

Agape House of Worship
Wednesday Bible Study - Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Study Series: A Man After God's Own Heart
Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:1-23

Part 8: David's Worship and Celebration
Teacher: Pastor Nike Akoh

Return of the Ark of God!

"David again brought together all the able young men of Israel—thirty thousand. He and all his men went to Baalah a in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, b the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark. They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart with the ark of God on it, c and Ahio was walking in front of it. David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with castanets, d harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals." 2 Samuel 6: 1-5 (NIV)

The immediate purpose for David's exuberant celebration and worship on this occasion is the bringing of the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem from where it had been abandoned for about 20 years before David became king (1 Samuel 7:1-2). Despite his good intentions, David and his people bitterly learnt that God is a Spirit and must be worshipped on His own terms and according to His word (John 4:24). Our new technology and luxury can never become acceptable substitutes for carrying God's presence and glory. His command remains to *"worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."* Psalm 96:9 KJV.

A Joyful Celebration in Disobedience

It was a powerful production. A well-planned event that involved the military, musicians and their instruments, a brand-new cart for transporting the ark of covenant and the king himself was part of the procession. Everybody felt happy and felt so blessed to be part of such a glorious occasion - except God! God was not happy because:

- ❖ The Ark was on a cart! David was doing the right thing in bringing the ark back to Israel, but he did not follow the laid down rules for the exercise. God had given instructions in Exodus 25:10-15 on how the ark was to be carried - only by the Levites of the family of Kohath ([Numbers 4:15](#)).
- ❖ Uzzah touched the Ark! 2 Sam 6: 6-7, *"And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God."* NIV. Uzzah touched the ark in a bid to stop it from falling, but this was strictly forbidden. When the priests transport the ark Numbers 4:15 says, they shall not touch any holy thing lest they die. Certainly, God doesn't want us to disobey His word in an attempt to serve Him; obedience is better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22).
- ❖ The threshing floor is normally a place of encounters with God, (David purchased Araunah's threshing floor to build an altar to stop the plague), separation of wheat from chaff, revelation of God's purpose and provision (Ruth and Boaz). Would it have been better for the ark to fall on the threshing floor..... into the hands of the Lord?

Question: *What can we learn from the anomaly of carrying the ark on the cart in our own worship today?*

David and all of Israel played music and worshipped, the atmosphere was joyful, exciting, and engaging but God was not pleased. Worship is about pleasing God, according to his word, and not about our feelings: John 4:24, *"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."* NIV.

The Blessedness of God's Presence

2 Samuel 6:9-11, *"David was afraid of the LORD that day and said, 'How can the ark of the LORD ever come to me?' He was not willing to take the ark of the LORD to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the LORD blessed him and his entire household."* NIV

Obed-Edom was a Levite of the family of Korah and Kohath (1 Chronicles 26:4). This was the family within the tribe of Levi that God commanded to carry and take care of the ark (Numbers 4:15). God's presence located the right person and activated His blessings, *"In thy presence is fullness of joy; At thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."* KJV. When we honour God in our lives, worship and unashamedly celebrate Him in accordance with His word, we lack nothing - Psalms 84:11.

Question: *Why will God bless Obed-Edom and kill Uzzah?*

The Ark's Second Coming

1 Chronicles 15:11-13, "Then David summoned Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab the Levites. 12He said to them, "You are the heads of the Levitical families; you and your fellow Levites are to consecrate yourselves and bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it. 13It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the LORD our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way." NIV

One of the habits that makes David a man after God's heart is his ability to genuinely repent when he sins, run back to God and do the right thing. Several factors account for the successful return of the ark to Jerusalem:

- ❖ The Challenge of Obed-Edom's unprecedented prosperity in 3 months - vs. 11-12
- ❖ A return to God's method of transporting the ark of the covenant - 1 Chron.15:12-13
- ❖ David forgot the past and pressed on with the loftier goal of bringing the ark to its proper place - Philippians 3:12-13
- ❖ Maintaining the right attitude in God's presence which the ark represents - vs. 13-15; Psalms 100:1-2
- ❖ They made sacrifices of oxen and fatted sheep every six steps demonstrating atonement, consecration, yieldedness and longing for fellowship with God
- ❖ Micah, David's wife, despised his exuberant worship. She felt it wasn't dignified for the king of Israel to express his emotions before God. She became barren. God wants our exuberant, undignified worship!

Conclusion: God's presence as represented by the ark of God is indispensable for His people. But in attracting His presence, obedience to His word must be paramount in our worship and approach because who we are is of primary importance to God and our true act of worship (Romans 12:1 NIV).

Reflections on the 1st and 2nd return of the Ark of God

