

Lesson I.

DAVID BRINGS THE ARK TO JERUSALEM October 4, 1908

2 Samuel 6 : 1-12. Study 2 Samuel, ch. 6—Memory Verse, 12.

Golden Text—Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.—Psalm 100 : 4.

12 And it was told king Da'vid, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of O'bed-e'dom, because of the ark of God. So Da'vid went and brought up the ark of God from the house of O'bed-e'dom into the city of Da'vid with gladness.

THE LESSON RETOLD

David was now king over all Israel, and he lived in Jerusalem. Here, on a hill called Mount Zion, he built a palace for himself of beautiful cedar wood. He built many other houses round about the palace, and the place was called the City of David.

After this, David began to think about the ark of God, which, seventy years before, in the days of Eli, the Philistines had captured from the Israelites in battle, and had taken to their own land. But they had soon sent it back into the land of Israel again, and there it was kept in the house of a man named Abinadab, who lived on a hill near a town called Kirjath-jearim, which means "The Town of the Woods".

David gathered together thirty thousand men, to go and bring the ark from the house of Abinadab to Jerusalem. They placed the ark on a new cart drawn by oxen, and the two sons of Abinadab, Uzzah and Ahio, walked in front of the cart, driving the oxen.

1 Again Da'vid gathered together all the chosen men of Is'rael, thirty thousand.

2 And Da'vid arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Ba'ale of Ju'dah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.

3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abin'adab that was in Gib'eah : and Uz'zah and Ahio, the sons of Abin'adab, drove the new cart.

4 And they brought it out of the house of Abin'adab which was at Gib'eah, accompanying the ark of God : and Ahio went before the ark.

5 And Da'vid and all the house of Is'rael played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

6 And when they came to Na'chon's threshing-floor, Uz'zah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it ; for the oxen shook it.

7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uz'zah ; and God smote him there for his error ; and there he died by the ark of God.

8 And Da'vid was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uz'zah : and he called the name of the place Pe'rez-uz'zah to this day.

9 And Da'vid was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me ?

10 So Da'vid would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of Da'vid : but Da'vid carried it aside into the house of O'bed-e'dom the Giti'te.

11 And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of O'bed-e'dom the Giti'te three months : and the LORD blessed the house of O'bed-e'dom, and all his household.

12 And it was told king Da'vid, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of O'bed-e'dom, because of the ark of God. So Da'vid went and brought up the ark of God from the house of O'bed-e'dom into the city of Da'vid with gladness.

And the king and all the people who had come with him formed a procession about the ark, playing on all kinds of musical instruments ; and so they went on towards Jerusalem.

But, as the procession was passing the threshing-floor of a man named Nachon, the oxen shook the cart upon which the ark was being carried, and Uzzah put out his hand to steady it. Now long, long before, when the ark was first made in the wilderness, God had warned His people, that only the priests should ever touch it. So, when Uzzah, who was not a priest, touched the ark of the Lord, God punished him by striking him dead, and all the Israelites saw how holy a thing the ark of God was, and how they should reverence it, and not treat it lightly.

When David saw that Uzzah was dead, he was displeased at what the Lord had done. He was also afraid to bring the ark up to Jerusalem. So he left it in the house of a man named Obed-edom. But three

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the securing of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.