

April 8

II Samuel 6 and I Chronicles 15-16

Hey Hey and welcome to a day of celebration!!! Yes, today is April 8<sup>th</sup> and we get to celebrate with King David the arrival of the ark of the covenant!! I am Lisa Ashton and joining me today is my cousin Haiven Ashton(who as you can see wore her dance pants) with another guest appearance in our Project 4:4 accelerators.

Lisa: Haiven could you tell us what passages we are covering today?

Haiven: II Sam 6 and I Chron 15-16

Lisa: And what's with all the music and dancing?

Haiven: King David has brought back the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem!!

Lisa: Why is the Ark of the covenant such a big deal?

Haiven: Because the Ark represents the Presence of God. And Lisa, the presence of God is BIG DEAL

Lisa: Oh yes, the presence of God IS something to celebrate! Was everyone celebrating this great news?

Haiven: No, Michal wasn't

Lisa: Why not?

Haiven: Well, if you remember in I Chron 13:3 David says, "Let us bring again the ark of our God to us for we did not seek it in the days of Saul." So to me, it sounds like Michal, just like her father, did not share the spiritual discernment for the importance of the Ark.

Lisa: I see. Well there was more interactions between David and Michal but that is saved for your reading tomorrow. Another thing I was wondering Haiven is why do you specifically have cymbals, instruments, and loaves of bread?

Haiven: These cymbals are because David appointed some Levites and their brothers to not only sing and make joyful music but to pray and give thanks. He wanted to institute a pattern for daily worship.

Lisa: Wow, institute a pattern of daily worship. How insightful you are right now, Haiver

Something I also want to reiterate is that it is really important for us to know as we read this account that the bringing of the Ark into Jerusalem was a worship service that looked and sounded very much like a party. Here they were, bringing the holiest object known to man into Jerusalem -- an object which only a few months before had put fear and terror into the hearts of the whole nation. If you remember in our reading yesterday when David first tried to bring the ark back, Uzzah reached up to touch it on the oxcart and fell dead. The power of God emanated from the Ark. Three months later, after some planning, David got it right on how to best celebrate and

give reverence to the ark. Here is the point- on the holiest possible occasion -- when the very streets of the city were filled with the holy dread of the omnipotent God -- there is dancing and joy. It's a celebration, a party. Worshipping God doesn't mean always being somber and reflective. There is, of course, a place for that, but there is also a time for pure, unmitigated joy and celebration. They also have a place in the worship of God. Sometimes worship means being quiet before God, but sometimes it also means shouting for joy, celebrating -- even dancing!! That is also a part of biblical worship.

Haiven: I have danced in church before.

Lisa: You sure have and I love your free spirit...even if its in the middle of the aisles😊

Now something else I wanted to mention is that some of you may be wondering about these overlapping accounts from Chronicles and Samuel. The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles provide us with an independent account of the same period of time and many of the same events found in the Samuel and Kings accounts. The word "independent" may not be exactly the right word to use here, because in many passages there is a word for word correspondence which suggests that the author of Chronicles either copied those portions from the earlier work of Samuel and Kings, or he used the same sources. This need not trouble us for we have already encountered a very similar phenomenon in the synoptic gospels where Matthew, Mark and Luke often report the very same events but do it from individual and often slightly different perspectives. Just as they cover much of the same material, but write for a different audience and therefore put emphasis on different things in the accounts, so the author of the Chronicles account is writing for a different group of readers than the author of Samuel/Kings.

To close off our reading today, we read through a Psalm- a celebrative song of praise. The passage here reflects a passion of King David that we noted together last week. Remember we said that one of the distinguishing features of this man was his deep-seated desire to see God get as much glory as possible from as many people as possible. The words of the 96th Psalm, which are found in verses 24-25 of I Chronicles 16, are as revealing of the heart of David as any found in Scripture. Listen to them again, "Declare His glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise..."

Here is the point I want to make here: There were many in the Jewish nation of Jesus' day who wanted to keep the God of Israel all to themselves. But according to this verse by David, God's glory was for ALL the nations. The Jews would say 'God is the God of Abraham,' 'and not the God of the Gentiles.' Now it is very true that God chose Abraham and chose to reveal Himself to one tiny little nation, but He was not ONLY for that nation. The great design all along was, as Abraham had known, and David clearly says, was to bless, through Israel, all the nations of the earth -- all the peoples of the world. David knew that His God was a missionary God and David's heart was a missionary heart.

Lisa: So Haiver what can we recap about what we learned today?

Haiven: David valued the Ark of the Covenant - God's presence so much that he threw one HUGE party. He danced and celebrated and asked people to praise God too. What is really cool is that he realized God's glory wasn't just for himself or for Israel but for the whole world!

Lisa: Well Haiven, My takeaway from today is that as followers of Jesus we have been given the constant presence of Himself through His Spirit. This means we ALWAYS have reason to throw a party and celebrate because God is with us. And God is not only with us but His people all over the world.

And because it is April 8<sup>th</sup> that means this is a rap for my accelerators through King David. Tomorrow you are privileged to hear from Klint Bitter, one of our super cool students' pastors at Christ Community Church.

Haiven: Well this is Haiven Ashton and this is Lisa Ashton and together we want to say "The B-I-B-L-E yes that's the book for me, we stand alone on the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E, Bible!

Haiven: Good night!

Lisa: or good morning!

Haiven and Lisa: or good day!