

Following the death of Saul and Jonathan, David is anointed king by the tribe of Judah. The other 11 tribes initially oppose David (2 Samuel 3-4) before finally joining Judah under his kingship (ch. 5). Now the dominoes of blessing begin to fall on God's people under David's godly, unifying leadership, with Jerusalem as his new capital.

Before the time Saul was appointed as Israel's first king, the people had foolishly carried the ark into battle against the Philistines. They correctly understood the Lord was the one who fought their battle, but they wrongly assumed the ark would guarantee them victory. God showed them the error in their thinking when He allowed the Philistines to capture the ark. The Philistines carried it back to one of their cities and placed it at the feet of their god Dagon. This was their way of demonstrating that Dagon had defeated the God of Israel, but the Lord let them know they were wrong. Disease and death soon swept through their cities.

The Philistines quickly determined to return the ark to Israel, but they had no knowledge of God's instructions on how to move it. So they just placed it on an oxcart and sent it away. It eventually ended up in the town of Kirjath Jearim, where it remained for many years. Once David was established as the sole ruler of Israel, he decided the time was right to bring the ark back to Jerusalem.

Read 2 Samuel 6:1-23

1) Why did David choose prominent people to move the ark? Why didn't he use Levites? Why do you think he chose to use an oxcart in the first place?

2) Why did God strike down Uzzah? If you had been Uzzah, what would you have done when you saw the ark teetering on the oxcart?

3) How did you react when you read of God's punishment on Uzzah? How did David react? What do our human responses reveal about our understanding of God's Word?

4) Do you tend to view God as eager to punish or eager to bless? Read Psalm 103:8-10. How does a person's view of God affect his or her behaviour?

5) Compare the two attempts at moving the ark in this chapter. What was different? What was the same?

6) Why did Michal become angry with David? If you had been in her position, how would you have responded to the king's dancing?

7) What does this story told in 2 Samuel 6 reveal about the character of God? What does this account reveal about the seriousness of sin? What is your attitude to sin?

8) To what extent was David responsible for the death of Uzzah? To what extent was Uzzah responsible? How might the tragedy have been avoided?

9) Why did the Israelites imitate the Philistines' method for moving the ark? Why is imitation more appealing to some people than conforming to God's ways?

10) What are some reasons for rejoicing in your own life? Spend some time today in praise and worship to the Lord.

Prayer Points

Please pray for all those in the church who are currently receiving cancer treatment or continuing to recover after surgery and medication. Pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen, lead and comfort each person.

Praise God for BMS worker Ben Francis, who is bringing revitalisation to many churches in India and around the world through discipling movements. Pray for the training of 10,000 church planters who will plant 10,000 house churches.

Sermon Notes

A false gospel

S_____ R_____

A True gospel

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001



BIBLE STUDY

June 11th 2023

The Life of David:

Mercy and Vengeance 2 Samuel 6:1-23

David is an extraordinary person in the Bible. He was a skilled musician, he was a formidable warrior who won a legendary battle against a great champion, he attracted the greatest soldiers of his day to serve under him. He was a poet, writing Psalms that expressed the deep longing of the human heart for God. His words were so personal and powerful that thousands of years later, they remain. As much as all the things listed earlier are impressive to other human beings, God was far more interested in David's heart. A close study of the life of David will open our eyes to both how much God cares about the condition of our hearts and the foreshadow of Jesus who truly redeems our hearts. The world spends a lot of time pressing us to focus on exterior issues but God looks on the inside.