

IS THERE A PLACE FOR ARC? - I Sam. 7: 1-2 2 Samuel 6: 10-12

THE ARC - It refers to the visible glory of God dwelling in the midst of his people.

- Israel was far from the Lord. Eli, the priest had judge the nation, but not his sons. Israel was under the oppression of the Philistines.
- The death of Eli's two sons Hophni and Phinehas and the birth of Icabod, his grandson – The glory had departed from Israel.
- The Philistines placed the Ark in the temple of Dagon. The Philistine saw their false god twice bow down before the ark without the head and hands –
- They had been punished by God with a plague of rats and haemorrhoids and commanded by their magicians to take the ark back, after seven months (1 Sm. 5 and 6: 1)

So, the Ark went to Beth-shemesh. (God then wounded some of its inhabitants, because they looked inside the Ark).

“Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. (1 Sam. 7: 1-2)

I. FOR TWENTY YEARS WITH THE ARK OF GOD INSIDE THE HOUSE OF ABINADAB, AND THERE WAS NO CHANGE. WHY? WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM?

UZZAH AND AHIO MIGHT HAD BEEN ABINADAB GRANDCHILDREN, SONS OF PHINEIAS

- *2 Samuel 6: 1-7 ³ So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new ^[c]cart.”*
- And Uzzah was also the son of Abinadab. He had certainly grown up with the Ark in his house. Twenty years of coexistence. The ark for him was just another piece of furniture.
- There was no fear or no reverence from the children for the holiness of the Lord
 - *Numbers 7: 9 ⁹ But Moses did not give any to the Kohathites, because they were to carry on their shoulders the holy things, for which they were responsible.*

- *Numbers 3: 31³¹ They were responsible for the care of the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the articles of the sanctuary used in ministering, the curtain, and everything related to their use.*

HOW IS THE ARC OF THE LORD IN YOUR HEART?

ARE YOU ADOPTING PHILISTINE CUSTOMS?

LET'S LOOK IN THE LIFE OF A MAN WHO HAD JESUS NOT JUST AS SAVIOR BUT ALSO AS LORD.

II. A NEW HOME FOR THE LORD'S ARK

- *II Samuel 6: 10-11 "So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. 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."*

III. A NEW STORY – A NEW CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TWO MEN

- *"¹² Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing (II Sm 6:12).*

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE HOUSE OF OBED EDOM THAT DID NOT IN THE HOUSE OF ABINADAB?

- THE CHARACTER OF SERVANTHOOD OF OBEDE EDOM
- IF JESUS IS JUST YOUR SAVIOUR WOULD BE NO DESIRE TO SERVE. HE MUST BE LORD AS WELL!

THE BREAK OF PARADIGMS: The name Obed-Edom Servant of Edom or Serving Edom.

AN ISRAELI SERVING THE EDOMITAS - JACOB SERVING ESAU

- And the children fought within it; then said: If this be so, why am I so? And went to ask the Lord.
- *And the LORD said unto him, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger." Genesis 25: 22,23*

- *His father Isaac answered him, "May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. Genesis 27: 39,40*

What David and all the people did not know was that God had a plan in the life of Obed-Edom. Three months went by, and good news came in the ears of David:

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IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT HIS BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS THE ARC WAS DIFFERENT

(Jesus was not only Saviour, but He was Lord as well)

But when the Ark came into the house of Obed-Edom, he valued greatly the Shekinah of God, placing it in a prominent place.

Probably, when arriving from work he would look, and pray to the God of Israel before the Ark, and whenever he passed through his living room there it was, the presence of God right in the middle of his hall. There was a great reverence for the Shekinah of the Lord in the house of Obed-Edom, something we no longer see so often in the midst of churches in our days.

There are churches currently that look like the house of Amminadab. The presence of God is there, but they spend twenty years without realizing or enjoying its blessings.

Others are like the house of Obed-Edom. They rejoice all the time in the presence of the Lord and prosper, not because of their work, but because of the Lord's wonderful grace.

WHERE AND HOW WAS HE BLESSED?

- *The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house for three months, and the LORD blessed his **household and everything he had..** 1 Chronicles 13:14*

1. Blessings his marriage - End sterility

The first blessing was the restoration of his marriage and his relationship with his wife. The home where God is present, the family is happy!

- *Obed-Edom also had sons: Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sakar the fourth, Nethanel the fifth, Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh and Peullethai the eighth. (For God had blessed Obed-Edom.) 1 Chronicles 26: 4-5*

His family has been restored.

- Now they love, they forgive, they serve each other.

The first month was beautiful because God reconciled the life of Obed-Edom and his wife.

The love, romantic and sexual life of that couple is shaken by the presence of God. Before, all he felt for his wife was pity, contempt, indifference, now extreme love begin to reborn between the two.

And Obed-edom begins to revere the GLORY OF THE LORD even more in his house.

2. Material blessings

- *1 Chron. 13: 14 "The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house for three months, and the LORD blessed his household **and everything he had.**"*

The animals of Obed and his crops; His animals began to reproduce and multiplying beautiful and strong, and his crops multiplying and prosperity came to his house.

Obed-Edom comes home with a bag full of wheat and a lamb in his arms. His wife seeing it asks: What is this, love? AND HE ANSWERS: IT CAN ONLY BE THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD!

3. Spiritual Blessings

In the third month, Obed was full of the joy of the Lord.

- *1 Chronicles 26: 8 "Concerning the divisions of the gatekeepers: All these were descendants of Obed-Edom; they and their sons and their relatives were capable men with the strength to do the work—descendants of Obed-Edom, 62 in all.*

In the third month an extraordinary love invaded the hearts of Obed-Edom and his wife, for they could no longer get out of the Lord's Ark, and at that moment God began to change their spiritual life.

THERE WAS A SPECIAL LOVE IN THE HEART OF OBEDE-EDOM THAT LACKED
IN THE HEART OF ABINADABE. LET'S SEE HIS HEART

OBED'S DECISION - I COULD NOT LIVE FAR FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.

When Jesus is Lord we can't live far from Him. We want to be close to Him

HE MIGHT HAVE SAID TO DAVID: MY KING! THE ARK OF THE LORD GOES WITH YOU, BUT I WILL GO WITH THE ARK.

a) HE WAS APPOINTED THE TABENACLE DOORKEEPER-

- *¹⁷ So the Levites appointed Heman son of Joel; from his relatives, Asaphson of Berekiah; and from their relatives the Merarites, Ethan son of Kushaiah;... Obed-Edom and Jeiel,^[c] the gatekeepers. 1 Chronicles 15: 17,18*
- *"_Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God." Psalm 84:10*

He so loved the presence of the Lord that he asked to be near the Ark. And his wish was granted.

b) HE PLAYED IN THE LORD'S CHOIR

I Chr 15: 19 a 21 - 1 Chronicles 16: 5 ⁵ Asaph was the chief, and next to him in rank were Zechariah, then Jaaziel,^[b] Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-Edom and Jeiel. They were to play the lyres and harps, Asaph was to sound the cymbals,

Do not despise your occupation, even if it seems to you the least, for the growth will come only through your fidelity to the Lord.

c) HE CAME EVEN CLOSER: THE ARK DOORKEEPER

"Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah and Eliezer the priests were to blow trumpets before the ark of God. Obed-Edom and Jehiah were also to be **doorkeepers for the ark.**" 1 Chronicles 15:24.

Now he is not just a musician and doorman in the Tabernacle, but he is the keeper of the Ark. He still to get promoted.

While the Ark was in the Tabernacle he would be there, and when it was carrying by the Levites, Obed would be either in front or in the back of it.

He was at all times near to what changed his life once and for all, the PRESENCE OF THE LORD.

d) A POSTERITY KEEPER OF GOD'S TREASURY

- *2 Chr 25: 24 "He took all the gold and silver and all the articles found in the temple of God that had been in the care of Obed-Edom, together with the palace treasures and the hostages, and returned to Samaria."*

The trust of a worshiper is priceless, for we see that Obed-Edom's POSTERITY became the treasurers of the gold and silver of the temple. According to studies the treasury of the Lord's Sanctuary that was under the responsibility of Obed-Edom's household corrected for our days would amount to about \$ 3,000,000,000.00 (three billion dollars).

WHEN JESUS IS OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD, HIS PRESENCE IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE BLESSINGS

THE BOY AND THE HIVE – When I was seven I lived with my aunt for a while. My cousins had a bee hive for a number of years, but they had gone from their backyard. One day, someone told them of a bee hive in a cement post near home. They got a big box, placed sugar inside with some aromatic herbs and went to get it. Arriving there, they approach the box on a hole in the post and dozens of bees started to enter inside. Few minutes later, a young boy also came with a small box to get the bees as well. Being young and alone, my cousins kicked him out and would not allow him to get close to us. Sometime later, the box was full of bees, and we left from the place. My cousins placed the box in a shelter in the backyard where they had the former hive. It was a great joy to us all with the expectation of eating the honey in a near future. But, few days later, the bees started to leave the box and suddenly there was none left. Questions came to us all why would they live? But, we got no answered. Weeks after, we were walking nearby, and we met the boy. He was very happy and told us his story. He said, that after we left with the bees, he took his small box and placed near the hole. There was no noise of any bees inside, however said he, a big bee entered his box with a few others. He left to his home with his catch. Little time later, his backyard had a full bee hide. And he finished his testimony saying:

”

You filled your box with the bees, but you forgot the most important one; the queen!

That story had spoken some much to me. We have to be careful in this world, so that we filled our hearts and homes with things, but ended up forgetting the most important

person: THE Only KING, JESUS CHRIST! That was exactly what happened with the Laodicea church

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” Revelation 3: 20

- WHO IS JESUS FOR YOU? JUST YOUR SAVIOUR OR ALSO YOUR LORD?
- WHERE IS JESUS IN YOUR HEART? IS HE IN A SMALL CORNER OR HE HAS THE MOST PROMINENT PLACE?
- LET'S REMOVE FROM OUR HEARTS OTHER ARKS
- LET'S GIVE A PLACE OF HONOR TO THE LORD
- LET'S NOT JUST ENJOY THE BLESSINGS. LETS ENJOY THE PRESENCE OF THE BLESSED ONE