

Worship Series

“The Heart of Worship”

2 Chronicles 20:22 ESV At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, “the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed”

vv. 28-30 NLT tells us that Jehoshaphat led his victorious army of singers, dancers, musicians and soldiers back home: They marched into Jerusalem to the music of harps, lyres, and trumpets, and they proceeded to the Temple of the Lord. **29** When all the surrounding kingdoms heard that the Lord himself had fought against the enemies of Israel, the fear of God came over them. **30** So Jehoshaphat’s kingdom was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.

Laus Deo – Praise Be to God!

WORSHIP - Starts First with the Heart!

In Acts 13 The Paul is sharing His Jesus story with some Gentiles and Jews in the Synagogue in Antioch:

Acts 13:22 NKJV When King Saul was removed then God “... raised up for them David as king... a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.”

When all the debate was finished James – sitting in the seat of authority, knowing he had to bring a judgement and He says this:

Acts 15:12-17 NKJV Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles. **13** And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, “Men and brethren, listen to me: **14** Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. **15** And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: **16** ‘After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; **17** So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name

Amos 9:11-13 NKJV Amos 9:11NKJV “On that day I will raise up. The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old... **12** That they may possess the remnant of Edom, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,” Says the LORD who does this thing. **13** “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it.

What made David’s Tabernacle so special? ----- It starts with the “Ark of the Covenant”

There was a time when God decided to deliver the Jews from slavery in Egypt. He did this because he made a covenant promise to father of the Jewish nation, Abraham.

Once God delivered the Jews from Egypt through Moses, He gave them the 10 commandments on tablets of stone and God established a worship center in the heart of the Israelite community. **This was called the Tabernacle of Moses.** Here God established a Priesthood from the tribe of Levi and he gave detailed instructions on how to atone for sinful behavior and how to worship God... all centering around the Tabernacle of Moses.

This Tabernacle had 3 Areas and some dividing partitions. Outer area, A holy place, The Holy of Holies.

Inside the Holy of Holies was the "Ark of the Covenant". A golden chest that contained the Stone Tablets with the 10 commandments (rep covenant) and the top area of it was called the Mercy Seat.

This thing was so holy and so special because it represented God's Abiding Presence.... God's manifested presence... His Authority (commandments) His Love (mercy Seat)

When they traveled they carried the Ark of the Covenant with poles on the shoulders of the Priest. and It was as though God's presence went before them and their enemies were defeated.

Only the High Priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holiness once a year on the day of Atonement, to sprinkle some blood on the Mercy Seat to atone for the nations sins. He had to wear certain clothes and he had to wash in certain way. Historians say they tied a rope to his ankle in case he died they could drag his body out.

The Tabernacle of Moses was eventually set up at Shiloh and there they worshiped God and the High Priest atoned for sins for 100's of years.

The Fascinating Story of David's Tabernacle:

Over time the Nation turned away from God. (In 1 Samuel)The High Priest 98yr old Eli, had to corrupt sons: Hophni and Phineas. These 2 sons were wicked, stealing God's money, practicing sexual sin in the tabernacle and oppressing God's people. Talk about corruption.... this was religious corruption

1 Sam 4 – Israel is under attack from the Philistines.

(v. 2) The Israelite army goes out to battle and they suffer terrible casualties... 4000 men are killed.

1 Sam 4:3 NKJV And when the people had come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, “Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies.”

They did it... Phineas and Hophni take the Ark of God's Presence out to the battle, treating it like it was a holy good luck charm (when people don't have relationship they rely on symbols) and when it arrived the soldiers are so excited they shouted... loudly. The shout was so loud that it terrified the Philistines.

1 Sam 4:10-11 it scared the Philistines so much they fought extra hard! v **10** So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent. There was a very great slaughter, and there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. **11** Also the ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

v.17,18 So a messenger from the battle told Eli, “Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead; and the ark of God has been captured.” **18** Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died.

When Eli's daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, heard the news that her husband, father in law was dead. and the Ark was stolen she went into premature labor and gave birth.... she named the son Ichabod “the glory has departed”

The Tabernacle of Moses never again had the Ark returned! it carried on without the Presence of God!

From Saul to David – after all this occurred Israel suffered from the Philistines! Hated the Jews!

King (1 Sam 8): Israel suffers defeat over and over again and then they beg for a King. They want a political answer. If we had the right person in power leading our nation.

God warned them... A King is going to bring big government and high taxes... take your sons for wars... don't do it! They refused to listen to the prophet... they said, we want to be like all the other nations! (8:20)

King Saul's reign was a mess. Power went to his head.... he turned away from God and went crazy. The tabernacle is still functioning without the Ark of God's Presence!

Then David came to power and he brought the nation back to God.

- 1) King David united the nation.
- 2) He recaptured Jerusalem from the Jebusites and made it the capital.

- 3) He was eager to make Jerusalem the center of worship but he could not do that without the Ark of the Covenant. It had been missing for 100 years.
 - a) He invited all the Levites and Priest to come join him... he promoted the praisers, musicians,
 - b) He sent out a team to find the Ark. He did what Saul never did! 1 Chronicles 13:3 NIV Let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we did not inquire of it during the reign of Saul."
- 4) He brings back the Ark with much celebration

1 Chronicles 15:14-16 ESV So the priests and the Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel. **15** And the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord. **16** David also commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their brothers as the singers who should play loudly on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise sounds of joy

1 Chronicles 15:28,29 ESV So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting, to the sound of the horn, trumpets, and cymbals, and made loud music on harps and lyres. **29** And as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David dancing and celebrating, and she despised him in her heart. (he embarrassed her)

1 Chronicles 16:1 And they brought in the ark of God and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God.

16:4 Then he appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the Lord, to invoke, to thank, and to praise the Lord, the God of Israel.

What was so Special About David's Tabernacle? It represented the Heart of Worship

The Heart of Worship

- 1) The Heart of a Worshiper wants God's presence nearby.
- 2) The Heart of a Worshiper refuses to let others hinder their worship.

2 Sam 6:20-23 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, (*you should be ashamed of yourself ...*) **21** So David said to Michal, "*It was before the Lord, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel. Therefore, I will play music before the Lord.* **22** And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor."**23** Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

3) The Heart of a Worshiper overcomes the condemnation of His Past.

a) David made lots of mistakes. Some with good intentions and some without.

i) His sloppiness in handling the ark cost Uzzah his life.

ii) His sin with Bathsheba cost him more than he wanted to pay.

b) Even still, David is called the Man after God's Own Heart.

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

4) The Heart of a Worshiper will usher in a new move of God's rule.

a) The prophecy of Amos was partially fulfilled in the days of the Early Church... We are living in the days of its full fulfillment

b) Amos 9:11NKJV "On that day I will raise up. The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old... 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name," Says the LORD who does this thing. 13 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it.

The days of a great harvest is coming.

This will be the days of a continual harvest.

Planters will be planting and will be overtaken by the reapers.

The gentiles will be coming to the Lord all over the world .

Because the Church has become a worshiping church and the Presence and the Power of God will be in her midst!

Jesus will be lifted up instead of dead religion and the multitudes will be harvested!