

## AND SHE DESPISED HIM IN HER HEART

### 2 SAMUEL 6:1 – 23

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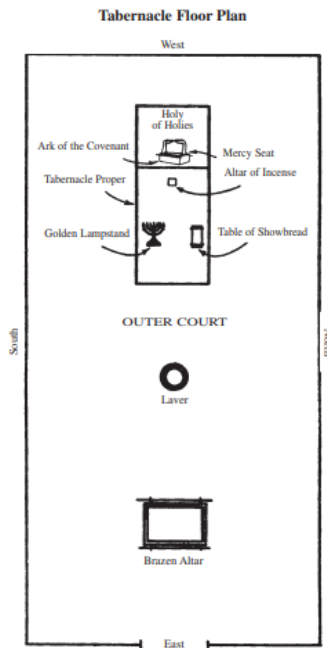
~ American citizens are extremely proud people – particularly proud of our democratic style of government – *“of the people, for the people and by the people.”* Well, it’s a great concept; until the people become detached from God, reject the Lord Jesus Christ and throw away the Word of God as the basis for society. The number one problem in American politics and society at-large as I type this report and as you read it, is that they have dismissed the notion that this is God’s universe – and they have forgotten that this country was founded on Biblical principles. See, when the rules are made up as one goes along, and public opinion becomes the order of the day, serious trouble is right around the corner. God made the laws and rules of this universe, and God doesn’t change from day to day to suit the whims of sinful and rebellious man. You can just write that down. In this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, we’re going to witness David discover this lesson. This is by far the greatest page in the account of the life of King David in the entire Bible.

Some people might choose the greatest day of David’s life as the day Samuel poured the anointing oil on him. Others would say the day David slew the giant was his greatest day. Others may say the day he married Michal, King Saul’s daughter, was the high point in his life. Of course, there are the two episodes where David escaped from Saul, and had the opportunity to kill him, but didn’t. Then, the death of Saul might be claimed as David’s greatest day because it meant David would finally assume the throne of Israel. In our last report, David was made king of Israel and the crown placed upon him. Some might choose David’s greatest day as the day his son, Solomon, was anointed king. There are other incidents to consider, also - such as the Nabal and Abigail incident.

Well, all of those were certainly great days in the life of David; but I believe this sixth chapter - and the next chapter - encompass the three most outstanding and remarkable events that define the life of David. In our last report, we concluded by labeling this current report *“doing the right thing*

in the WRONG way.” There is an ancient epigram that says “*the ends justify the means;*” well, most modern-day organizations and individuals making merchandise of the Lord Jesus Christ employ this phrase to rule the religious philosophy of their lives and other interests. I’m *NOT* suggesting this was David’s typical behavior, because it wasn’t. However, *in this particular incident* in David’s life account, it is certainly true.

In this report, David will bring up the Ark of God to Jerusalem. We have already learned the Ark of the Covenant denoted the presence of God amongst the people of the nation Israel. If you are not familiar with the floor plan of the tabernacle as God gave it to Moses, I have a diagram below. Understanding the articles of furniture and the placement of them in the tabernacle and temple is conducive to correctly understanding Scripture properly, correctly and completely. The Brazen Laver, the Golden Altar, the Burnt Altar, the Table of Shewbread, the Golden Lamp Stand, the Cherubims, the Altar of Incense and the Mercy Seat – and the arrangement of each inside the Holy of Holies – all play an important part in comprehension throughout the Word of God. This is where God met with His people as they wandered through the wilderness:



Well, the Ark of the Covenant is the most striking and significant picture of Christ in the Old Testament. It is the only likeness God gave of the Messiah to the children of Israel. Modern day paintings of Christ and those from men of the Middle Ages are heresy and blasphemy, in my estimation. We have no idea how Jesus looked physically – some say He was a white man, and some say He was black. Well, whatever you dream up as a picture of Jesus, my guess is you are *COMPLETELY* wrong. What we know for sure is that it isn't important. See, men only paint pictures of Jesus when they can no longer find Him in their hearts. The one Scriptural description we have in Revelation – with eyes as fire and feet as burnished brass – never seems to get painted. Let's move on.

This two and a half cubits by two and a half cubits by one-cubit wooden box overlaid with gold that constitutes the Ark of the Covenant is the most succinct articulation of Christ we'll ever receive in connection with understanding Jesus Face to face. We saw how Bezaleel was given a very special ministry by the Spirit of God so he could craft the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark denoted the presence of God; and later became a hindrance to the children of Israel, because they began to perceive it in a superstitious way; and assumed there was merit in the physical box itself. Of course, there wasn't – it was but a symbol and tangible trinket pointing to the Messiah Who would arrive later in history. The gold spoke of His deity, the wood speaks of His humanity. It wasn't a wooden box, and it wasn't a golden box – it was both. But it wasn't two boxes; it was only one box!

Remember, in the days of Samuel, the Philistines had captured the Ark – and they were equally as superstitious with it. They ended up placing it on a cart and sending it back to Israel where it stood in the field of Abinadab for seventy years, because it was causing everyone trouble. Here, David has made Jerusalem his headquarters and capital; and he wants to move the Ark there. David felt that this would be the proper place for the Ark – and the place to build the temple. David had a passion and love for God that is rarely seen today. Honestly, the crowd that is everlastingly criticizing David doesn't love God, friends. I wish I had a love in my own heart as David did for God. David could sincerely say, "*.... I will praise the Lord with my whole heart!*" Wouldn't that be a wonderful thing for *YOU* and *ME* to be able to

say? David also said, “... O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.” Another great Psalm from David says, “... bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.” Those are tremendous statements indicating David’s motive for bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem at this time. Well, David does just that but, unfortunately, David does it the *WRONG* way.

The Ark is mentioned fifteen times in the first seventeen verses of this chapter. I think we can safely assert God is speaking of the Ark of the Lord. The Ark was, obviously, very important to both David and to God. At least eleven Psalms are composed around this particular incident. David didn’t hold some peculiar and superstitious viewpoint concerning a location of where the Lord was, though; he knew God wasn’t in that box. David said, in another Psalm, “... unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.” David knew where God was, but he also knew the approach to God spoke of a mediator between God and man....

***1 Again, David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.***

***2 And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, 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 Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.***

~ Setting the Ark on a cart is where David made his first mistake. The Philistines had done that, too – but the Philistines were totally and completely ignorant of how to handle the cart according to God’s instructions. David knew better. The Ark was always to be carried on the

priests shoulders. The Ark had four rings, and two staves were placed between the rings. On the wilderness march the Kohathites carried the Ark – it never went about on a cart. That’s God’s instructions today to you and me, too. I have often wondered why God doesn’t get a better instrument than me. Honestly, I believe He would do better to just write the Gospel in the sky and forget about Andrew Hunt. Well, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is to be carried through this world on the shoulders of those who are His people. So, that’s what I’m doing.

See, light creates responsibility, friends. Don’t bother explaining the heathen in the darkest jungles and all that, either; let’s discuss the heathen in America and the heathen in your town. Those who hear the Gospel have a tremendous responsibility. If you turn your back on the Lord Jesus, my friend, you are lost, doomed and scheduled for judgment all at the same time. You are going to an eternal hell. That’s not my opinion – that is not my religious philosophy – that’s what the Word of God teaches. We may not like it; but, God says, *“TOO BAD!”* If you think you can move out of this universe, then give it a go - God made the rules. This is going to be done His way.

The Ark had a set of instructions in the Mosaic System of Levitical Law for handling it, and that was the *ONLY* way it was to be handled. So, David is doing this right thing the wrong way; very wrong – and it is going to lead to the death of one man and great trouble for David. If you handle the things of Christ recklessly or irresponsibly, YOU will be held accountable. It will result in terrible trouble in your life; this an axiom of truth we can all just write down today, friends. That is what the Word of God is teaching in this section of Scripture.....

***4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.***

***5 And David and all the house of Israel 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 Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah 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 Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.**

~ This seems to be such a small breach of conduct by Uzzah to warrant such a harsh consequence. Well, it affected David so much he stopped the music and the entire procession. As we read on, David gets a little angry with the Lord as the Ark is left in Obededom at the Gittite's house. Well, God was angry, too, because the work of the Lord was being done the wrong way. You and I would do well to fear the Lord in our Christian service. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. When God says teachers shall receive the greater condemnation, I take that deadly seriously, friends. There are a *WHOLE* bunch of self-proclaimed Bible teachers who need to come to an understanding of these facts. God has every intention of judging, friends. You can just write that down.

Frankly, I get a little weary of the lovey dovey sloppy agape that seems to permeate religion. Sure, God loves you – but – you can go on in your sins and, if you do, you may claim Jesus – but – Jesus won't be claiming *YOU!* There is no way out of and no alternative to this truth. No man cometh unto the Father but by the Lord Jesus Christ. David was very afraid of the Lord when this happened. Traumatized is probably a better diagnosis. Well, the final result is accomplished as David is prompted to move the Ark in the correct manner according to the Lord's instructions in the Mosaic Law – as we read on....

**8 And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day.**

**9 And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?**

**10 So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obededom the Gittite.**

**11 And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obbedom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obbedom, and all his household.**

**12 And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obbedom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obbedom into the city of David with gladness.**

**13 And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.**

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

~ Many will question this statement – which is fine but, friends, I didn't write the Bible. David danced in the joy of the Lord, and it was genuine worship. Today, you can cover up with culture and refinement but, I have news for you – *EVERY* dance today is a sexually oriented dance. This was the dance of worship. If you could dance a dance of worship, I would support you - but I do not believe worship can be done that way in the church. I know it shouldn't be done that way. I view it as doing the right thing the wrong way. So does the Lord. See, I don't find people in love with God as David was in love with God. *YOU* certainly are not in love with God in a way that would permit you to dance in rejoicing before God. What we need are a few more people who rejoice and praise God properly; and a few less who are so overly concerned with dancing and music and displaying themselves physically. On the other extreme, coming in with long faces and sour dispositions is not acceptable, either. God says, "*come into My presence with joy!*" Joel says, "*... call a sober assembly.*" Let's get those two directives straight, because we're going to examine all of these things in their proper balance in time on safari....

**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.**

**17 And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.**

~ Michal despised David and anyone else who was in love with God. This is a serious indictment against Michal and her relationship to David and the Lord. The burnt offerings speak of the Person of Christ; and the peace offerings speak of the peace Christ made through His blood on the cross. This reveals a genuine relationship between God and David. Let's set aside the extraneous arguments so many want to make about dancing before the Lord and how terrible God is for smiting a man dead – we can argue those things all day long – but we need to get down to the nitty gritty of life in this report: what about *YOUR* relationship with God? Wherever you are right this moment – how is it between you and Him? Have you had a talk with Him today? Have you rejoiced in Him? Do you *TRULY* and *HONESTLY* love the Lord Jesus? Have you told Him you love Him today? Do you want to serve Him? How *ARE* you serving Him? These things are important if we say we love the Lord, my beloved readers. It's easy to criticize others for the way they worship; but I urge you to get your eyes off of others and focus on *YOUR* relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ. I can only pray you and I will discover the true joy of the Lord in our lives today....

**18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.**

**19 And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house.**

**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 informal 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.***

~ What Michal despised was David acting like the rest of the people who were rejoicing and thanking God that the Ark had finally been brought up to Jerusalem. She didn't care for that at all; she wanted a little dignity and reverence in her religion – according to her standards, of course. I am leery and even afraid of those who constantly talk about love and being nice to everyone. They're always a bunch of pious phonies. Fake Christians are dangerous and deadly people. I want to love God like David loved God. He was a real man of God. We don't see men like David these days. David set Michal aside for this incident. I don't blame him.

Well, our safari ends this report having only hit the highest of high points; I wish we could have gone much more in-depth; but that would have made this report at least fifty thousand words. We're going to have to leave it here for now; and in our next report, we'll examine what may be the altogether high-water mark of Scripture – the covenant God made with David ~