Obed-Edom: Legacy Of Service To God

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday June 21st, 2020

Text: II Samuel 6; I Chronicles 13:13-14; 26:4-8

Intro

1. The Ark of the Covenant was coming to Jerusalem! What a day of rejoicing!
2. After it came from captivity of the Philistines *(I Sam. 5-7)* it rested at the house of Abinadab at Kiriath-Jearim for a long time! *(I Sam. 7:2)*
   1. The 20 years mentioned seemed to be from that time till when Samuel was old enough to judge Israel *(I Sam. 7:3-17)*
   2. Some estimates say at least 70-100 years: From the battle with the Philistines that ended the career of Eli as Judge, through Samuel’s Judging, Saul’s 40 year-reign to the first year of David as king over all Israel (He had reigned in Judah for 7 years before that).
3. David went to Abinadab’s house to take the ark to Jerusalem! *(II Sam. 6:1-4)*
   1. *I Chr. 13:1-4:* David had consulted with all the people and laid out his plan: Place the ark on a new cart, instead of Levites carrying it. All the people, even the Levites and priests, said it was the right thing to do!
4. A day of celebration, of shouting, cheers, praises to God, gladness and singing was turned to gloom, sadness and fear when the ark cart stumbled and Uzzah reached out to steady it and was struck down by God! *(II Sam. 6:5-7)*
5. David was angry because the Lord struck Uzzah *(II Sam. 6:8)*
6. David wondered how he could bring the ark into the city *(II Sam. 6:9)*
7. David was unwilling to move it further so it went to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite (II Sam. 6:10)
   1. Obed-Edom was a Levite of the family of Merari *(I Chr. 15:6, 17-18),* and later one of the gatekeepers of the ark *(I Chr. 15:18, 24).*
   2. He was called the Gittite because he was from the Levitical city of Gath Rimmon *(Joshua 21:24).*
   3. Gittite was the name for a resident of Gath, either the Philistine city *(Joshua 13:3),* like Ittai the Gittite *(II Sam. 15:19),* or the Levitical city of Gath Rimmon *(Joshua 21:24),* which seems the most likely for Obed-Edom since he was a Levite!
8. King David stops at the home of Obed-Edom! Imagine that meeting! The ark stayed with him and his family for 3 months! (II Sam. 6:11) – The king wasn’t asking him to take care of a pet!
   1. The ark was understood to contain the presence of God! *(Lev. 16:2; Num. 7:89)*
   2. The ark was covered in gold and contained the two tablets of the ten commandments, the staff of Aaron that budded, a golden jar of manna, and had contained the glory of God between the cherubim on the mercy seat! *(Heb. 9:4-5; Ex. 25:21-22)*
9. Obed-Edom held the ark in his home for 3 months and God blessed them! (II Sam. 6:11)
10. Obed-Edom Welcomed God Into His House
    1. They walked with, they talked with, ate with, and communed with God for 3 months!
    2. Fathers are to train their children in God’s word
       1. Deut. 4:10; 6:7; 11:19: Under the Law of Moses they were to teach their children God’s words, “talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up.”
       2. Eph. 6:4: Under the New Covenant (with better promises – Heb. 8:6) fathers are to “bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
    3. Obed-Edom set the right example for his family in welcoming God in his house!
11. Obed-Edom Willingly Rejoiced in the Lord
12. David heard how God had blessed the house of Obed-Edom for the 3 months they kept the ark. He determined to bring it up to Jerusalem (II Sam. 6:12-15).
13. David called all the leaders of the people together and told them why the first attempt failed: They didn’t do it right, according to the word of God! He reminded them only the Levites could carry the ark, specifically, the Kohathites had to carry it on their shoulders! (*I Chr. 15:1-15)*
14. I Chr. 15:16-18: David appointed Levite singers to go before the ark! Obed-Edom (one of the gatekeepers, 15:24) was a singer (15:18)!
15. I Chr. 15:19-21: The appointed singers also played instruments: cymbals, harps, and lyres. Obed-Edom was a singer who played the lyre (15:21)!
16. I Chr. 15:25, 28: The ark was brought up to Jerusalem with shouting and rejoicing! They were celebrating, singing, and playing instruments to praise God! What a joyous occasion! A day to be remembered!
    1. There is harmonious joy when God’s people obey the word of the Lord!
17. I Chr. 16:4-5: Obed-Edom was among some of the Levites David appointed to “celebrate and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel.”
18. Obed-Edom was a man who readily rejoiced in the Lord!
19. Obed-Edom Guarded the Things of God
    1. He was a gatekeeper of the ark of the covenant. Assigned the task to guard and protect the ark! (I Chr. 15:24)
       1. David assigned Obed-Edom to be a gatekeeper, a protector of the ark, tasked with guarding the things of God! (I Chr. 16:37-38)
       2. He cared about that box overlaid with gold and the things inside: the two tablets of stone bearing the ten commandments, the budded staff of Aaron and the jar of manna.
       3. He cared about the mercy seat that represented the presence of God with His people.
    2. He was a blessed man (II Sam. 6:11) – Not just physically but spiritually!
       1. I Chr. 26:4-8: Because he was a man who welcomed God into his house, rejoiced in the Lord, and guarded the things of the Lord, God blessed him with 8 sons and 62 grandchildren (26:8) – Physical blessings!
       2. His sons and their sons were mighty men of valor (26:6) and valiant men (26:7)
       3. His sons and their descendants were able men to serve God with strength! (26:8) – Spiritual blessings!
          1. ESV: “…able men qualified for the service…”
          2. NET: “They and their sons and relatives were respected men, capable of doing their responsibilities.”
    3. Obed-Edom’s legacy was a family who loved the Lord & were qualified for His service!
20. Fathers Like Obed-Edom Are Needed Today!
    1. Father’s Day reminds us to honor our fathers!
    2. Our country and the world we live in makes it hard to find good fathers!
       1. In our country there are more than 20 million homes without fathers! (There are probably more than that where the father may be present but is emotionally absent!) – About 1 in 4 children live in a home without a dad!
          1. <http://fathers.com/statistics-and-research/the-extent-of-fatherlessness/>
          2. <https://www.fatherhood.org/fatherhood-data-statistics#:~:text=There%20is%20a%20father%20absence,a%20father%20in%20the%20home>.
       2. 40-50% of marriages in the U.S. end in divorce! (Divorce numbers in recent years have declined – but so have marriages!)
          1. <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/marriage-divorce-rates-by-state.html>
          2. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/marriage-divorce.htm#:~:text=Number%20of%20divorces%3A%20782%2C038%20(45,45%20reporting%20States%20and%20D.C.)>
          3. <https://www.apa.org/topics/divorce/>
       3. Less marriages are taking place and more than 40% of births in the U.S. are born out of wedlock! (“Non-marital childbearing”)
          1. <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/marriage-divorce-rates-by-state.html>
          2. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/third-rail/episodes/episode-7-is-marriage-dead/why-are-fewer-people-getting-married/#:~:text=Now%20only%20about%20two%20million,from%2070%20percent%20in%201967.>
          3. <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/dramatic-increase-in-percentage-of-births-outside-marriage-among-whites-hispanics-and-women-with-higher-education-levels#:~:text=Among%20the%20most%20notable%20changes,(Child%20Trends%2C%202016)>.
    3. There is a need for fathers like Obed-Edom to train up their children to be “able (or qualified) for the service” of God! (I Chr. 26:8)
       1. It is getting harder and harder to find men willing to serve: preachers, teachers, elders and deacons!
       2. We need men who are “able to serve”
       3. We need fathers to teach their sons to want to welcome God in their homes, to rejoice in God, and guard the things of God!
       4. We need fathers to train up their sons (and daughters) to want to serve God!
    4. We need men who become able fathers to rise up and raise able & godly children!
    5. How?
    6. Fathers, be like Obed-Edom!
       1. Welcome God into your home (Obed-Edom gladly took the ark into His home)
          1. It starts in the home – Prov. 1:7; 24:3-4
          2. We need to teach our children to love God with all that we are and to love our neighbors like ourselves – Mark 12:30-31
          3. In our home, we need to talk about the wisdom and love of God (not just at services and Bible classes!)
       2. Rejoice in the Lord (Obed-Edom was a singer and lyre player before the ark)
          1. When our children ask us why we sing, or why we are excited to go to services, tell them because of all that God has done for us!
          2. God sent His Son to die for our sins and give us hope to live in Heaven for all eternity with Him! (Rom. 5:6-10; John 14:1-6)
          3. Be excited to serve God!
       3. Guard the things of God (Obed-Edom guarded the ark of the Covenant)
          1. Our families have been entrusted to us – our children are a gift from God (Psalms 127:3-5)
          2. Guard, protect and train them to choose their friends wisely – I Cor. 15:33
          3. Guard what God has given to you – I Tim. 6:20-21
             1. Your family, wife & children are gifts from God!
          4. Teach your family to defend the faith – Jude 3
    7. Godly fathers must recognize the value in raising their children to love God, and know that they can’t raise their children the way the world raises its children!

Conclusion

1. Fathers, welcome God in your homes, rejoice in the Lord, and guard the things of God!
2. With God in your home, you will raise up your children differently from the world, and they may rise up to be able (qualified) to serve God!
3. Let your family see your excitement to serve God and they too may rejoice in Him!
4. If not obeyed Christ yet, repent, be baptized, and hold fast to His word!
5. If a Christian, let your life show it – live *for* Him now so you may ever live *with* Him!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!