

This week we will study about the Ark of the Covenant and how it was moved to a different location.



Torchlight

"The king had laid aside his royal robes and had attired himself in a plain linen ephod, such as was worn by the priests.... In this holy service he would take his place as, before God, on an equality with his subjects. Upon that day Jehovah was to be adored. He was to be the sole object of reverence."

– Patriarchs & Prophets p. 706-707



The Ark on the Move



SUNDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, Thank You for loving me so much. Thank You that I am able to read so I can read the Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 CHRONICLES 16:8-10

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!"

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 2:8-32
& 3:1



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today tells us that David was king over Judah at Hebron, which was located at the southern part of Israel's territory. Abner made Ishbosheth, who was one of Saul's sons, king to rule over the northern part of Israel at a place called Mahanaim. Abner, who was the commander over Saul's army, had a grudge against David. Do you remember in Devotional 39, when David crept into Saul's encampment and took his water jug and spear, while Abner was fast asleep at his post? Well, David mocked him for not looking after Saul. Because of this Abner, in a spirit of revenge, made Ishbosheth king for his own personal advancement and power, even though he knew David was anointed by God to be the next king. This started a war between the two kingdoms. Our reading also tells us that Abner killed Joab's brother, Asahel, during one of those conflicts. This set up a series of terrible events which we will study about later in this devotional.



Carrying out acts of revenge never ends well. It's better to trust in God and leave it in His hands to 'sort out'. Check out *Proverbs 3:5-8*.

FIND A WORD

In our reading today how many times did the name of the city 'Mahanaim' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





MONDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for my family. Help me to be kind to my brothers and sisters and not argue and fight. Help me to trust You more. Thank You for my Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 CHRONICLES 16:8-10

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!"

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 3:2-39



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

We discover from our reading today that David followed the traditions of the nations around him and chose to have six wives, which gave him six sons. David, now that he was king, also wanted his first wife, Michal back and demanded that Ishbosheth send her to him. *Refer to Devotionals 37 and 38.* This meant David had seven wives. We will study about the consequences of having too many wives in a later devotional.

Ishbosheth was known to be a weak king and Abner, his army commander, grew tired of this and decided to desert him to join David's kingdom. Abner told David he would bring all of Israel back to unite with Judah. David agreed to this without discussing it with his commander Joab. When Joab heard the news, in anger, jealousy and revenge for his brother's blood, he killed Abner. When David heard the news he was very sad. Even though Abner had been an enemy of his for many years David recognised that he was a mighty man and did not want him to die that way. David made Joab, and the entire nation, mourn for Abner. David told the nation that the killing of Abner was not his doing. Re-read verses 36-39. With all the infighting and wars going on between the two kingdoms it put David in a very difficult situation. He decided not to punish his commander Joab but to leave the punishment to God. Israel saw the way David ruled and they liked what they saw. If things are too difficult and complex for you, go to God and pray and ask Him for help and guidance.




FIND A WORD

In our Bible reading today, how many times did the name of the city 'Hebron' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





TUESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dearest Heavenly Father, thank You for all you do for me. Help me to be kind and helpful to someone today. Help me to grow stronger in my faith so I can share Your love with others.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 CHRONICLES 16:8-10

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!"

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 4:1-12
& 5:1-5



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

As a result of the war and infighting between the two kingdoms, King Ishbosheth was killed by two of his captains. The two men, thinking David would reward them for killing his enemy, were badly mistaken. Just as in the situation in Devotional 39, where the man lied about killing Saul because he thought he would be rewarded, these two captains also lost their lives.

Verse 4 tells us something interesting that we will look at a later time. Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, was five years old when his father and grandfather, Saul, died. Mephibosheth's nurse fled with him, along with many others, when they heard the news. In the process, his nurse accidentally dropped him, which resulted in damaging his feet and making him lame.

The last part of our reading today tells us that Israel wanted David to become their king thus uniting Israel and Judah together as one kingdom. So, after seven years of being divided, David began his thirty-three year reign over all of Israel.

David did not want his rulership to be scarred by murders and treachery. Twice David had an opportunity to kill his enemy, Saul, but twice David had refused to kill God's anointed. David had trusted God to take care of his enemies.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times did the name 'Ishbosheth' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





WEDNESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for blessing me and loving me so much. Help me to stand strong for You and not let others lead me astray. Please send me the Holy Spirit to help me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 CHRONICLES 16:8-10

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!"

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Samuel 5:6-25



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today tells us that David and his men conquered Jebus, which was about 32 kilometres north of Hebron. They re-named it Jerusalem, which was also known as the city of David. This was where David would have his headquarters as it was in a good position for all the Israelite tribes to access. Hiram, king of Tyre, wanted to make a peace treaty with David and offered to supply cedar trees and carpenters to build David's palace. Because of David's victory in taking Jebus and forming a peace treaty with the king of Tyre, David became great in the eyes of the people. This caused the Philistines to want to make war with David. The rest of our reading tells us about these wars. In verses 19 and 23, David prayed to God before the battle and because of this God gave him the victory.

Notice in verse 14 that one of David's sons was named Nathan. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was to come from the line of Nathan. You can read about this in *Luke 3:31*.



FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading how many times did the name 'Philistines' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





THURSDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, please forgive me for my sins. Help me to learn from my mistakes and to grow to be more like Jesus. Help me to help others who need encouragement. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 CHRONICLES 16:8-10

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!"

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Chronicles 13:1-14



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

We studied in Devotional 34 that the Philistines stole the Ark and, when it was returned, it was left at the home of Abinadab in Kirjath Jearim. This is where it had remained all this time. Today we read that David consulted with the leaders of Israel and then gathered all the priests and Levites together. David told them he wanted to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. The people agreed with him and went to Kirjath Jearim, which was about 14 kilometres away, to fetch it. The Ark of the Covenant was put on a cart that was pulled by oxen. About half way through the journey the oxen stumbled, which jolted the Ark, so Uzzah (Uzza) put his hand on the Ark thinking it needed to be steadied. But verse 10 tells us that God struck him dead for touching it. David was so shocked and overwhelmed by this event that He was frightened and left the Ark at the home of Obed-Edom where it remained for three months. Verse 14 tells us God blessed this family while it was in their home. During this time David realised that they had moved the Ark by the wrong method. Uzzah should not have touched the Ark even if there was a threat of it moving when the oxen stumbled. God ordained that the Ark was not to be touched by anyone except the High Priest. The High Priest was the one who wrapped the Ark for travelling. No one was even to watch this happen or they would die. The Ark of the Covenant was Holy as it contained God's law, which represented God's character. We will cover more information about the moving of the Ark in tomorrow's devotional. Have a look at *Numbers 4:20* and *Devotional 24*.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times was 'Kirjath Jearim' mentioned?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





FRIDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for keeping me safe this week. Help me to prepare for the Sabbath today and give me a joyful and cheerful heart. I love you, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 CHRONICLES 16:8-10

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!"

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Chronicles 15:2-4, 12-16
& 2 Samuel 6:13-23



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

We discover in our reading today that the Ark of the Covenant was to be moved by the Levites, as God had stipulated in the book of Numbers. The Levites were to sanctify themselves first, meaning they had to seek forgiveness for their sins, as the Ark was Holy. Uzzah died not only because he touched the Ark, as discussed yesterday, but also because he had sins he had not confessed to God. The Ark of the Covenant was not to be transported by a cart but to be carried upon the shoulders of the Levites by poles that were attached to the sides of the Ark. This allowed them to carry the Ark without touching it. Have a look at *Numbers 4:15* and *Numbers 7:9*.

Our reading in 2 Samuel tells us that the Ark of the Covenant came into Jerusalem with great celebration. David wore a simple linen ephod (a type of priestly apron) and praised God while he led the procession. He had laid his kingly robes and crown aside to show his people that this day was not about him, as Israel's king, but about the worship of God. This his wife, Michal, could not understand. She thought that this act was too humble for the king of Israel and she rebuked her husband. Because of Michal's attitude towards David, verse 23 tells us that she never had any children with him. The Ark of the Covenant was placed in a special tent in the city of Jerusalem that David had prepared for it.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times was the name 'Levites' used?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





SABBATH

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for the blessing of another Sabbath Day. Help me to learn something new about You today. Thank You for my family. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 CHRONICLES 16:8-10

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!"

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Chronicles 16:7-43



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Our reading today tells us of a Psalm, or song, composed by David for the special event of bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Our memory verse for this week comes from this song. You can also find part of this song in Psalm 105:1-15. This Psalm is a song of praise to God for all He had done for the Children of Israel and what He has done for us as well. David wrote many Psalms like this one, which were to be sung in the sanctuary service to draw people closer to God. Our reading from verse 37 onwards talks about the two places of worship. One was the original sanctuary from Moses' time. It was at Gibeon a short distance away. The other was the Ark of the Covenant, which was in it's own tent in Jerusalem. David made sure both were looked after by the Levites and regular worship was maintained.



SABBATH QUIZ

1. What was the name of the city that king Ishbosheth had as his headquarters? _____
2. How many years did David rule in Judah? _____
3. What was the city of Jerusalem also known as? _____
4. Who was the king who helped David build his palace in Jerusalem? _____
5. Who was the man who died for touching the Ark of the Covenant? _____