

**LESSON 2**  
September 12, 2021

**Unit I. God's People Offer Praise**  
**Celebrating with Enthusiasm**

**DEVOTIONAL READING:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-9

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:** 2 Samuel 6

**PRINT PASSAGE:** 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-19

## KEY VERSE

David and all the house of Israel played before the Lord on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals. (2 Samuel 6:5, KJV)

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David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals. (2 Samuel 6:5, NIV)

## Lesson Aims

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do these things:

- Explore David's joy and Michal's contempt for him.
- Appreciate many ways to celebrate God's presence.
- Plan celebrations that honor God through praise and worship.

## \*Key Terms

**Ark (verse 4)**—Hebrew: *Aron* (aw-rone'): ark; chest.

**Blessed (verse 18)**—Hebrew: *barak* (baw-rak'): kneeled down; blessed.

**Danced (verse 14)**—Hebrew: *karar* (kaw-rar'): danced; celebrated; "was dancing" (NIV).

**Gathered (verse 1)**—Hebrew: *kanas* (kaw-nas'): collected; assembled; "brought together" (NIV).

**God (verse 3)**—Hebrew: *elohim* (el-o-heem'): God; great; mighty.

**Played (verse 5)**—Hebrew: *nagan* (naw-gan'): touched or played a stringed instrument; "were celebrating" (NIV).

\*(Word Study Supplement—Refer to page 2)

## Introduction

Most of us can recall the "Carlton Dance" made popular by Alfonso Ribeiro on the NBC sitcom *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air* in the early to mid-1990s. When Carlton, the character played



## The Biblical Context

The ark of the covenant represented the presence of God. Israel was commanded by God to observe a set of special rules for handling and transporting the sacred ark (see Exodus 25:12-14). God severely judged the men's decision to ignore His restrictions and to treat the holy ark of the covenant as common cargo (see 2 Samuel 6:3, 6-7; 1 Chronicles 13:5-13). In the second attempt to bring the ark to Jerusalem, David assumed more of a priestly role, offering sacrifices (see 2 Samuel 6:13) and wearing a linen ephod, a garment usually associated with the priesthood (verse 14; see Exodus 20:12; 1 Samuel 2:18; 22:18). The joyous worship celebration included dancing and music from a variety of instruments (see 1 Chronicles 25:1-8; Psalms 149-150).

Following David's coronation as king, the Philistines waged an attack (see 2 Samuel 5:17). David inquired of the Lord whether he should go up against the Philistines. God answered affirmatively and ensured David of victory (verse 18). Again, the Philistines sought to attack Israel (verse 22). When David sought the Lord again, He gave him a plan (which David followed) that resulted in victory over the Philistines (verses 23-25). Against this backdrop the celebration began.

by Ribeiro, would get excited, he would break out with his signature dance moves. Even though his dancing would often embarrass his cousin and other family members and friends, Carlton would carry on with his fun-loving, upbeat dance.

Today's lesson encourages us to reflect on how we respond when we are excited in the Lord and wish to celebrate who He is and what He has done for us. Have you ever celebrated God like King David did in 2 Samuel 6:14-22—with a personal, enthusiastic praise dance? Have you ever danced your dance, like Carlton, in your own way without any regard to what others may say or think?

## ANALYSIS OF THE BIBLICAL TEXT

### Corporate Praise (2 Samuel 6:1-5)

#### KJV

**AGAIN, DAVID** *gathered* together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.

**2** And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.

**3** And they set the ark of *God* upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.

**4** And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the *ark* of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

**5** And David and all the house of Israel *played*

**before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.**

#### NIV

**DAVID AGAIN** *brought together* all the able young men of Israel—thirty thousand.

**2** He and all his men went to Baalah in 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 on the ark.

**3** They set the ark of *God* on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart  
**4** with the *ark* of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it.

**5** David and all Israel *were celebrating* with all their might before the LORD, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals.

David gathered thirty thousand chosen men from Israel (**verse 1**) in preparation for retrieving the ark of the covenant (**verse 2**). Among these were men from Judah (**verse 2**; see also 1 Chronicles 13:6). While the term designates place, it is also an idiom meaning, “Lords of Judah,” referring to the leading men of the land of Judah. These choice men of David lifted the ark of the covenant and set it upon a new cart (**verse 3**). The ark was then taken to Abinadab’s house, where Abinadab’s sons were tasked with driving the cart that carried the ark (**verse 3**). David enlisted key men, a new ride, and a hand-picked family to lead the movement of the ark (**verse 4**). While it may have seemed ideal to bring together the best of what was available, it was not what God had commanded concerning the transportation of the ark. According to the Law of God, Levites were to bear the sacred ark on their shoulders (see Numbers 7:9). No matter what seemed better, more efficient, or reasonable in their own opinion, Israel was obligated to handle sacred things according to God’s command. As the journey began and continued, the people united in joyous, corporate praise of God (**verse 5**). The Bible notes that they praised God with all of their might and with a variety of instruments (**verse 5**). Here is a prime example of corporate praise: everyone is involved and engaged. The Bible does not denote any bystanders and is specific to point out that “all Israel were celebrating” (**verse 5**, NIV). Whenever God does great things for us (whether individually or collectively), we should all rejoice. The sounds and sights of corporate praise are marvelous and encouraging to the soul.

## **Q** WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What are ways that we can ensure that our entire congregation is engaged in worship service? Is it possible?

## **Personal Praise (2 Samuel 6:14-19)**

### **KJV**

**14** And David *danced* before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with 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 trumpet.

**16** And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul’s daughter looked through a 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 his place, in the midst of the

tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he *blessed* the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

19 And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house.

## NIV

14 Wearing a linen ephod, David *was dancing* before the LORD with all his might, 15 while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

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.

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.

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.

After correcting an error in procedure not intent, King David becomes more personally involved in the removal and replacing of the ark of the covenant. This time, there is no mention of choice men or fancy chariots; instead, he gets the right people for the job, following the proper procedures and protocols. The king leads the procession by dancing with all of his might before the Lord while wearing a priestly, linen ephod (**verse 14**). The ephod is much lighter than the one typically worn by the high priest. Additionally, religious dances in honor of national celebrations were often performed by women (note Miriam's actions in last week's lesson; see Exodus 15). King David's initiative in leading this religious celebration showed his personal commitment to the occasion and his strong, personal belief in the spiritual significance of the ark, a symbol of God's very presence. As David danced, all of Israel was gathered together in celebration of the return of the ark to Jerusalem with celebratory shouts and sounds of trumpets (**verse 15**). While all of Israel was gathered and celebrating, David's wife, Michal, Saul's daughter, watched from a window (**verse 16a**). She saw her husband, the king of Israel, leading the procession, "leaping and dancing," in only a linen garment and she held personal contempt against him in her heart (**verse 16b**). Designated men had carefully placed the ark in the place that David had prepared. A tabernacle housed the ark until the sanctuary was built, years later (**verse 17**). David immediately offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord (**verse 17**). While the burnt offerings generally

signified wholehearted devotion to God, the peace offering was often viewed as an extra offering of peace, love, thanksgiving, completing a vow, or freewill offering in fellowship and communion with God (see Leviticus 1; 3; 7; 22). Immediately after the offerings, David, in the role of a priest, blessed the people in the name of the Lord (**verse 18**). David served a meal reminiscent of the Passover meal—bread, meat, and wine (**verse 19**). Personal involvement in praise and worship should build our desire for not only corporate worship, but also for service to humanity. Just as David gave of his surplus to the people, we should strive to give to those we serve in our communities.

## **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

**When was the last time your worship moved or inspired you to extend yourself in serving or giving to others? Share. If you have never been so moved, identify any apprehensions or thoughts that have kept you from participating in worship through personal sacrifice or service.**

## **A Closing Thought**

As King David energetically and eagerly engaged in the worship service for the Lord, we should also be enthusiastic every time we gather to give glory to God. Even if our worship requires us to take an uncomfortable or embarrassing position or role, we should not be ashamed of doing what is necessary to ensure the appropriate honoring of the Lord. God's people are blessed as they engage in worship and acts of benevolence toward others. As they participate, they are more likely to see God more clearly and to serve God more completely.

## **Your Life**

Take a moment to consider your worship experiences at church. What can you do in your private or personal time that will impact and strengthen your corporate worship experiences? Consider developing and maintaining a routine of prayer and daily devotions.

## **Your World!**

Take a moment to consider the ministry activities in which you serve in the local church. How many of them have an impact outside of the church? What can you do to broaden your participation in activities that bless the lives of those outside the walls of the church?

## **Closing Prayer**

Dear Lord, give us an increased focus on worshipping You with joy and enthusiasm. Remove from us a lazy tongue and dry, meaningless routines. Let our every moment with You be fresh and revelatory so that we may grow to become better servants for Your glory. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

## Conclusion

(Preparing for Next Week's Lesson)

While reading the background Scripture, consider this thought: "In what ways do you celebrate expectantly?"

### Home Daily Bible Readings

<b>MONDAY, September 13</b>	"Blind Eyes Shall Be Opened"	(Isaiah 35:1-6)
<b>TUESDAY, September 14</b>	"Declare God's Glory among the Nations"	(Psalm 96)
<b>WEDNESDAY, September 15</b>	"Glory to God's Name Alone"	(Psalm 115:1-3, 9-18)
<b>THURSDAY, September 16</b>	"Only God Is Good"	(Mark 10:17-22)
<b>FRIDAY, September 17</b>	"Greatness through Servanthood"	(Mark 10:42-45)
<b>SATURDAY, September 18</b>	"Praise the Lord, O My Soul!"	(Psalm 146)
<b>SUNDAY, September 19</b>	"Praise God for Healing!"	(Mark 10:46-52)

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