

# “David Dances Before the Ark”

## Introduction

It's time to celebrate ! Though we live in trying times, we still recognize that God is intentional regarding our joy and happiness. And we can reciprocate with celebrations that honor God through praise and worship. In today's lesson, King David danced before the LORD with all his might. How do you celebrate God?

## Today's Lesson Objectives

- **Explore** David's joy and Michal's contempt for him
- **Appreciate** the many ways to celebrate God's presence
- **Plan** celebrations that honor God through praise and worship

## Scripture

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-19 (KJV)

Devotional Reading:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-9

## About Today's Lesson...

The Ark, the Ark of the testimony, the Ark of the Lord - all names given to the holiest item in the tabernacle during the wanderings of the Israelites in the wilderness. The Ark symbolized God's presence and served as a reminder to the people of God's desire to dwell with them. God's desire to dwell with the people is stated in Exodus 25:8 (KJV): "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them". This special container held the tablets of God's laws for the people and also served as evidence of God's presence, power and might as his people marched toward the promised land. When used by God's people as instructed, a right relationship with God was maintained and victory in battle was assured.

As prelude to today's lesson, we find in 1 Samuel that Saul is made King of Israel. However, sometime later, God becomes displeased with Saul's actions. Eventually, after Saul's death, David becomes king over all Israel and Judah. And unlike Saul, one of David's first actions is to move the Ark to Jerusalem. During Samuel's reign as a judge, the Ark had fallen into the hands of the Philistines. However, after sickness and plagues ensued, the Philistines decided to return the Ark to Israel. The Ark then remained at Kiriath-jearim for twenty years. And our lesson for today begins here - with David, his elite army, and other Israelites gathered at Kiriath-jearim to retrieve the Ark.

As things turned out, David was only able to successfully retrieve the Ark after a second attempt. But both attempts were highlighted by joyous singing, dancing, shouting, and music. And although David's wife Michal despised his "less than royal" behavior, David remained focused on worship, praise, and fellowship of God's people.

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