



**“GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE --
THE CAPTURE OF JERUSALEM
AND RECOVERY OF THE ARK BY
DAVID”**

Introduction:

- A. In The Last Lesson We Saw That David Ruled Over Judah For 7 ½ Years; The Israel Invited Him To Be The King Of The Whole Nation -- He Did That For 33 Years.

- B. Tonight, We Examine Early Events In David’s Reign As King Over Israel -- The Capture Of Jerusalem And The Recovery Of The Ark Of The Covenant!

I. (Slide #2) David Captures Jerusalem. II Sa. 5:6-25

- A. (▶) This City Was Known As Jebus, Jerusalem, Salem, Zion, And The City Of David.

- B. (▶) The Jebusites Ridiculed David, “The Blind And The Lame Will Repel You!” 6
 - 1. The bolstered their hearts by relying upon the wall that surrounded their city.

 - 2. What is amazing:
 - a. How can you be so arrogant when you are facing the mighty warrior, David?
 - b. How dare them insult him!

 - 3. David seized the stronghold, Zion. 7

 - 4. He expanded the city. 9

 - 5. He became a great king; the LORD was with him! 10

- C. (▶) He Built A Magnificent House For Himself Made Of Cedar Wood. 11
 - 1. Hiram, the king of Tyre sent messengers, cedar trees, carpenters, and masons.

2. They built David his house.
- D. David Had Two Mighty Victories Over The Philistines.
1. The Philistines attacked when they heard David had become the king. He defeated them in the Valley of Rephaim. 17-21
 - a. David asked God if he should attack the Philistines; God told him he should; he defeated them
 - b. They fled and left their idols there.
 2. The Philistines attacked a second time; God told David that he should not attack, just surround them; the LORD would strike the camp of the Philistines and give David the victory. 22-25

II. (Slide #3) The Ark Of The Covenant Was Brought To Jerusalem! 6:1-23

- A. (►) Review Of The Past History About The Ark Of The Covenant.
1. (Slide #4) The Tabernacle was the centerpiece of Israel's worship and their focus spiritually for nearly the next 500 years.
 2. It was a piece of the original furniture in the Tabernacle. Ex. 25-31
 - a. Its plans: 25:10-22
 1. It was a small chest made of acacia wood (hard, orangish-brown) and overlaid with pure gold inside and outside. 10,11
 2. It was 45" long, 27" wide, and 27" high. 10
 3. It had rings in each corner so long poles could be put through the rings and the Kohathites who carried it would not touch it! 11-15
 4. They would put the Testimony IN It! 16, 21 (This refers to the Book of the Law -- Dt. 31:26,27; Ex. 31:18)
 5. The top of the Ark of the Covenant was called the 'Mercy Seat.' 17; 26:34 (It means "to cover" -- it covered the Ark; it symbolized the covering of sin -- atonement; propitiation)
 - a. Two cherubim were at each end on the top of the Ark facing each other. 18-20
 - b. God would speak to Israel from the Mercy Seat. 22. He did to Moses; then to Aaron as the High Priest.
 6. (Slide #5) It was to be placed inside the Holy of Holies, or the Most Holy Place. There the High Priest made a sacrifice on the Day of Atonement.
 - b. It was built as God had described. Ex. 37:1-9
 3. It was in the middle of the nation when they were encamped. Nu. 4:5,6
 4. (Slide #6) When they traveled during the 40 years of the Wilderness Wandering, It was right in the middle of the nation! It was always hidden under a veil of skins and blue cloth.

- a. God had given them specific instructions on the order in which they were to camp and to travel. Nu. 2
 - b. There was to be a space of 2,000 cubits (3,500' -- 2/3 of a mile) between the Ark and the people. Josh. 3:4
5. The Priests carried It into the flooded Jordan River when Israel crossed the Jordan River and entered Canaan. Josh. 3:3
- a. The priests were to carry the Ark to the Jordan and stand in the riverbed. Josh. 3:8. As soon as their feet touched the water, the Jordan would part just as the Red Sea had parted (from the city of Adam to the Dead Sea -- about 20 miles!) Josh. 3:13, the waters coming from the north would be as if they were dammed up. No water would flow into the Dead Sea. Josh. 3:16
 - b. The priests remained in the riverbed until all of Israel passed through the parted Jordan River! Josh. 3:17
 - c. When the priests left the riverbed of the Jordan, the Jordan waters flowed again and overflowed its banks as before! Josh. 4:14-18
6. **(Slide #7)** The Priests carried It when Israel came to Jericho. Joshua 6
- a. Joshua and the men of war led Israel; the army was followed by 7 priests carrying ram's horns who preceded the Ark of the Covenant carried by priests. The nation of Israel would follow the Ark! 4
 - b. When Joshua gave the command, the soldiers preceded the priests; the priests who blew the ram's horns continually blew the trumpets, the Ark of the Covenant followed, the rear guard followed the Ark, and the people followed in silence (they were not to shout, make a noise, or speak a word until on the 7th day when they were told to shout!). 8-10
 - c. They did this for six straight days. 12-14
 - d. On the seventh day they marched around seven times, shouted, and the walls fell! 20
7. The Ark remained at Gilgal throughout the time of conquest until the land was subdued; then they moved to Shiloh. Josh. 18:1
- a. It was still in Shiloh during the days of Phinehas. Ju. 20:26-28
 - b. It was there during the days of Eli.
8. **(Slide #8)** During the days of Eli, the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant. I Sa. 4:10-18.
- a. Old Eli, 98 years old and almost blind, hearing of this awful event, fell backward, broke his neck, and died! 4:12-18
 - b. Phinehas' pregnant wife, hearing that the Ark of the Covenant had been seized and that her husband and father-in-law had died, went into labor and died. The baby was named Ichabod meaning "The glory has departed from Israel!" 4:19-22. Phinehas' wife as she died said in agony: "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured." I Sa. 4:22

- c. Phinehas' wife's agony expressed The AWFUL wail of Israel when the Ark of the Covenant was captured! IMAGINE -- Israel has lost its MOST SIGNIFICANT POSSESSION!
 - d. The Philistines took the HOLY Ark Of The Covenant to Ashdod and put it in the unholy Temple of their god Dagon! I Sa. 5:1-12. Dagon fell on its face before the Ark the first night and the second night it fell and its head and hands were broken off of it.
 - e. They sent It from Ashdod to Gath; the men of Gath sent It to Ekron. The Ark of the Covenant was in the land of the Philistines for 7 months! I Sa. 6:1. After seven months, the Philistines put the Ark on a new cart accompanied with an offering of gold, and sent two cows pulling the cart to Bethshemesh.
 - 1. Because the people of Bethshemesh looked at the Ark, God struck 50,070 dead! 6:19
 - 2. The people of Bethshemesh called the people of Kirjathjearim to take It.
 - f. The men of Kirjathjearim took the Ark and kept It there for 20 years (I Sam. 7:1,2).
 - g. Imagine how thrilled Israel was to have the Ark back; however no one made any attempt to take it back to Jerusalem!
9. King Saul moved It to Nob, near his home of Gibeah. There David got the Bread of Presence (Shewbread) from Ahimelech the Priest to feed himself and his soldiers. I Sa. 21,22
10. Then the Tabernacle was at Gibeon. I Chr. 16:39; 21:29; II Chr. 1:2-6, 13; I Ki. 3:2-4
11. David brings the Ark to Jerusalem.
- a. When David became the King of all Israel, he eagerly determined to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem from the house of Abinadab. II Sam. 6:1-4; I Chron. 13:3,4.
 - b. **(Slide #9)** With great fanfare and celebration, the Ark was put on a new cart pulled by oxen and overseen by Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadab's sons; **(Slide #10)** as It progressed, the oxen stumbled at Nachon's threshing floor and Uzzah put his hand up to protect the Ark. II Sa. 6:6 [You wonder why they used a new cart. Was it imitating how the Philistines sent It back toward Israel on a new cart?]
 - c. INSTANTLY he was stricken dead by God. II Sam. 6:3-7; I Chron. 13:5-10
 - d. There does not seem to be any desire of rebellion in David; perhaps there was just EAGERNESS to get the Ark to Jerusalem; there seems to be IGNORANCE of God's Law.
 - 1. They did not know what God said about moving the Ark.
 - 2. They just assumed it would be perfectly fine to carefully and lovingly transport It on a cart to Jerusalem!

- e. David was displeased and afraid that Uzzah was stricken dead. He decided to leave It at the house of Obed-Edom. II Sa. 6:8-10
- f. **(Slide #11)** After three months of blessings upon the house of Obed-Edom and contemplation and investigation of God’s Laws by David, priests carried the Ark with staves on their shoulders as God had ordained; It was brought to the City of Jerusalem. II Sam. 6:9-16; I Chron. 13:11-14; I Chron. 15:1-15.
 - 1. What David learned during that 3 months of contemplation and study of God’s Laws! I Chron. 15:1-15
 - a. “Then David said, ‘No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever.’” 2
 - b. He assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites, he assembled the whole nation to prepare for the glorious event! “And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it.” 3
 - c. He called the priests and said, “You *are* the heads of the fathers *houses* of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to *the place* I have prepared for it. ¹³For because you *did not do it* the first *time*, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order.” 13
 - d. They obeyed God’s directions! “So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. ¹⁵And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.” 14,15
 - 2. When they attempted to move It the second time, they did it according to God’s directions and authority!
- g. Its final resting place was in Jerusalem.
- h. David put It inside a tent [Tabernacle] he erected. II Sa. 6:17; I Chr. 15:1. He was ecstatic! II Sa. 6:11-15
- i. Solomon, David’s son, brought the Tabernacle to Jerusalem at the dedication of the Temple. I Ki. 8:4

III. (Slide #12) Lessons From These Stories.

A. (►) God Demands Obedience!

- 1. Why did Israel sin in moving the Ark on a cart?
 - a. Num. 4:15 “And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the **sons of Kohath** shall come to carry *them*; but **they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die**. These *are* the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.”

- b. Deut. 10:8 “At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister to Him and to bless in His name, to this day.”
 - c. Dt. 31:9 “So Moses wrote this law and delivered it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.”
 - d. Josh. 6:12 “And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.”
 - e. God had a pattern for Israel -- for the Tabernacle and furniture, for the encampment, for their travels, and for the movement of the Ark of the Covenant!
2. He demanded obedience in the Old Testament; He demands obedience in the New Testament!
 3. Observations about obedience in David’s life.
 - a. Was David typically a trusting, obedient man of God? YES!
 - b. Did he usually know what God’s Will was? YES!
 - c. Ignorance In ONE area had MAJOR Consequences -- It was a matter of LIFE and DEATH!
 - d. Was God unjust? ABSOLUTELY NOT!
 - e. Was David justified in getting mad at God? ABSOLUTELY NOT! It was NOT GOD’S FAULT!
 - f. Ignorance brought this punishment upon Uzzah!
 - g. Excitement, joy, and “we are doing this for God” did not make their actions right or acceptable!
 4. Ignorance of God’s laws and expectations does not justify disobedience today.
 - a. Will God accept submission to the Law of Moses today? NO!
 - b. Does God judge man by the 10 Commandments today? NO!
 - c. Will God judge one today who does not realize that an act is really a sin in God’s sight? [Examples: adultery, fornication, homosexuality, indecent immodesty, covetousness, etc.] Absolutely! Ignorance is no excuse.
 - d. Will God accept sprinkling as baptism? NO!
 - e. Will God accept denominational baptism for the purpose of showing that one is already saved? NO!
 - f. Will God accept instruments of music in worship to Him today? NO!
 - g. Will God tolerated and accept an unholy life lived by a Christian? NO!
 5. God does not tolerate ignorance as an excuse!
 - a. **Abimelech** was deceived by Abraham; God told him in a dream, “He is another man’s wife; you are a dead man if you do not restore her to her husband.” Gen. 20:1-7
 - b. **The Idolaters In Athens.** They worshiped idols; God commands them to repent! Ac. 17:23,30,31

- c. **Saul of Tarsus [Paul]** persecuted Christ, Christians, and the Church; he did it in ignorance! I Tim. 1:12,13
 - d. **The ignorant at the Judgment!** II Thess. 1:8
- B. (▶) God's People Must Be DRIVEN To Know His Will And To Obey It!
- 1. Mt. 5:6 "Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled."
 - 2. Ignorance spiritually can be lethal! Hos. 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."
 - 3. Seek to know the WHOLE counsel of God's Will! Ac. 20:28
- C. (▶) Religious Zeal Without Knowledge Is Mis-Guided Zeal!
- 1. Many think that zeal equals acceptance!
 - 2. Rom. 10:2 "For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge."
- D. (Slide #13) Ignorance About Morals Is NO Excuse!
- 1. Many practice sin and do not even know or acknowledge that it IS sin!
 - 2. However, God expects people to search Him Word, to respect It, and to Obey It!
- E. (▶) Rightly Understand And Interpret The Scripture!
- 1. II Tim. 2:15 "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**"
 - 2. Do not ignore part of His Word!
 - 3. His Word NEVER contradicts Itself!
 - 4. Seek to be obedient to all of His Will!
 - 5. Be like the Bereans! Ac. 17:11 "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so."

- E. (▶) If A Person Or A Congregation Have Lost God's Favor Through Disobedience, We Should REJOICE When They Return And The Favor Of God Returns!

(Slide #14) Conclusion:

- A. May We NEVER Disobey God Out Of Ignorance.

- B. (▶) If We Disobey Out Of Ignorance, As Soon As You Learn Truth, Obey It!

- C. (▶) May We LOVE The Bible; Long For Its Message; And Be Eager To Live By It!