

<<< And She Despised Him in Her Heart

1 Chronicles 15:1 – 16:7 >>>

~ Our Spiritual Safari has been considering the Ark of the Lord in the previous two chapters; specifically King David's handling of it in bringing it to Jerusalem. We considered how David did the right thing in the wrong way. Remember, the double books of Chronicles presents *God's viewpoint* of the history of the kings of Israel; and Samuel and Kings were *man's* viewpoint of the same historical period. That does *NOT* mean they are not all inspired writings by the Holy Spirit – it simply means God allowed us to consider man's viewpoint first. Now, God would like for you to see *His* viewpoint of the same events. Although this account may seem totally repetitious in some places, if you examine it closely, you will see it is altogether different.

I find that interesting because the writer of Chronicles could have recorded state business, treatise or other governmental functions against Israel's enemies. An emphasis on war could have easily been placed here; and this account regarding the Ark could have been left out without a second thought. Modern information is utterly *UNIMPORTANT* happenings from around the world; it is almost one hundred percent propaganda. There is *NOTHING* in the headlines that is of any spiritual value; nor *ANYTHING* even remotely resembling the joy of the Lord. Of course, all manner of religious nut jobs permeate media; but those "reverends," "pastors," "evangelists" — and particularly the "prophets" — are not credible on any level.

The only accomplishment that crowd achieves is rendering Christianity a shameful hypocrisy. They're the only ones who don't know it — or maybe they just don't care? Well, I find it refreshing to get God's Personal viewpoint from His Word. I would like to know God's point of view regarding the news of mankind today — and the Word of God can tell us. I happen to know that the emphasis man brings us on the "*news*" is

<<< And She Despised Him in Her Heart  
1 Chronicles 15:1 – 16:7 >>>

absolutely unimportant! Here, God brings us the history of the Ark of the Lord, which He had given to the nation Israel, and which was the heart and center of worship for these people at this time in which we are studying. It was written as examples unto us. It's pretty important.

Some of you dear readers may be wondering what had become of the tabernacle at this time. I think they had simply worn it out; after all, it was just a tent. Most of it was just a covering. By this time, I think the materials were disintegrating and shredding. The golden boards, silver bases and the brass pillars were likely long-gone! Many of those items were probably stolen by enemies. Either way, the most important thing was the Ark — where God met with His people; and above the Ark was the mercy seat. The most important thing today, for you and me, is to have a place where we can receive mercy from God. Oh, how desperately we all need God's mercy; at least, I know I do. We can all thank Him we have a mercy seat today — and His Name is the Lord Jesus Christ!

*“Propitiation”* is a big theological word that simply means *“mercy seat.”* Christ is our *propitiation* for sins today; and not for our sins only — but for the sins of the entire world. Whosoever will may come — for mercy! These are the things that are important to God, friends; and you will *NEVER* hear about them outside of Scripture; not even on the seemingly most fundamental broadcasts. I don't discount the decisions made in Washington, but those aren't important when they are stacked up against God's decisions. I suppose the decisions made in the palace of Napoleon Bonaparte were important in that day, too; but, today, all that's left is a museum with a few relics of an era-gone-by. They just aren't making world decisions there today. Versailles was extremely important — not to mention beautiful — and earth changing matters were turned into edicts there; but it is just a showcase now — something to look at and forget — in our modern day. They would have done well to take into consideration what God thought about the issues of their day; but, they didn't. Well, God cares about this mercy seat — you may be sure of that.

<<< And She Despised Him in Her Heart  
1 Chronicles 15:1 – 16:7 >>>

In our last report, David failed to bring the Ark of the Lord up to Jerusalem in his first attempt. He was doing the right and proper thing; but he tried to do it the wrong way. God had given Moses clear and definite instructions on how to handle the Ark, but they were not followed. In the Book of Numbers, the Kohathites of the family of Levi – the priests – were the only ones who were permitted to carry the Ark; and it was to be carried on their shoulders. We saw David place the Ark on a cart in our last report, and the mayhem ensued. The Ark represents Christ, and it speaks of the Gospel today. God allowed David to fail the first time; and God usually allows you and me to fail on our first attempts, too. Hindsight is twenty-twenty vision. It's easy to criticize David in this connection, but how many times have *YOU* failed and had to learn from the Word of God the right way to do things? That's the experience of most of us – if not all of us.

Taking the Word of God to the entire world today isn't easy business, friends. The idea that we can copy and paste verses and disconnected thoughts on the abundant picnic table of life is just dung with a capital "S!" Most people think church work done correctly is some easily delightful undertaking, and that all there is to it is "love, love, love." I am here to tell you that the *ONLY* delightful part about it is when we are doing His will because we love Him. When done that way, it is a truly thrilling experience; but it is never easy when done properly – you can just write that down. If you are trying to take the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the world properly, correctly and completely – and if you are finding it *easy* to do – then, my Christian friend, there is something radically wrong with what you are doing.

Again, make a very definite note here: the most dangerous time in the life of a genuine Christian is *NOT* in the tests and trials; no, the most dangerous time is when the storm is calm, and you are feeling good about yourself, and everything seems right, and everyone is agreeing with you. When and if that time comes, *BEWARE!* See, teaching *MUST* be done by God's man, and

<<< And She Despised Him in Her Heart  
1 Chronicles 15:1 – 16:7 >>>

it *MUST* be done God's way. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God – and *NO OTHER WAY!* God is *ONLY* blessing His Word today. Paul said they had to hear; so, how can people hear without a preacher? Of course, the preaching of the Gospel is foolishness to them that perish. Well, what seems like foolishness to this sick and dying world just happens to be the wisdom of God. God has a way He demands His service be done — and there is no compromise with the method.

We see the lost world around us turn to drugs, homosexuality, atheism, alcohol — and all manner of escape mechanisms as the result of a church that has failed them by departing from the Word of God. Our modern church is as anemic and in as much disarray and corruption as any other secular organization. Most “*Christians*” are totally ignorant of theology and what it means; and Roman Catholicism, as well as mainstream Protestantism, are in deep apostasy! The reason is: they have abandoned the Word of God wholesale. They refuse to do things God's way. This safari considers the most important thing that can be done today is to get the Ark of God on the move. That means preaching the correct Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Without that preaching — we're going *NOWHERE* and we're getting there fast! I must confess: I am alarmed at how unimportant the so-called Christian thinks this really is. In verse one of chapter fifteen we discover God thought the Ark was pretty important — but the housing project David had going, well, not so much....

## **XV**

***<sup>1</sup> 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.***

***<sup>2</sup> 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.***

<<< And She Despised Him in Her Heart  
1 Chronicles 15:1 – 16:7 >>>

***<sup>3</sup> 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.***

~ There was a time in America when a day of prayer would be called for if we faced crises or war. Of course, that seems as if it were back in the dark ages. We don't do that anymore; we gather our so-called brain trust experts on Capitol Hill and expect them to solve our problems. Even now that we have learned, from past decisions, that the "brain trust" are as silly and foolish as a bunch of kindergartners at recess, we continue to believe they have said answers. That is the tragedy of America today in a nutshell, friends. I think we need to all gather together to bring up the Ark of the Lord correctly — in sound doctrine — according to God's laws and precepts. God and David both thought it was pretty important — so that's the primary account we find in Chronicles — and it is God's point of view!

As we read on, we see the list of those who handled the Ark properly, correctly and completely. The exact location David prepared for the Ark is unknown; but, we know he did make a place for it. At this time, it may have been the field where the threshing floor was located. We do know David bought the field of Araunah at a later time and designated it the place the temple was to be constructed. That's Mount Moriah; where Abraham offered Isaac. It sits on a ridge which begins at the temple area and runs through Jerusalem — and on to Golgotha, where Christ was crucified. I believe that's the place chosen by David at the time in which we are studying....

***<sup>4</sup> And David assembled the children of Aaron, and the Levites:***

***<sup>5</sup> Of the sons of Kohath; Uriel the chief, and his brethren an hundred and twenty:***

***<sup>6</sup> Of the sons of Merari; Asaiah the chief, and his brethren two hundred and twenty:***

<<< And She Despised Him in Her Heart  
1 Chronicles 15:1 – 16:7 >>>

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

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

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

***10 Of the sons of Uzziel; Amminadab the chief, and his brethren an hundred and twelve.***

***11 And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab,***

***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.***

***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.***

~ Remember, David thought God was wrong and he blamed God, at first, for what had happened with Uzzah; now, we find David confessing that he has discovered it was, actually, he who had been wrong. Friends, that very much makes David responsible for the death of Uzzah. Ignorance of the law is no defense. That is so critical to comprehend; I hope you'll stop and pray right now about what *YOU* are doing. Well, as we read on, we find the repetition is becoming monotonous concerning the term "*the Ark of the Lord God.*" I don't think we can make any other reasonable conclusion than the Lord is talking about the Ark. I think we can safely make the assumption the Ark of the Lord God of Israel is more than important....

<<< And She Despised Him in Her Heart  
1 Chronicles 15:1 – 16:7 >>>

***14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.***

***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.***

***16 And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of musick, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy.***

***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;***

***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 Obededom, and Jeiel, the porters.***

***19 So the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were appointed to sound with cymbals of brass;***

***20 And Zechariah, and Aziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, and Eliab, and Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with psalteries on Alamoth;***

***21 And Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obededom, and Jeiel, and Azariah, with harps on the Sheminith to excel.***

***22 And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skilful.***

***23 And Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark.***

<<< And She Despised Him in Her Heart  
1 Chronicles 15:1 – 16:7 >>>

***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 Obededom and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark.***

***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 Obededom with joy.***

***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.***

***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.***

***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 is a repeat musical performance of the first attempt David made at moving the Ark. He certainly loved music. This was a great day. All of the sacrifices pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ. The first time David tried this, God crashed the party; but, now, this is the high-point of David coming into Jerusalem. God never even recorded the capturing of the city. The emphasis is on the spiritual; and I hope you are getting the message of what's important to the Lord.

If you look at most church-going individuals on Sunday morning, they have the most tired, unhappy faces imaginable. By contrast, when I go to a football game, I don't see a sad face in a crowd of fifty thousand people!

<<< And She Despised Him in Her Heart  
1 Chronicles 15:1 – 16:7 >>>

Even the losing team isn't sad. They seem to have a good time irrespective of the outcome. God's people just don't appear to be happy. Spiritual happiness, joy and discernment have all but disappeared from the lives of today's Christians. Society is on its death bed because of this. Here, at the time in which we are studying, everyone is in accord with David; well, *ALMOST* everybody....

***<sup>29</sup> 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.***

~ The man who does show a little enthusiasm and interest in Christ is despised and considered a religious fanatic, friends. If you have genuine joy in your heart from serving the Lord, people are going to eye you with suspicion. We need a whole lot more fruit of joy from the Holy Spirit living in our hearts and lives. If we have a true underlying river of joy, it won't be fanaticism; although it may be perceived that way by many church goers – and *ALWAYS* by the unbelieving world. What a tremendous spiritual message we are given by God in this chapter....

## **XVI**

***<sup>1</sup> So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God.***

***<sup>2</sup> And when David had made an end of offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.***

***<sup>3</sup> And he dealt to every one of Israel, both man and woman, to every one a loaf of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine.***

<<< And She Despised Him in Her Heart  
1 Chronicles 15:1 – 16:7 >>>

~ This leg of our expedition ends with an occasion of great joy on the part of the people. The burnt offering speaks of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. This offering is what God sees in Christ as the sweet smell ascended up to Heaven. The peace offering speaks of the fact that Christ made peace between us and God by the Blood of the cross; that's the *ONLY* way things are made right between us and God. If we are going to come to God, we have to come His way. So, what we see is the exaltation of the fact that Christ offered Himself — and that He shed His Blood. We have the Gospel right here in Chronicles....

***<sup>4</sup> And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel:***

***<sup>5</sup> Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, Jeiel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Mattithiah, and Eliab, and Benaiah, and Obededom: and Jeiel with psalteries and with harps; but Asaph made a sound with cymbals;***

***<sup>6</sup> Benaiah also and Jahaziel the priests with trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of God.***

***<sup>7</sup> Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank the LORD into the hand of Asaph and his brethren.***

~ That happens to be Psalm one hundred five, by the way; and we'll get to that on safari. Let's give thanks unto the Lord today. Let's call upon His Name. Let's get worked up for Christ — but not in a Jesus freaky way; in a normal and natural way — or, maybe I should say, in a normal and supernatural way. Let's make known Christ's deeds among the people. Let's forget the externalities of religion and sing songs unto Christ in our hearts! Talk about His wondrous works — not *YOURS*. You don't have any anyways — only He does. We happen to have a church full of people who know more about television advertisements than they do about the Word of God.

<<< And She Despised Him in Her Heart  
1 Chronicles 15:1 – 16:7 >>>

Some preachers know more about the baseball team the Angels than they do about angels in the Bible.

This computerized age we are embracing is pressing each of us hard into a tiny compartment and, my Christian friends — Good God — if we don't get His Word out to the world in sound doctrine there will be no liberty left; even though we talk so incessantly about freedom today. People want freedom of speech, but they don't talk about the Lord Jesus. They use Christ to talk about themselves. What a tragedy. God doesn't seem to have much freedom anymore. Modern Bible teaching is shamefully mish-mashed, incoherent verse-grabbing incorporated into disconnected quasi-Biblical thoughts that have *NOTHING* even remotely connected to the Word of God — or reality — except the uber pious vocabulary. It's no big mystery this nation — and world — is in the mess it is in today. God help us. May He have mercy on us all ~

<<< And She Despised Him in Her Heart  
1 Chronicles 15:1 – 16:7 >>>