



Lesson 83

David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem

Story Elements

- **Text:** 2 Samuel 6:1-23
- **Setting:** approx. 1010 B.C.
- **Main Characters:** God, David, Uzzah, and Michal
- **Plot:** David desires to bring the ark to Jerusalem but learns a hard lesson in God's along the way.
- **Key word(s):** “_____”
- **Climax:** *“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.” (6:6)*

Returning the Ark (2 Sam. 6:1-4)

1. The Ark of the Covenant had been lost from Israel's worship during the priesthood of Eli.
 - a. The Philistines had captured it after a victory against Israel (1 Sam. 4), but quickly returned the ark to the Hebrews after suffering seven months of _____ (1 Sam. 5-6).
 - b. The ark found a resting place in the private home of man named _____.
2. With the kingdom unified under his rule, David wished to unify the worship of Israel, and to return the symbol of God's presence and covenant with Israel to its place of _____ in Hebrew worship.
 - a. _____ elite troops are sent to safely fetch the ark from its home in Abinadab's house and bring it to Jerusalem.
 - b. The ark was transported via _____; Abinadab's sons escorting it with Ahio in the front and Uzzah bringing up the rear.

Regretting the Cart (2 Sam. 6:5-15)

3. *En route* to Jerusalem, the ark's return was met with worshipful parading, but as the procession neared Nachon's threshing floor, the oxen pulling the cart stumbled. Uzzah reached out to steady the ark and was _____ by God.
4. David was angry (v 8) and scared (v 9) and was unsure as to whether he should continue the trip to Jerusalem. The ark's journey was cut short, and it was put into safe-keeping in yet another private home – this time the house of _____ the Gittite.

Rejoicing Before the LORD (2 Sam. 6:16-23)

5. Three months later, David heard that Obed-edom had been exceedingly _____ of God because of the ark that he had in safe-keeping.

6. David endeavored to transport the ark again but this time, David does it the correct way – the way that God commanded in the Law of Moses (Num. 3:30-31; 4:15; 7:9).
7. In addition to the Levitical commands, David showed his reverence to God by making sacrifice after the first _____ steps made by the ark-bearers. Thus, the ark was successfully escorted into the City of David with great rejoicing and joyful shouting.
8. Yet, Michal, David's wife, the daughter of Saul, despised David for his religious zeal, and ridiculed him for it. (vss. 16-23) Because of her sin against David, Michal would never _____.

Application

9. Uzzah's intentions were good, yet he was killed for touching the ark. Many skeptics balk at this story of an allegedly cruel God. How should we view the story of Uzzah?

10. Uzzah's demise illustrates an important point: "good intention will not justify a bad _____; it will not suffice to say of that which is ill done that it was well meant."¹
11. The ark is symbolic of _____ – the means to God's presence and the representative of God's covenant. Just as the ark killed Uzzah but blessed Obed-edom, so Christ "is indeed a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, to those that are disobedient; but to those who believe he is a corner-stone, elect, precious..."² (cf. 1 Pet. 2:6-8)

Answer Key

Key word(s): ark • 1. a) plagues; b) Abinadab • 2. prominence, a) Thirty thousand; b) cart • 3 struck dead • 4. Obed-edom • 5. blessed • 7. six • bear a child • 9. 1) Instead of seeing God as cruel, we should rejoice that we have a God that does not compromise with His Word. He is faithful. 2) Uzzah's death was a wake-up call to a spiritually dead Israel – a reminder of their need to follow the LORD. What is viewed as an act of cruelty against one man was actually an act of mercy towards an entire nation. • 10. action • 11. Christ

¹ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print

² Ibid