*uh-BIN-uh-dab*) since its return from the Philistines (about seventy years).

The ark was placed on a new cart, and Abinadab's sons—Uzzah (*UHZ-zuh*) and Ahio (*a-HIGH-o*)—drove the cart. King David and the people played instruments and sang as the ark traveled to Jerusalem. As they journeyed, the ark slipped when one of the oxen stumbled. Uzzah reached out his hand to the ark and took hold of it. Immediately, he "died by the ark of God."

What had been a joyous time was now very sad. Why did Uzzah die? Wasn't he trying to do something good? Even King David "was afraid of the LORD that day." David left the ark with a man named Obededom (*oh-bed-EE-duhm*) for three months.

Although Uzzah might have meant well, he acted



in disobedience to the Lord. God had made it very clear that the ark was to be carried on the shoulders of the Levites (not on a cart). The ark was to be covered. God also warned "they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die." (Read Exodus 37:5; Numbers 4:5-6, 15.)

In clear disobedience to God's law, the ark was placed on a cart, as the Philistines had done many years before. As David prayed and talked to God, he realized what he had done wrong.

After a few months, David heard how God was blessing Obededom and his household because of the ark. David decided to bring the ark to Jerusalem, but this time he obeyed God's law. "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." Again, David and the people sang, played instruments, shouted, and rejoiced! The ark was brought to the place David had prepared, and sacrifices were offered before the Lord.

"Then David returned to bless his household." David must have expected his family to feel the great joy that he felt! His wife, Michal, came out to meet David. She had seen David's rejoicing, "and she despised him in her heart." This proud daughter of Saul spoke harshly to David, for she felt that he had not acted as a king should act.

David would not let what his wife thought of him change his rejoicing "before the LORD." But God heard what Michal said, and He punished her. Michal was unable to have children for the rest of her life.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"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." —2 Samuel 6:17*  
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Unscramble the Names From the Story

L A S U

I was the first king of Israel.

D V A D I

I was the second king of Israel.

M A S U L E

I was the prophet who anointed both kings.

I H S O B H S T E H

I was killed while taking a nap.

A B N I D A A B

The ark was at my house for seventy years.

H A O I

I drove the cart with my brother Uzzah.

Z A Z U H

I touched the ark.

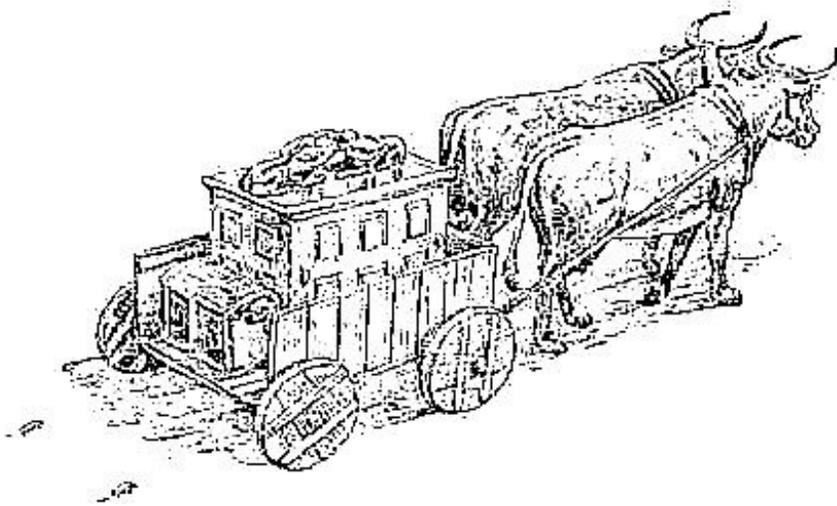
M C H I L A

I despised David in my heart.

O B D E D E M O

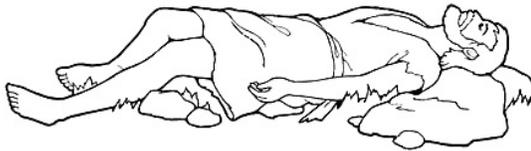
The ark was left at my house for three months.

What Went Wrong?



God had a plan for moving the ark from one place to another.

Write the words RIGHT or WRONG in the boxes below.



Staves were put through rings on the side of the ark.

Oxen were used to move the ark.

The ark was to be covered.

The ark was to be uncovered.

Levites were to carry the ark.

The ark could not be touched.

The ark could be touched.

The ark was to be placed on a cart.



The Ark Is Brought to Jerusalem