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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**“ANOTHER CHANCE TO GET IT RIGHT”**

**1 Chronicles 15:1-29**

***I Chronicles 15:1 "And [David] made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent."***

After David’s epic failure in returning the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem resulting in Uzza’s unfortunate death. God gave Him another chance to get it right. In appreciation, David makes another attempt to recover the ark.

***1 Chronicles 13:6-13***

***6 And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kirjathjearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the Lord, that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it.***

***7 And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drave the cart.***

***8 And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.***

***9 And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled.***

***10 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God.***

***11 And David was displeased, because the Lord had made a breach upon Uzza: wherefore that place is called Perezuzza to this day.***

***12 And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me?***

***13 So David brought not the ark home to himself to the city of David, but carried it aside into the house of Obededom the Gittite.***

The ark had been three months in the house of Obed-edom gave David ample time to prepare the tent for the ark to be placed in. This is not the tabernacle they brought across the desert. This is a new tent. It had been hundreds of years since the tabernacle had been built. It would have decayed greatly in those years. This new tent will be a temporary place for the ark. Solomon will eventually fulfill David’s desire and build the temple to house it.

***I Chronicles 15:2 "Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever."***

David had repented and his eyes had been opened about the moving of the ark. He had consulted with the high priest in the law to see how the ark should be handled, to avoid another death. The sons of Kohath will come to carry the ark. The ark was not to be touched even by them. They were to run poles through the rings on the side of the ark and carry the poles on their shoulders.

***I Chronicles 15:3 "And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it."***

The journey of the ark to Jerusalem resumes here with things being done properly. There would be much more care taken in the moving of the ark. The "all Israel" is speaking of the elders and the captains of thousands. The ark would be moved with great rejoicing and celebration, but would, also, be handled reverently. No one but the Levites carried the ark. The Bible is the written Word of God that is to be obeyed, not just an instruction manual of suggestions. It’s not simply words on a page. It’s the authoritative voice of God. If you mix a human viewpoint with the divine viewpoint, the result can be deadly and eternal.

***I Chronicles 15:4 "And David assembled the children of Aaron, and the Levites:"***

***I Chronicles 15:5 "Of the sons of Kohath; Uriel the chief, and his brethren an hundred and twenty:"***

***I Chronicles 15:6 "Of the sons of Merari; Asaiah the chief, and his brethren two hundred and twenty:"***

***I Chronicles 15:7 "Of the sons of Gershom; Joel the chief, and his brethren an hundred and thirty:"***

***I Chronicles 15:8 "Of the sons of Elizaphan; Shemaiah the chief, and his brethren two hundred:"***

***I Chronicles 15:9 "Of the sons of Hebron; Eliel the chief, and his brethren fourscore:"***

***I Chronicles 15:10 "Of the sons of Uzziel; Amminadab the chief, and his brethren an hundred and twelve."***

The children of Aaron were the priestly family. The other Levites were, also, in the service of the LORD, but were not priests. Kohath was the first specifically mentioned, because this was the family of the priests out of the Levitical tribe. Aaron was descended from Kohath through Amram. Uriel was the head of this priestly family at this time, and the 120 others are under him. Each house of the Levites had specific things to do. The house of Kohath served as priests. Merari was, also, of the Levitical family and was in the service of the LORD, but not as priests. He was head of the third division of the Levites. At the time of David, his family had Asaiah for their chief. There were 220 of his brethren with him. Gershom was, also, of the Levitical tribe. His family was in the service of the LORD, also, but not as priests. Joel was their chief and brought 130 with him. Elizaphan was the grandson of Kohath, Shemaiah was the chief of the family descended from him. He came with 220 of his men. Hebron was the son of Kohath. His descendents had led to Eliel the chief, at the time of David. He brought 80 men with him. Uzziel was the son of Kohath, and at the time of David, Amminadab was the chief of their family. He came with 112 of his men to witness the moving of the ark.

***I Chronicles 15:11 "And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab,"***

Zadok and Abiathar were acting high priests at the time of David. Zadok was of the house of Eleazar. He was faithful to David. Abiathar was the fourth in descent from Eli. He alone was saved alive, when Saul killed many of the priests. Abiathar was high priest, along with Zadok, at the time of David. David and Abiathar were lifelong friends. The others, mentioned in the verse above, were captains of their families at the time of David. They were all Levites.

***I Chronicles 15:12 "And said unto them, Ye [are] the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, [both] ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto [the place that] I have prepared for it."***

The actual moving of the ark would be left up to these men. They had to sanctify themselves for the work to be done here. This consisted of removing themselves from anything pertaining to the world for at least three days prior to the move. It included washings of the natural body and clothing to be worn, as well as ceremonial washing. They must wear white linen garments, as well. Whatever was necessary to set them aside for God's work here, was what they had to do. Not only were the chiefs to do this, but all the Levitical tribe that would be with them for this moving of the ark.

***I Chronicles 15:13 "For because ye [did it] not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order."***

Now, David realized that they had not observed the law the first time they tried to move the ark to Jerusalem. The lack of keeping God's law got some killed. They had searched the law now and know how they are to go about moving the ark.

***I Chronicles 15:14 "So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel."***

David made sure the priests and Levites consecrated themselves for their holy assignment in the way prescribed. He took what God said seriously, and we should, too. All of the law was being observed. They had learned as we Christians should learn that God is holy. They have prepared themselves first by reading the law so they would know what was proper, and now were doing just that. We cannot know what the will of God is, until we study His Word. Then we can do His will, because we know what His will is for our lives.

***I Chronicles 15:15 "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."***

According to the scriptures, not even the Levites were not to touch the ark. They were to run the staves through the rings on the side of the ark and place the staves on their shoulders to carry it.

***I Chronicles 15:16 "And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren [to be] the singers with instruments of music, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy."***

***I Chronicles 15:17 "So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brethren, Ethan the son of Kushaiah;"***

Heman was a Kohathite, Asaph was of Gershom, and Ethan was of Merari. All three of the Levitical families were represented here. Notice, the musicians and singers were in the service of the LORD.

***I Chronicles 15:18 "And with them their brethren of the second [degree], Zechariah, Ben, and Jaaziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, Eliab, and Benaiah, and Maaseiah, and Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obed-edom, and Jeiel, the porters."***

Those listed in verse 17, were the leaders. Those listed in verse 18 here, were their immediate subordinates. We see a familiar name here. Obed- edom had been keeping the ark at his home before this move. We, also, know that he was listed as a porter. They were keepers of the door.

***I Chronicles 15:19 "So the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, [were appointed] to sound with cymbals of brass;"***

***I Chronicles 15:20 "And Zechariah, and Aziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, and Eliab, and Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with psalteries on Alamoth;"***

***I Chronicles 15:21 "And Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obed-edom, and Jeiel, and Azaziah, with harps on the Sheminith to excel."***

***I Chronicles 15:22 "And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, [was]for song: he instructed about the song, because he [was] skilful."***

***I Chronicles 15:23 "And Berechiah and Elkanah [were] doorkeepers for the ark."***

***I Chronicles 15:24 "And Shebaniah, and Jehoshaphat, and Nethaneel, and Amasai, and Zechariah, and Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, did blow with the trumpets before the ark of God: and Obed-edom and Jehiah [were] doorkeepers for the ark."***

Notice, there is even order in the part each was to play with the instruments and the singing. These cymbals of brass were, probably, the signal to begin. The psalteries were musical instruments. Alamoth is a musical term, as well. These used a totally different type of musical instrument. Harps were stringed instruments. This is just saying, that he was the director of song. He was the leader and the director. Notice, why he was the leader, he was skilled. Perhaps, they would be doorkeepers, when it was safe in the tent that David had prepared for it. Obed-edom had been a doorkeeper, when it was in his house, as well. Perhaps, the four doorkeepers walked with the ark to assure that no one would open it. The seven priests that blew the trumpets, probably, walked between the two sets of doorkeepers.

***Numbers 10:2 "Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps."***

The trumpets, here, should have been formed of a piece of silver with no seams. These would not be the rams' horns.

***I Chronicles 15:25 "So David, and the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands, went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the house of Obed-edom with joy."***

This was no small procession. This was a festive time, but also, a time of humbleness before the LORD. This time the law will be observed in the moving of the ark.

***I Chronicles 15:26 "And it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bullocks and seven rams."***

"Seven" means spiritually complete. The sacrificing was done to cover any and all sins that might keep this journey from being pleasing unto the LORD. Sins of omission and commission were thought of in this.

***I Chronicles 15:27 "And David [was] clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also [had] upon him an ephod of linen."***

The "linen" symbolized being clothed in righteousness. They had examined themselves and put on the righteousness of God for this trip. They all wore the linen, because they were all in the service of God. The ephod was worn by David on this trip, because he was the official in charge of the journey. He was representing all of Israel to the LORD.

***I Chronicles 15:28 "Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, making a noise with psalteries and harps."***

This was not a quiet procession. The music was played loudly, and so were the trumpets blown by the priests. The singing was loud, as well. The shouting that accompanied showed that with great joy in their hearts, they brought the ark to Jerusalem.

***I Chronicles 15:29 "And it came to pass, [as] the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw king David dancing and playing: and she despised him in her heart."***

As the ark of the covenant of the Lord was entering the city, Michal saw David leaping and dancing. David was dancing in the spirit before the ark of God. Michal was the wife of David, but was, also, the daughter of Saul. We do not know why she really despised David in her heart. It could have been jealousy that Saul did not get this honor. It, also, could be that she was not as close to God as David was. Here, we see a marriage lesson based on the idea that you will live according to God’s priorities or your own. You will either view life from a heavenly perspective or an earthly one. David had married Michal, a daughter of Saul who was apparently quite a diva. (Saul even chuckled to himself when he gave Michal to David because he hoped she would be a trap to bring him down.

***1 Samuel 18:20-21***

***20And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.***

***21And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain.***

***2 Samuel 6:14***

***14 And David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.***

***15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.***

***16 And as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.***

However, we do know that she was never to have children, because of this incident.

***2 Samuel 6:20-23***

***20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!***

***21 And David said unto Michal, It was before the Lord, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel: therefore will I play before the Lord.***

***22 And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour.***

***23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.***

Instead of worshiping and celebrating with him, Michal despised him in her heart. What happened in this passage is why Christians ought not be “partners with” or “unequally yoked” with unbelievers. A believer’s marriage to someone who refuses to place himself or herself under God’s kingdom rule will result in having two radically different agendas trying ﻿to operate under the same roof. Be careful whom you marry before you marry.

**QUESTIONS**

1. In verse 1, David prepared a place for the ark and pitched for it a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. How long did the ark remain at Obed-edom?
3. None ought to carry the ark, but the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What had David done to avoid another death while moving the ark?
5. How was the ark to be carried?
6. Who are meant by "all Israel"?
7. In verse 4, who does David assemble to move the ark?
8. The children of Aaron were the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ family.
9. Aaron was descended from Kohath through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. How many of the sons of Merari came with Asaiah?
11. Who was the chief of the sons of Gershom at the time of David?
12. Elizaphan was the grandson of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
13. Who was Hebron's father?
14. Who were the two acting high priests at the time of David?
15. What did David tell the Levites to do, before they came?
16. What did they do to sanctify themselves?
17. Who were to sound with cymbals of brass?
18. Why was Chenaniah the leader of the singing?
19. Who were the doorkeepers?
20. What does the number "seven" mean spiritually?
21. How many rams and bullocks were sacrificed?
22. What does "linen" symbolize?
23. What did David do before the ark to show his joy?
24. Who complained about what he did?
25. How was she punished?