

BEARING THE ARK

2Sa 6:3 They placed the ark of God on a new cart that they might bring it from the house of Abinadab which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were leading the new cart.

David had a noble desire. He wanted to have the Presence of God with Him. He knew the Ark was where the Presence of God resided. He also knew that the Presence of God caused everything to prosper. Wherever the ark was prosperity came to that place. David knew that God's Presence was the key for his success, prosperity, fruitfulness, health, and longevity. He decided to bring the presence of God near to him. Noble idea and desire, but... David chose to go about it all wrong! David had a new cart built for the Ark to carry it to Jerusalem. I am sure this was the finest new cart in all of the land. It probably was made of the finest polished woods. It probably was set with precious stones. David had also readied a great processional and choir for this event. He had the dancers. He had all the right musical instruments. However, the party ended abruptly when the oxen that was pulling the cart stumbled causing the Ark to shift. One of the men driving the cart reached out his hand to steady the Ark and God's anger and holiness struck him dead where he was standing. That put an end to the festivities! David was shocked, afraid, and mad at God. He did not understand why God was not honored by all he had done. He was puzzled why God's Presence could not be carried in this fashion. Hadn't he used a new cart? It was not some old worn out cart. It was new and it was the finest. They had sung great worship songs. They had all the right instruments. They danced with all their might. Why did God not respond? Why was His presence against them instead of for them? The reason, David was to find out, was that God's Presence was being carried wrongly. David had not sought the Lord on how His Presence was to be carried. **David thought God's Presence could be carried by doing it the way he had seen it done before.** David actually did not come up with the new cart idea. He borrowed that idea from somewhere else. Where?

1Sa 6:7 Now therefore, make a new cart, take two milk cows which have never been yoked, and hitch the cows to the cart; and take their calves home, away from them.

1Sa 6:8 *Then take the ark of the Lord and set it on the cart; and put the articles of gold which you are returning to Him as a trespass offering in a chest by its side. Then send it away, and let it go.*

It was a well known story. The ark of God was taken in battle under the reign of the Judge Eli. God allowed His Ark and Presence to be taken by the Philistines because His people had forsaken Him. They thought they could live in sin and still enjoy God's Presence and victory. When the Philistines captured the Ark, they put it in the house of their god Dagon. The Presence of God caused their idol to fall and to break into pieces. The Philistines tried to send the ark around to the different cities of Philistia, but everywhere it went, it caused the people to have hemorrhoids and tumors! The Philistines then decided they would send the Ark back to Israel! They made a new cart for it and placed the Ark on it along with golden images of their tumors and golden rats. Who knows why! The Ark safely returned to Israel on a new cart. David knew this story well. Where did David learn about carrying the Ark on a new cart? **IT WAS FROM THE WORLD!!** David tried to do what the world did and it did not work! Believers were to carry the Ark of His Presence in a different fashion. After God struck down Uzzah for touching the ark, they moved the Ark to a man's house named Obed-Edom.

2Sa 6:11 *The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the Lord blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.*

2Sa 6:12 *Now it was told King David, saying, "The Lord has blessed the house 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 gladness.*

While the Ark of God's Presence was in the house of Obed-Edom God blessed everything he had, so much so, that David heard about it and he knew he must have God's Presence with Him. David finally wised up and sought God on how to carry His Presence and how to experience the Presence of God.

1Ch 15:2 *Then David said, "No one is to carry the ark of God but the Levites; for the LORD chose them to carry the ark of God and to minister to Him forever."*

1Ch 15:11 *Then David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab,*

1Ch 15:12 *and said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' households of the Levites; consecrate yourselves both you and your relatives, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place that I have prepared for it.*

1Ch 15:13 *"Because you did not carry it at the first, the LORD our God made an outburst on us, for we did not seek Him according to the ordinance."*

David sought the Lord on why he failed to bring up the Ark of the Covenant to himself and to Jerusalem. God showed it that the Ark of His Presence but be carried by the priests. The priests had to carry His presence and not any other way. The way to carry the Presence of God has never changed. Only the priests of God can carry the Presence of God. Unfortunately, many in our modern church have not seen this or learned this. They are trying to bear the Presence of God with their new carts. Where do they get their new carts? **FROM THE WORLD!** Many churches are trying to get God to bless their churches by using new programs, new success principles, new technology, and new growth plans. Most of this comes straight from the world. These work in the world, but most do not see that they will not work in the church. These cannot carry the Presence of God. God will not allow them to carry His Presence. If our trust is in what the world finds successful and what they find helpful, then God will not allow it to be successful in the church. Many are seeing the need for God's Presence today. Many are seeking for a revival. However, it will not come in by new programs, new music, new ideas, new technology, or new success principles. There is only one way God's Presence and revival will be experienced. It will only come by the way it always has come. It will only come by being carried by the priests. When individual believers repent and start seeking the face of God for themselves, it is only then that they can carry His Presence. As each believer returns to His Word for themselves and seeks His face in earnest for themselves will the Presence of God be manifested. This

starts from the pulpit to the pew. In the Presence of God on our knees we will receive wisdom, knowledge, direction, and guidance on what to do and how to do it. When we follow that, we will see success, prosperity, fruitfulness, and health in our churches. It is not so much about what we can do to make the church grow or be successful, but whether God's manifest presence is on us and among us causing success! God might lead us to use new technology or a new program, but our trust must not be in them, but only in God's Presence being with us and upon us. Oh, how the church needs to return to the simplicity of seeking God's face personally and simply trusting in His Presence being all we need for all we need. It is time for us priests to carry God's Presence. Get rid of the new cart, we must carry the Presence of God!