

## 17.25 Returning the Ark; Michal's Attitude (2 Samuel 6:12–23; 1 Chronicles 15:1–29; 16:1–43; 2 Chronicles 1:4)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [ . . . ] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- Toy trumpets, cymbals, harps, and lyres; a shofar (if available)

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *ephod*: a sleeveless garment worn by Jewish priests [see picture below]
- *harp*: a musical instrument, roughly triangular in shape, consisting of a frame supporting a graduated series of parallel strings, played by plucking with the fingers ([Harp | Definition of Harp at Dictionary.com](#)). In modern times, a harp sits on the floor, but in David's time it was carried.
- *lyre*: also called a *psaltery*; a type of harp, smaller than a normal harp, that has its strings passing over a bridge (definition derived from [Lyre Vs. Harp \(What's The Difference?\) \(betterharps.com\)](#) [see picture below where the harp is above the lyre])
- *trumpet*: instrument made of silver; only the priests blew silver trumpets
- *horn*: ram's horn; also called a shofar

### Scripture: (ESV)

2 Samuel 6:12 And it was told King David, “The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. 13 And when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. 14 And David danced before the Lord with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn.

16 As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart. 17 And they brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. 18 And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts 19 and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house.

20 And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, “How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!” 21 And David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the Lord—and I will celebrate before the Lord. 22 I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in your eyes. But by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor.” 23 And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

1 Chronicles 15:1 David built houses for himself in the city of David. And he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it. 2 Then David said that no one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, for the Lord had chosen them to carry the ark of the Lord and to minister to him forever. 3 And David assembled all

Israel at Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the Lord to its place, which he had prepared for it. 4 And David gathered together the sons of Aaron and the Levites: 5 of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief, with 120 of his brothers; 6 of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, with 220 of his brothers; 7 of the sons of Gershon, Joel the chief, with 130 of his brothers; 8 of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, with 200 of his brothers; 9 of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, with 80 of his brothers; 10 of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, with 112 of his brothers. 11 Then David summoned the priests Zadok and Abiathar, and the Levites Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab, 12 and said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites. Consecrate yourselves, you and your brothers, so that you may bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel, to the place that I have prepared for it. 13 Because you did not carry it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not seek him according to the rule." 14 So the priests and the Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel. 15 And the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord.

16 David also commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their brothers as the singers who should play loudly on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise sounds of joy. 17 So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brothers Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari, their brothers, Ethan the son of Kushaiah; 18 and with them their brothers of the second order, Zechariah, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, and Mikneiah, and the gatekeepers Obed-edom and Jeiel. 19 The singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were to sound bronze cymbals; 20 Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah were to play harps according to Alamoah; 21 but Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah were to lead with lyres according to the Sheminith. 22 Chenaniah, leader of the Levites in music, should direct the music, for he understood it. 23 Berechiah and Elkanah were to be gatekeepers for the ark. 24 Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, should blow the trumpets before the ark of God. Obed-edom and Jehiah were to be gatekeepers for the ark.

25 So David and the elders of Israel and the commanders of thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the house of Obed-edom with rejoicing. 26 And because God helped the Levites who were carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams. 27 David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as also were all the Levites who were carrying the ark, and the singers and Chenaniah the leader of the music of the singers. And David wore a linen ephod. 28 So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting, to the sound of the horn, trumpets, and cymbals, and made loud music on harps and lyres.

29 And as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David dancing and celebrating, and she despised him in her heart.

16:1 And they brought in the ark of God and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. 2 And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord 3 and distributed to all Israel, both men and women, to each a loaf of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins.

4 Then he appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the Lord, to invoke, to thank, and to praise the Lord, the God of Israel. 5 Asaph was the chief, and second to him were Zechariah, Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom, and Jeiel, who were to play harps and lyres; Asaph was to sound the cymbals, 6 and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests were to blow trumpets regularly before the ark of the covenant of God. 7 Then on that day David first appointed that thanksgiving be sung to the Lord by Asaph and his brothers.

37 So David left Asaph and his brothers there before the ark of the covenant of the Lord to minister regularly before the ark as each day required, 38 and also Obed-edom and his sixty-eight brothers, while Obed-edom, the son of Jeduthun, and Hosah were to be gatekeepers. 39 And he left Zadok the priest and his brothers the priests before the tabernacle of the Lord in the high place that was at Gibeon 40 to offer burnt offerings to the Lord on the altar of burnt offering regularly morning and evening, to do all that is written in the Law of the Lord that he commanded Israel. 41 With them were Heman and Jeduthun and the rest of those chosen and

expressly named to give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever. 42 Heman and Jeduthun had trumpets and cymbals for the music and instruments for sacred song.

43 Then all the people departed each to his house, and David went home to bless his household.

2 Chronicles 1:4 (But David had brought up the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim to the place that David had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem.)

### **Introduction/Review:**

David had done *what* God wanted but not in the *way* God wanted. What had he done wrong? [Moved the ark on a cart.] What can we learn from David's mistake? To know and do God's will as He prescribes it. How can we know God's will? By reading and knowing His Book, the Bible.

### **Story:**

#### ***Preparing for the ark***

During the three months the ark was with Obed-edom, David must have read God's Book, for now he prepared a place for God's ark in Jerusalem and prepared God's people to bring it back and to worship God properly. He made a special tent, ✓perhaps like the one God had Moses make. However, this tent would contain only the ark of the covenant, for the tabernacle and its altars and other furniture were still in Gibeon [locate] and David was now in Jerusalem [locate].

How did David prepare the people? (1) He said, "No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, for the Lord chose them to carry the ark of the Lord and to minister to him forever." So he gathered the Levites (Kohath, 120; Merari, 220; Gershon, 130; Elizaphan, 200; Hebron, 80; Uzziel, 112)—862 in all—and said, "Prepare yourselves by purifying yourselves as God commanded so that you may bring the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it. We didn't carry it correctly last time; now we'll do it God's way."

(2) David did something new that we don't read about before this time: He asked the Levites to appoint musicians—singers who could also play "loudly" on musical instruments. They would play harps, lyres (or psalteries), and cymbals to raise sounds of joy. ✓Four thousand musicians<sup>1</sup> had specific instruments to play, being led by a director who understood music. One of the musicians was Asaph, who wrote many psalms. He and these other men, David said, must sing "thanksgiving" to the Lord.

(3) The priests would blow trumpets—silver trumpets.

(4) David appointed men to watch the doors/gates (gatekeepers) of the tent where the ark of the covenant was to rest and gatekeepers for the tabernacle in Gibeon. Why would he appoint gatekeepers? To keep people from looking into or upon the ark and to keep people from stealing it or its gold.

#### ***Rejoicing before the ark***

Everything was set. David heard God had been blessing Obed-Edom, the man who had housed the ark for three months. David, the elders of Israel, commanders of thousands, and the Levites went to Obed-Edom's house in order to bring the ark to Jerusalem with rejoicing.

David laid aside his kingly robes and crown and dressed in a common ephod. The Levites put the carrying poles into the rings on the sides of the ark and began carrying it. They walked six paces and stopped. Other Levites offered an animal sacrifice to the Lord before they proceeded on to Jerusalem. Then, as they journeyed, David jumped and whirled before the Lord with all his might; the hosts of Israel shouted; the horns, trumpets, cymbals, harps, and lyres made loud music. Oh, it was a happy day! [Students might make this happy noise with their instruments.] Perhaps Psalms 15; 24; 96–98; 104; 105; and 132 that mention going up to the hill of God and rejoicing with instruments were written by David about this occasion.

#### ***Blessing because of the ark***

Finally, the procession arrived in Jerusalem. The Levites brought the ark into the tent David had prepared for it. They offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. David blessed the people in the name of the Lord, saying, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, ‘Amen!’ Praise the Lord!”

Then David gave gifts to all the people of Israel—not just to the men but also to the women. Each one got a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a bunch of raisins. It was a grand day of rejoicing, for the ark, the symbol of God’s presence with His people, would now be remembered and be central in Israel.

You know, today God Himself, in the form of His Holy Spirit, comes to live, not in a cloth tent, but in the tent-bodies of Christians. Christians are people whom God has saved because of the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. Sometimes, knowing that I have been saved makes me want to jump and whirl in joy as David did. Always, God’s presence in me gives quiet joy and assurance. Have you repented of your sin and received Jesus as your Saviour?

### ***Despising in spite of the ark***

David’s bringing the ark to Jerusalem caused joy for everyone. Everyone, that is, David’s first wife, the daughter of Saul, the one who had helped him escape from Saul out of window, the one whom Saul had given to another man, the one David had wanted back before he could become king over all Israel. Her name was Michal (pronounced like the male name *Michael* or pronounced *MICKel*).

I’m not sure what Michal’s problem was, but I’m going to call her Critical Michal (pronounced, in this case, “Mickel”), for she was very critical of her husband. The Bible tells us that when she looked out the window and “saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord . . . she despised him in her heart” (2 Samuel 6:16). ✓Maybe she thought these words: “Look at David! He doesn’t have his king’s robe on. Why, he’s dressed in just a linen ephod, like a priest or a servant! He’s jumping around like a school boy. Where’s the dignity of a king that my father Saul always showed? He is acting like a fool!” She despised him—a terrible, disrespectful thing for any wife to do.

David, having given gifts to the people and having blessed them, came home to bless his own family. He was in happy spirits as he arrived, but he had hardly gotten home before Michal came out to meet him with her critical sarcasm.

“You, the king of Israel, certainly honored yourself today, ✓wearing that shameful ephod, uncovering your royalty, looking like some common, shameless fellow!” ✓Michal seemed to have no understanding of full-hearted devotion to the Lord.

David answered, “I did it before the Lord, who chose me above your father to make me a prince over Israel, the people of the Lord. Furthermore, I will continue to be merry before the Lord even though I’m contemptible in your eyes. The common man and maid will hold me in honor even if you don’t.”

Was this a little sin for Critical Michal to commit? No, it was very serious. The Bible states the consequence for despising her husband was that Michal had no children all her life!<sup>2</sup> That was a disgrace for an Israelite woman—a devastating consequence, indeed!

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<sup>1</sup>“King David had appointed 4,000 singers and musicians for service in the Tabernacle (1 Chronicles 23:5). During his reign, they prayed and sang praises 24 hours a day, seven days a week” ([The Tabernacle of David Watch | The Hidden Ones \(hiddenonesmi.com\)](#)).

<sup>2</sup>The King James Version of 2 Samuel 21:8 mentions “the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel.” These sons were not her own but were borne of her sister, Merab (see ESV).

### **Lessons from This Lesson:**

- We see Jesus:

The ark, symbol of God's presence, was *close* to David. Believers in Jesus Christ have God, the Holy Spirit, living *in* them.

### Activities:

- Play dough: tent; poles; ephod; bread; harp; lyre; cymbals; trumpets; shofar
- Snack: a sandwich made with raisin bread and lunch meat
- March and jump while playing instruments and reciting Psalm 100 or while the teacher reads Psalm 98:4–6: “Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!”
- Discuss with older students David's rebuke of Michal—the put-down of her father (sometimes a ploy in an argument but in this case an important point) and the serious malady of a wife's poor attitude toward her husband. Michal's character is hinted at in Saul's hope that she would become a snare to David (1 Samuel 18:20, 21).
- Sing “Obedience” by Mike and Ruth Greene, found in *Praises I* songbook, published by Majesty Music.
- Two passages of Scripture are identical or almost identical: 1 Chronicles 16: 8–22 and Psalm 105:1–15. Have one group of students read the 1 Chronicles verses in unison while another group reads Psalm 105.
- Discuss the difference between harp and lyre, trumpet and horn (definitions above and pictures below).
- Review questions: (Game: With toy trumpets, cymbals, harps, lyres, and a shofar available, allow a student who answers a question correctly to do a “solo” of rejoicing before the ark.)
  1. What message did David receive about Obed-edom? [That the Lord had blessed him while the ark was with him.]
  2. What did David do when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six steps? [Sacrificed an animal offering to the Lord.]
  3. How did David act as he rejoiced before the Lord in bringing the ark? [Danced and leaped with all his might.]
  4. Name two of the instruments played while bringing the ark to Jerusalem? [Horn, trumpets, cymbals, harps, lyres.]
  5. Who was not pleased with David for his joyous dancing? [Michal, his wife.]
  6. Where did David place the ark of the covenant in Jerusalem? [In a specially made tent.]
  7. What did David do after offering burnt offerings and peace offerings in Jerusalem? [Blessed the people and gave them gifts of bread, meat, and raisins.]
  8. Why did “Critical Michal” not have any children? [Because she despised David for his behavior.]
  9. What new thing did David do regarding music? [Appointed singers and players of instruments who were to sing and play for the Lord before the ark.]

### Memory Verse[s]: (KJV)

- Psalm 100:1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

### Handwork:

- Make finger cymbals out of juice can lids. Find instructions at [Finger Cymbals | Fun Family Crafts](#).

**ephod**

**harp**

**lyre**

**trumpet**

**horn**



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[Blow the Trumpets in Zion: The Silver Trumpets - hebrewversity](#)



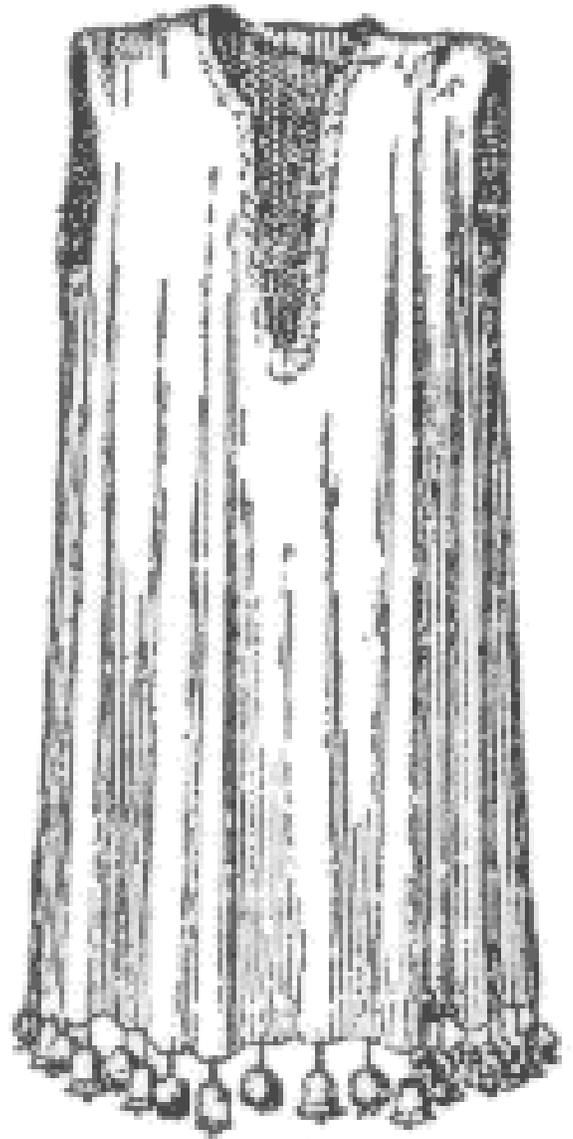
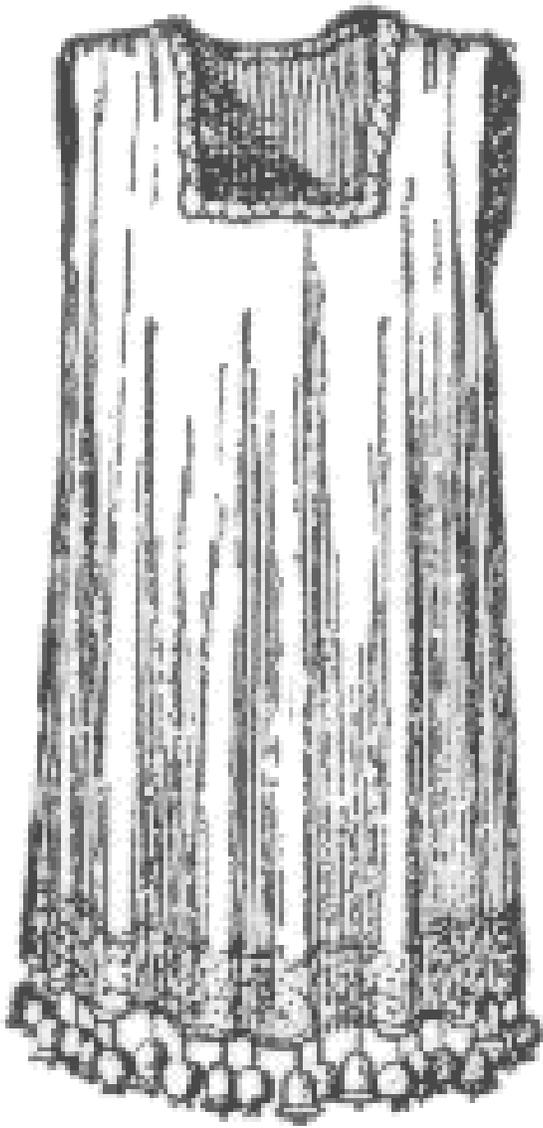
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# **Levites Bringing Back the Ark**

<b>Priests</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Kohath</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Merari</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>Gershom</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Elizaphan</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Hebron</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Uzziel</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>862</b>

# Musicians and Gatekeepers

<b>People</b>	<b>Duty</b>
<b>Heman, Asaph, and Ethan</b>	<b>sing; sound bronze cymbals</b>
<b>Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah</b>	<b>play harps</b>
<b>Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah</b>	<b>lead with lyres</b>
<b>Chenaniah</b>	<b>direct the music, for he understood it.</b>
<b>Berechiah and Elkanah; Obed-edom and Jehiah</b>	<b>be gatekeepers for the ark</b>
<b>Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests</b>	<b>blow the trumpets</b>



<https://jrjones3.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/cbc077.gif>

