

CELL NOTES July 11th 2021: Made to glorify God

Recently I have re-read the amazing account of David bringing the Ark of God to Jerusalem (2 Sam 6: 1-5 & 12-19). Let's explore 7 insights from that OT reading.

Insight 1.

1 David again brought together out of Israel chosen men, thirty thousand in all. 2 He and all his men set out from Baalah of Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim that are on the ark.

- A name implies intimacy. This reminds us that God is God of revelation. He chooses to show himself. In the OT: YHWH, probably pronounced 'Yahweh'. In the NT: Jesus, the supreme revelation of God.
- Remember that there is power as well as intimacy in knowing and being identified with His name.

Insight 2.

12 Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went down and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing.

- This challenges us to make room for the presence of God in our lives.

Insight 3.

13 When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf.

- David reverences God. Even before they have reached their destination. Even before he has received any blessing. He does so because God is worthy.

Insight 4.

14 David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, 15 while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

- David gives himself – in praise & worship. We are called to enjoy God's presence. The more we do it, the more this experience becomes part of us.

Insight 5.

16 As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.

- Humility before God is pleasing to God – but not always to others. We need to remember this. Our aim is to please God, not people.

Insight 6.

17 They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD.

- God accepts a home in Jerusalem. In the NT we see this even more profoundly because "the Word became flesh" (John 1:14) – Jesus.
- God desires a place within our lives, families, jobs, homes, dreams, plans, communities. We are "temples of the Holy Spirit."

Insight 7.

18 After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty. 19 Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes.

- Joy in & relationship with God creates a desire to bless others. It is not kept to himself. We need to be conduits of God's love to others.

Applying the scripture:

1. How can we make more room for the presence of God in our lives?
2. Why is it important to worship God whatever the circumstances?
3. Overall, what can we learn from David with regard to our relationship with God?
4. How can we be more of a blessing to others?