

OBED-EDOM BLESSED ABOVE ALL

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with Pastor Dan Betzer

II Samuel 6:10-12

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 Obed-Edom the Gittite. [11] And the ark of the Lord continued in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months: and the Lord blessed Obed-Edom, and all his household.

[12] And it was told king David, saying, The Lord hath blessed the house of Obed-Edom, 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 Obed-Edom into the city of David with gladness.

For decades, Israel had been blessed by God because of THE ARK OF THE COVENANT. However, the Philistines, the archenemy of Israel, had invaded and stolen the precious Ark.

Why? The Bible says that about one year after the Israelites were released from Egypt (sometime around 1450 B.C.) the Ark was created according to the pattern given to Moses by God when the Israelites were camped at the foot of Mount Sinai.

Thereafter, the gold-plated acacia (wooden) Ark was carried by the priests (the Levites) approximately 2600 feet in advance of the people when on the march. The Ark was normally housed within the limited confines of the Holy of Holies within the Tabernacle. When carried, the Ark was always hidden under a large veil made of skins and blue cloth. It was believed that the earthly presence of God was literally between the wings of the two cherubim (small statues) on the lid of the chest (see picture on page 2). Any person touching the Ark was in danger of instant death, so wooden staves were placed on the sides of it to hold it up off the ground and rendered it possible for transporting. Unfortunately, on this journey back to Jerusalem, the Ark was placed on a cart (which was forbidden, for it was to be carried by priests alone) and looked momentarily as if it might fall to the road. A priest named Uzzah thought it might fall and reached out to steady it:

The Ark of the Covenant



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II Samuel 6:3-7

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. [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.

How big was the Ark? It was about 4½ feet long. It was gilded entirely with gold. A golden lid or cover called the “mercy seat” was placed above the chest and covered with the two golden cherubim (angels).

1 How did the Ark get stolen by the Philistines? Earlier, some of the leaders
2 of Israel believed it prudent to take the Ark onto the battlefield to assist
3 them against the Philistines after a battle loss. It was a foolish move on
4 their part, for not only were the Israelites soundly defeated to a loss of
5 33,000 men, but the Ark was captured. When Eli, the great high priest,
6 heard about it, he collapsed and died.

7
8 This dark episode was known to Israelis as ICHABOD, which means “the
9 glory of God has departed.”

10
11 The Philistines took the Ark to several places in their territory, only to
12 experience dire circumstances. At Ashdod, it was placed in the temple of
13 Dagon (the fish god). The next morning, the statue of Dagon had fallen to
14 the floor and was shattered. The people of Ashdod were smitten with
15 tumors (literally hemorrhoids) until the Ark was removed. After seven
16 months of this, the Philistines cried “Enough!” and wanted to get the Ark
17 back to the Jews where it belonged.

18
19 It was that trip where Uzzah tried to steady the Ark and died in the effort.
20 Someplace was needed to house the Ark until it could be safely returned
21 to Jerusalem.

22 **WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH YOU AND ME?**

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24
25 Oh, so much! The Ark represented God’s power. When the chest was in
26 its proper place, as God commanded and ordained, God blessed the nation.
27 Without doubt, the Ark was the most precious possession Israel had. It
28 disappeared without a trace shortly after the Babylonian invasion, and no
29 one knows where it is.

30
31 When Jesus died on the cross, the veil of the Temple was torn in two, from
32 top to bottom. We are no longer separated from God.

33 Hebrews 4:16

34 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may*
35 *obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.* (Someone has

1 wisely observed: “*You can be as close to God as you want; in fact, at this*
2 *very moment you are as close to Him as you desire.*”)

3
4 What keeps us away from Him?

5 6 FEAR

7
8 After Uzzah touched the Ark and died, David was afraid to continue
9 moving the Ark toward Jerusalem. His fear had stricken him because of
10 what had just happened. He knew that God had ordained that the Ark was
11 to be moved in a very specific way. Priests had been set aside to carry it
12 with poles upon their shoulders. Under no circumstances was the Ark to
13 be on a cart pulled by animals.

14
15 There is almost a feeling among Christ’s followers today that we can
16 come to God’s presence in any way we wish. The truth is: God has
17 demands that must be met. Our access to God is only through Jesus Christ,
18 our Savior:

19
20 John 14:6

21 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man*
22 *cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

23
24 Acts 4:12

25 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name*
26 *under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

27
28 We do not have access to God because we have been so great. We do not
29 approach our Heavenly Father in some casual manner. David was now
30 afraid. Scriptures tell us:

31
32 II Samuel 6:9

33 *And David was afraid of the Lord that day, and said, How shall the ark*
34 *of the Lord come to me?*

35 So, David temporarily abandoned moving the Ark to where it belonged.
36 He was genuinely afraid of the consequences.

37

1 Every person hearing this study has at times been confronted with fear.
2 Satan is using this tactic today in a very successful way. More and more
3 we learn of Christians being afraid.

4
5 SO WHAT DID KING DAVID DO? He carried the Ark to the house of
6 Obed-Edom. He left the Ark there. He would later come to his senses and
7 obey God, but there for a while, the Ark sat on Obed-Edom's property,
8 and he was blessed by God because of it.

9
10 We read in the Word that Obed-Edom was a Gittite - in other words, he
11 was from Gath. So was Goliath. What caused him to be so different from
12 Israel's nemesis? Instead of fighting the people of God, he opened his
13 house to the Ark of God.

14
15 II Samuel 6:11
16 *And the ark of the Lord continued in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite*
17 *three months: and the Lord blessed Obed-Edom, and all his household.*

18
19 We do not serve God just to get His blessings. We do receive them, but
20 that is not our goal, our purpose. It is God's blessing and favor that we
21 seek – not stuff. I want to live in such a way that I welcome His divine
22 presence into my life daily. We often sing this classic hymn:

23
24 *And He walks with me and He talks with me;*
25 *And He tells me I am His own;*
26 *And the joy we share as we tarry there*
27 *None other has ever known.*

28
29 So, God blessed Obed-Edom and all his household. While the Ark
30 remained on his property, his whole family enjoyed the abundant
31 blessings of God.

32
33 It is of great interest to me, as I pointed out earlier, that Obed-Edom was
34 a Gittite - a Gentile. The Ark was specifically given to the Jews. But others
35 could also receive God's favor. Think of Paul, the Apostle, who was
36 called an emissary to the Gentiles. The grace and favor of God is available

1 to everyone who calls upon His name. We are not blessed because we are
2 Assemblies of God or Baptists or Methodists - or whatever. We are
3 blessed because we obey God and follow Him for Christ's sake - as well
4 as our own. And the word began to spread:

5

6 II Samuel 6:12

7 *And it was told king David, saying, The Lord hath blessed the house of*
8 *Obed-Edom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God.*
9 *So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-*
10 *Edom into the city of David with gladness.*

11

12 As the Lord began to bless the household of Obed-Edom, others began to
13 notice. That's how the news reached King David. Those who knew of the
14 blessing to Obed-Edom made sure the news reached the King.

15

16 This amazing little episode in Scripture is a sure uplift for every believer
17 as well as an admonition to worship God in spirit and in truth.