**2 Samuel 6. Welcoming the Ark to the City of David, 5/16/2018**

**Opening**

* Have you watched (or heard) the movie “Raiders of the Lost Ark” (Indiana Jones I, 夺宝奇兵, 法柜奇兵)?
  + Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) is set in 1936. Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) is hired by government agents to locate the Ark of the Covenant before the Nazis. The Nazis have teams searching for religious artifacts, including the Ark, which is rumored to make an army that carries the Ark before it invincible. The Nazis are being helped by Indiana's nemesis René Belloq (Paul Freeman). With the help of his old flame Marion Ravenwood (Karen Allen) and Sallah (John Rhys-Davies), Indiana manages to recover the Ark in Egypt. The Nazis steal the Ark and capture Indiana and Marion. Belloq and the Nazis perform a ceremony to open the Ark, but when they do so, they are all killed gruesomely by the Ark's wrath. Indiana and Marion, who survived by closing their eyes, manage to get the Ark to the United States, where it is stored in a secret government warehouse. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indiana\_Jones\_(franchise)
  + What is the Ark of the Covenant?
  + Why is it significant?
  + Where is it now?
* What is the relationship between God and people?
  + Where was the Ark of the Covenant when David became the King of Israel?
  + At that time, the Lord himself was coming to dwell in the midst of his people in Jerusalem. Exciting?
  + How about now?
  + How should one worship God?
  + How should one serve Him?
* Do you remember what we discussed last Friday? Ish-bosheth murdered. David anointed King of Israel. David defeats the Philistines.
  + What will be David’s next move?

**Outline** (ESV Study Bible)

1. Story of King David ([1:1–20:26](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+1-20/))
   1. David and the death of Saul ([1:1–27](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+1/))
   2. David becomes king ([2:1–5:5](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+2-5.5/))
   3. Jerusalem, the city of David ([5:6–25](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+5.6-25/))
   4. Zion, the place of worship ([6:1–23](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+6/))
   5. Davidic covenant: eternal throne ([7:1–29](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+7/))
   6. Catalog of David’s military activities ([8:1–18](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+8/))
   7. Mephibosheth ([9:1–13](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+9/))
   8. Israel-Ammon war ([10:1–12:31](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+10-12/))
      1. Beginning of Israel-Ammon war ([10:1–19](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+10/))
      2. David and Bathsheba ([11:1–12:25](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+11-12.25/))
      3. End of Israel-Ammon war ([12:26–31](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+12.26-31/))
   9. Absalom’s banishment and reinstatement ([13:1–14:33](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+13-14/))
   10. Absalom’s rebellion ([15:1–19:43](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+15-19/))
       1. Absalom’s conspiracy ([15:1–12](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+15.1-12/))
       2. David’s escape from Absalom ([15:13–16:14](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+15.13-16.14/))
       3. Ahithophel and Hushai ([16:15–17:23](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+16.15-17.23/))
       4. David arrives at Mahanaim ([17:24–29](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+17.24-29/))
       5. Death of Absalom ([18:1–19:8a](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+18-19.8/))
       6. David’s return to Jerusalem ([19:8b–43](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+19.8-43/))
   11. Sheba’s rebellion ([20:1–26](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+20/))
2. Epilogue ([21:1–24:25](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+21-24/))
   1. Famine and the death of Saul’s sons ([21:1–14](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+21.1-14/))
   2. Philistine wars ([21:15–22](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+21.15-22/))
   3. Song of David ([22:1–51](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+22/))
   4. Last words of David ([23:1–7](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+23.1-7/))
   5. David’s heroes ([23:8–39](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+23.8-39/))
   6. The census and the threshing floor ([24:1–25](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+24/))

**The Ark Brought to Jerusalem (6:1-4)**

* 2 Sam. 6:1–23 Zion, the Place of Worship. Jerusalem was not only to be the political capital of a united Israel, it was to be the religious center also. David brought the ark of the Lord of hosts from Baale-judah, where it had been most of the time ever since the Philistines returned it in 1 Samuel 6. Psalm 132 refers to this occasion. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 6:1–2 Baale-judah. In 1 Sam. 7:1, the name of the city where the ark was kept is given as Kiriath-jearim; the fact that the name by David’s time was Baale-judah suggests that 1 Sam. 4:1–7:2 existed as an earlier set of narratives. ESV Study Bible.
  + 1 Sam. 7:1-2. And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the ark of the Lord and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill. And they consecrated his son Eleazar to have charge of the ark of the Lord. From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.
* 2 Sam. 6:3–4 They carried the ark on a new cart. Presumably this refers to a ritually clean cart, as the Philistines had done when returning the ark (1 Sam. 6:7). But that was not the method that the Lord had commanded his people to use. Rather, God’s command was that the ark should be carried by the Levites, using poles placed through rings on the sides of the ark (see Ex. 25:14–15; Num. 4:15; 7:9; Deut. 10:8; 31:9, 25). ESV Study Bible.
  + Ex. 25:14–15. And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them. The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it.
  + Num. 4:15. And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, as the camp sets out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry these, but they must not touch the holy things, lest they die. These are the things of the tent of meeting that the sons of Kohath are to carry.
  + Deut. 31:9. Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel.
* Discussion
  + Why did David want to bring the Ark back to Jerusalem?
  + How about us? How? How shall we worship Him?

**Uzzah and the Ark (6:5-15)**

* 2 Sam. 6:5 Before the Lord, as in Ex. 28:29, means that the Lord himself was present above the ark. Both this passage and 1 Sam. 4:1–7:2 show that the ark was not just an arbitrary symbol of God’s presence, but God himself manifested his presence in a special way where the ark was, so the ark should not be treated lightly. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 6:6–11 and God struck him down (v. 7). The death of Uzzah resembles the outbreak against Beth-shemesh in 1 Sam. 6:19. Touching the ark was a direct violation of God’s law (Num. 4:15). Even though Uzzah’s motive was clearly to prevent desecration, his fault was occasioned by the earlier mistake in the mode of transporting the ark. This incident was a dramatic reminder to David of God’s holiness and of the necessity of approaching God only according to his revealed instruction, so much so that David was afraid even to bring the ark back to Jerusalem. ESV Study Bible.
  + Lev. 10:1-3. Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered au authorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord has said: ‘Among those who are near me will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’” And Aaron held his peace.
* 2 Sam. 6:12–15 Those who bore the ark. This time the ark is carried, as is proper (v. 13; 1 Chron. 15:12–15; see also 2 Sam. 15:24). The text may indicate that only one sacrifice was offered at the beginning of the journey, when they had gone six steps. But some interpreters think it means that David sacrificed every six steps. There are other references to repeated sacrifices in relation to processions in Near Eastern literature. Solomon also sacrificed a huge number of animals when he dedicated the temple (1 Kings 8:63). David’s ephod was the simple linen robe worn by priests (cf. 1 Sam. 2:18). The ram’s horn was an instrument used especially for signaling. ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + Would the Ark fell down if Uzzah hadn’t put out his hand?
  + How should we worship God and serve Him?
  + John 4:24. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

**David and Michal (6:16-23)**

* 2 Sam. 6:16–19 Michal … despised him in her heart. Michal is identified not as David’s wife but as the daughter of Saul, and she shares in Saul’s lack of spiritual discernment. She should have been rejoicing with David “and all the house of Israel” (v. 5) at this great occasion, for the Lord himself was coming to dwell in the midst of his people in Jerusalem. The tent corresponds to the tabernacle of Exodus 26. These gift items are mentioned in a list formula, as in 1 Sam. 6:17 and 25:18. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 6:20–23 Michal accuses David of uncovering himself, which seems to be a reflection more of Michal’s bitterness and contempt for David than a true statement of fact. Had no child. The text does not say what caused her childlessness, leaving the reader to reflect on whether it was a natural result of the rift between Michal and David, or whether it was due to God’s judgment of Michal (as would seem to be the case) for her contempt toward David in his divinely appointed role as king of Israel. ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + Why did Michal say such things? Why did David do those things?
  + What should be our attitude toward God and toward those who serve Him?

**Wrapping up**

* Jesus and the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the midst of his people. Are we excited? How to respond?
* What are your favorite verses?

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