Cherished Bible Stories
Lesson 17

The Story Of A Failed Homecoming (2 Samuel 6)

Introduction

The ark of the covenant may have been the most revered piece of furniture to O.T. Israel...it was the "doorway" into the very presence of Jehovah. For a while, the ark was out of Israelite hands. Finally, this valuable artifact was coming home. It would be a "homecoming" of sorts. King David appears to have gone all out for the festivities. However, all the pomp & pageantry turned to despair. This story affords the reader some wonderful and timeless lessons that should help in modern-day service to the God who once dwelt between the cherubim above the mercy seat on this very ark.

Read the story and be prepared to answer the following questions.

1) What did the ark of the covenant represent? (Ex. 25:17-22; Lev. 16:2-14)

2) What was contained inside the ark of the covenant? (Heb. 9:4)

3) How had the ark of the covenant been used previously? (Josh. 3:14 – 4:18; 6:3-20)

4) What tragedy had befallen the ark of the covenant? (1 Sam. 4:1-11) What happened while it was in Philistine possession? (1 Sam. 5:1-4) What was decided? (1 Sam. 5:6-7; 6:1-9)

5) What did David finally decide to do? (vv. 1-2) How was this decision carried out? (vv. 3-5) Comment on the "atmosphere" of this occasion.

6) What happened in v. 6? How did God respond? (v. 7) In vv. 8-10, list the different ways David reacted to what happened?

7) In David's later reflections on this "homecoming" for the ark of the covenant, what did he say? (1 Chron. 15:2, 11-13) Re: v. 13, what was the *"ordinance" [NASV]*, "*proper order" [NJKV]*, or the *"due order" [KJV]*? Consider Ex. 25:10-15.

8) What had God already expressed about His concerns re: all the holy furniture? (Num. 4:4-6, 15)

9) Use the space below to list any lesson(s) and/or application(s) from this story.