

DAVID BRINGS UP THE ARK

October 4, 1903

2 Sam. 6 : 1-12. Study 2 Sam. 6 : 1-19—Memory Verses, 11, 12.

Golden Text—Blessed are they that dwell in thy house.—Ps. 84 : 4.

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 Abi'nadab that was in Gib'eah : and Uzz'ah and Ahi'o, the sons of Abi'nadab, drove the new cart.

4 And they brought it out of the house of Abi'nadab which was at Gib'eah, accompanying the ark of God : and Ahi'o 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, Uzz'ah 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 Uzz'ah ; 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 Uzz'ah : and he called the name of the place Pe'rez-uzz'ah 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 Gitt'ite.

11 And the ark of the Lord continued in the house of O'bed-e'dom the Gitt'ite three months : and the Lord blessed 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, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God. So Da'vid went and brought up the ark of God from the house of O'bed-edom into the city of Da'vid with gladness.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The most precious thing belonging to the Israelites was the holy ark of the covenant. Inside its golden box was kept the book of the law, and upon the lid, or mercy seat, the presence of God rested in blessing continually.

During the war with the Philistines the ark had been taken by the enemy. But as it brought only trouble and sickness to them, it was soon returned to the Israelites, who now had no place to keep it, for the tabernacle had been broken down in the war. So it was placed for safe-keeping in the house of Abinadab for twenty years.

When David became king, his first wish

was to bring the ark of God to Zion, his own city. And to show his respect for it, and for the worship of the God of Israel, King David took with him a guard of thirty thousand fighting men, and came to the door of Abinadab's house in the wood.

Now there was an old law forbidding that the ark should be even touched by any others than the priests or Levites. But David, overlooking this, had arranged that it should be placed upon a new ox-cart and driven to the city by Uzzah and Ahio, the young sons of Abinadab.

When all was ready, the procession started amidst great rejoicing, and for a time all