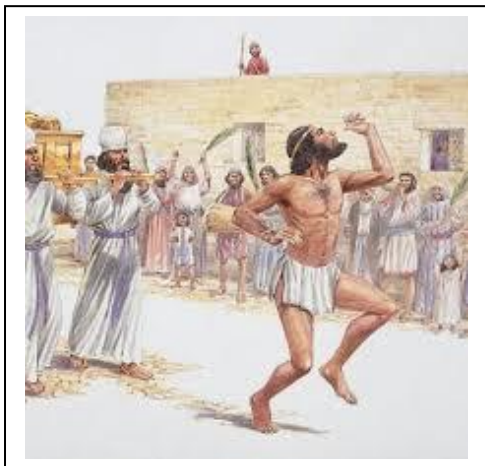


2 Samuel 6. 12-23

See also: Psalms 8, 19, 30, 145

2 Samuel 7. 18-29



**The back story:**

The Ark of the Covenant was captured in battle by the Philistines during the latter part of King Saul's reign. The Ark was in their possession for 7 months (1 Samuel 6:1), but because plagues befell each Philistine city where it was held, they reluctantly returned it to Israel. Disasters continued to befall those who failed to treat the Ark with reverence. Eventually it was brought to the house of Abinadab, a son of King Saul, in Gibeah. Eleazar his son was sanctified to keep guard over the Ark. (1 Samuel 7:1)

Thirteen years later, King Saul was slain by the Philistines in a battle on Mt. Gilboa. Abinadab was also killed in that battle, together with his brother Jonathan. David succeeded Saul as King, and having captured Jerusalem, made it his new capital city, and

decided to bring the Ark there (2 Samuel 5:3-7). This plan was interrupted when a lack of reverence in the handling of the Ark brought further disasters. The verses preceding our passage tell that David was afraid to take the Ark of the Lord to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite, where it remained for three months.

**Lectio:** Read the set passage, 2 Samuel 6. 12-23, first silently, then after a pause to reflect, aloud.

**Explore:**

- What features of this story strike you most? What is your first reaction? Does David's uninhibited, Spirit-filled worship delight and inspire you? Or do you get embarrassed when people get 'carried away' in worship? Have you experienced being completely 'taken over' by the Holy Spirit in worship? Is it OK for us to become 'undignified' in our worship, like David? Take a look at football crowds, and fans at a pop concert. Why don't we get equally excited about Jesus?
- Why did Michal despise David?
- David says 'I will celebrate before the Lord.' Compare Matt Redman's 'It's all about you, Jesus'. What is worship about, for us? Why, fundamentally, do we rejoice in the Lord? See Isaiah 61.10.
- This story shows David worshipping exuberantly, in public. But worship was his daily posture before the Lord, in private as well as in public. Look for example at Psalm 25.
- Read 2 Samuel 7. 18-29 for another dimension of David's worship, as he pours out his heart to the Lord.
- Jesus loved exuberant worship! See Luke 19. 28-40 Some observers on the Day of Pentecost thought the worshipping apostles were drunk (Acts 2. 13). Paul draws the analogy (Ephes. 5.18-20)
- Paul also says: "I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding." (1 Corinthians 14:15.)

**Reflect:** What have you learnt from this series on David?

**Worship:** Read Psalm 145 together. Open yourself to the Holy Spirit, to fill you with joyful worship.

'Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vt8k62M7oBI>