

Sept 12, 2021



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

◆  
**Lesson Leaders:**

James Haymon

**Class Leaders:**

Inreach: Pat Hester

Deacon: C M Hester

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Even when we're in dire circumstances, God can turn our wailing into dancing

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

God, please hold us close as we trust You and rely on You to transform our wails to worship

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness

(Ps 30:11 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Mar 20, 2019)

**Series: Celebrating God**

**UNIT 1: God's People  
Offer Praise**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Praise by Expecting  
and Following  
(Mark 10:46-52)**

## **Praise in Dance 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-19**

### **Lesson Background and Introduction**

Today's lesson focuses on the relocation of the Ark of the Covenant to David's new capital city, Jerusalem (see the parallel account in 1 Chronicles 15). The Ark of the Covenant was Israel's most sacred object. The lid of the ark was called the atonement cover. That lid featured two winged cherubim facing each other from opposite ends; that's where God said he would meet with Moses (Exodus 25:10-22). One detail of the ark's construction is especially important for today's lesson: the gold rings and wooden poles (see 2 Samuel 6:3). The ark itself contained the Ten Commandments, Aaron's staff, and manna from Israel's wilderness wanderings (Hebrews 9:4; compare Exodus 40:20). The ark was housed in the innermost part of the tabernacle, "the Most Holy Place" (Leviticus 16:2). That ark was so holy that those responsible for its upkeep and transportation were not allowed to touch it, lest they die (Numbers 4:15, 20; see 2 Samuel 6:5). The Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant and took it to Ashdod (about 1070 BC). But God inflicted health problems on the Philistines, so they sent the ark back to Israel (1 Samuel 5:6-6:12). Unfortunately, the people there disrespected the ark by gazing on its contents, and 70 people died as a result (6:19). So residents sent it to Kiriath Jearim, where it stayed for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1-2) until the days of King David. We Christians get excited when we see God at work in our midst. We are then tempted to respond in ways that come naturally to us; we are inclined to do what our culture has conditioned us to do when things are going our way. We must consult God's Word to learn the right means to the ends we seek as we honor the Lord. We must not rush to do what seems right in our own eyes, even when we are trying to do right by God. Let us not assume we know God's will until we have carefully tested it against his Word.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**The Ark of God** - King David resolved to move the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem, the capital city of Israel. The king desired for the congregation to experience God's presence. David sought to show his recognition to Jehovah, and on behalf of the Israelite nation. David danced with high energy and exuberance as the priest carried the ark into Jerusalem. The ark was a rectangular wooden box, overlaid with gold, measuring approximately three feet long and two feet wide. Inside it were the Ten Commandments, Aaron's rod, and a jar of manna. The mercy seat was on the top of the ark. The high priest sprinkled the mercy seat with the blood of a sacrificial lamb once a year. The ark of covenant symbolized God's presence, glory, and throne (Ps. 88:1; 99:1). The presence of the ark also fulfilled the Father's desire to dwell among His people.

**The Ark Taken and Returned** - After an intense battle with Israel, the Philistines seized the ark from the Israelite army. The ark ended up in Kiriath Jearim, secured by the household of Abinadab for over 70 years (1 Sam. 5:1-7:1) until King David carried the ark into Jerusalem. He gathered over 30,000 of his best soldiers to move the ark. Initially, David transported the ark on a cart. But that method of transport went against the Scriptures' instructions. Only the Levites carried the box and only with poles upon their shoulders.

**David's Celebration** - David danced as the procession paraded into the city. He worshiped with nothing held back, declaring his appreciation for God. One of his spouses, Michal, condemned his worship, characterizing his exuberant dancing as inappropriate for a monarch, but David's dance fit right into the jubilation occasion. The crowds played musical instruments, tambourines, and loud trumpets, and sang, cheered, and danced. Scripture speaks about worship in God's presence as a delight, a celebration. Oh yes, we need to take time to repent for sin, but after the sadness is released, joy needs to explode within as we recognize God's forgiveness, mercy, and grace

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Praise in Moving of the Ark (2 Sam 6:1-5)**

#### *Gathering the people (1-2)*

Gathering to simulate love and good deeds (Heb 10:23-25)

Gathering in the presence of God (Matt 18:20)

Gathering for fellowship (Acts 2:42-47)

Gathering for prayer (Acts 1:14)

#### *Gathering around the Ark (3-4)*

Around the Ark to bring offerings (Num 7:9-12)

Around the Ark to keep watch over it (1 Sam 6:7-10)

Around the Ark to praise God for His works (Josh 3:3-7)

Around the Ark to praise God with music and songs (1 Chron 15:14-16)

#### *Celebrating with music (5)*

Celebrating with thanksgiving and music (Ps 95:2)

Celebrating with singing (1 Chron 16:9-10)

Celebrating with instruments (2 Chron 5:13)

Celebrating through praise (Rev 7:12)

### **Dancing before God and the Ark (2 Sam 6:14-16)**

#### *Dancing by the king (14)*

Dancing to exalt God (Exodus 15:20-22)

Dancing to praise God for His help (Ps 30:10-12)

Dancing to exalt God's Name (Ps 149:3)

Dancing to praise God (Ps 150:4)

#### *Praising by the people (15)*

Praising God for what He has done (Ps 52:9)

Praising God for His ways (Ps 77:12-13)

Praising God for His holy Name (Ps 105:1-3)

Praising God for His mighty power (Ps 147:5)

#### *Despised by the daughter (16)*

Despised because Jesus was also despised (Isa 53:3-4)

Despised because of lack of understanding (Acts 2:11-13)

Despised because of not having spiritual discernment (1 Cor 2:14-15)

Despised because there is a time to dance (Eccl 3:4)

### **Offerings to God for Return of the Ark (2 Sam 6:17-19)**

#### *Peace offerings to God (17)*

Peace offerings that are without blemishes (Lev 3:1)

Peace offerings out of our own free will (Lev 19:5)

Peace offerings to give thanks (2 Chron 31:2)

#### *Offerings that result in blessings from God (18)*

Blessings in the heavenly realms (Eph 1:3)

Blessings through the promises to Abraham (Gal 3:8-9)

Blessings of a new covenant through Jesus (Heb 9:15)

Blessings of restoral (1 Peter 5:10)

#### *Food offerings to the people (19)*

Offerings of food to commemorate and praise God (1 Chron 16:3-5)

Offerings of food because of holy days (Neh 8:10-12)

Offerings of food from God who owns everything (Ps 50:10-15)

Offerings of food from God who supplies all needs (2 Cor 9:10-11)