

The Blessing of Obed-Edom **(June 30, 2019 by Rev. Anthony Menzel)**

The title of today's message is "The Blessing of Obed-Edom."

What that means will become clear by the end of today's sermon...

I was originally going to preach about enjoying the desert, a very powerful topic...

I feel like the Lord Jesus is leading me to preach about that topic next Sunday, however, because this week we need to consecrate our new meeting place...

So we have a powerful message awaiting us today and next week...

1) As part of this consecration, I want to thank the X. family for opening their home to the church...

2) I also want to say that you have to know how to handle the Presence of the Lord...

It is very special...

This family is a very special family...

For they have been chosen by the Lord Jesus to house our church...

In the early church, churches sometimes met in people's houses...

Scripture 1: Romans 16:3-5

³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. ⁵ Likewise *greet* the church that is in their house.

Today there are still house churches around the world, especially in countries with persecution...

So what we are doing by meeting in a house is Biblical...

It is nothing new...

It actually helps us to grow spiritually by teaching us part of what our persecuted brothers and sisters go through...

3) I also feel led to mention that today the Holy Spirit lives inside of us as followers of Jesus Christ...

Scripture 2: 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who commanded light

to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Cast Down but Unconquered

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Scripture 3: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone ^[b]defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

4) In the Old Testament, the Presence of God was concentrated inside of the ark of the covenant...

Scripture 4: Exodus 25:10-16

¹⁰ “And they shall make an ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits *shall be* its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. ¹¹ And you shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it a molding of gold all around. ¹² You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put *them* in its four corners; two rings *shall be* on one side, and two rings on the other side. ¹³ And you shall make poles *of* acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. ¹⁴ You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. ¹⁵ The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. ¹⁶ And you shall put into the ark the Testimony which I will give you. It was placed in the holiest place in the temple...

Scripture 5: Exodus 26:1, 31-35

“Moreover you shall make the tabernacle *with* ten curtains *of* fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*; with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them.

³¹ “You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim. ³² You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks *shall be* gold, upon four sockets of silver. ³³ And you shall hang the

veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy *place* and the Most Holy. ³⁴ You shall put the mercy seat upon the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy. ³⁵ You shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand across from the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south; and you shall put the table on the north side.

There was a time in Israel's history when the ark of God was taken by their enemies...

When their enemies put the ark in the temple of the demon they worshipped, God punished them, and they eventually sent the ark back to Israel...

However, the Israelites did not place it back in a tabernacle... It stayed in a place called Kirjath Jearim...

Scripture 6: 1 Samuel 6:17-21

¹⁷ These *are* the golden tumors which the Philistines returned as a trespass offering to the LORD: one for Ashdod, one for Gaza, one for Ashkelon, one for Gath, one for Ekron; ¹⁸ and the golden rats, *according to* the number of all the cities of the Philistines *belonging to* the five lords, *both* fortified cities and country villages, even as far as the large *stone of* Abel on which they set the ark of the LORD, *which stone remains* to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh.

¹⁹ Then He struck the men of Beth Shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. [d]He struck fifty thousand and seventy men of the people, and the people lamented because the LORD had struck the people with a great slaughter.

The Ark at Kirjath Jearim

²⁰ And the men of Beth Shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? And to whom shall it go up from us?" ²¹ So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath Jearim, saying, "The Philistines have brought back the ark of the LORD; come down *and* take it up with you."

Scripture 7: 1 Samuel 7:1-2

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.

Samuel Judges Israel

² So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

When David became king, he made a place for the ark of God in Jerusalem...

The first time he tried to bring to Jerusalem was a failure...

Scripture 8: 1 Chronicles 13

Then David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, *and* with every leader. ² And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If *it seems* good to you, and if it is of the LORD our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere *who are* left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites *who are* in their cities *and* their common-lands, that they may gather together to us; ³ and let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we have not inquired at it since the days of Saul." ⁴ Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

⁵ So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor in Egypt to as far as the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim. ⁶ And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, ^[a] to Kirjath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who dwells *between* the cherubim, where *His* name is proclaimed. ⁷ So they ^[b]carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. ⁸ Then David and all Israel played *music* before God with all *their* might, with ^[c]singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets.

⁹ And when they came to ^[d]Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen ^[e]stumbled. ¹⁰ Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God. ¹¹ And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzza; therefore that place is called ^[f]Perez Uzza to this day. ¹² David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God to me?"

¹³ So David would not move the ark with him into the City of David, but took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. ¹⁴ The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that he had.

The things of God generally require perseverance...

Scripture 9: Matthew 24:13

But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

When the Presence of God is handled with respect, care, and humility, then God pours out His blessings in His perfect time...

Scripture 10: Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

Scripture 11: 1 Chronicles 15:1-3, 11-28

David built houses for himself in the City of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it. ² Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever." ³ And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it.

¹¹ And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. ¹² He said to them, "You *are* the heads of the fathers' *houses* of the Levites; [b]sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to *the place* I have prepared for it. ¹³ For because you *did* not *do it* the first *time*, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him [c]about the proper order."

¹⁴ So the priests and the Levites [d]sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. ¹⁵ And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.

¹⁶ Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren *to be* the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy. ¹⁷ So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of

Kushaiah; ¹⁸ and with them their brethren of the second *rank*: Zechariah, [e]Ben, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, the gatekeepers; ¹⁹ the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, *were* to sound the cymbals of bronze; ²⁰ Zechariah, [f]Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with strings according to Alamoth; ²¹ Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah, to direct with harps on the Sheminith; ²² Chenaniah, leader of the Levites, was instructor *in charge of* the music, because he *was* skillful; ²³ Berechiah and Elkanah *were* doorkeepers for the ark; ²⁴ Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, were to blow the trumpets before the ark of God; and Obed-Edom and Jehiah, doorkeepers for the ark.

²⁵ So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom with joy. ²⁶ And so it was, when God helped the Levites who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bulls and seven rams. ²⁷ David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master *with* the singers. David also wore a linen ephod. ²⁸ Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps.

I want to pray a special blessing over the X Family for opening their home to our church...

They have become the Obed-Edom of Abundant Love...

Here the corporate Presence of the Lord has come to rest until we find a new, more permanent home for our church...

I also want to pray for safe travel for the members of this family that will be traveling this week...

I also want to pray over our congregation that we would treat the Presence of God, the Holy Spirit, that we carry as followers of the Lord Jesus with the utmost respect at all times so that God can bless us just like He blessed Obed-Edom...The Blessings of **3 John 2**

Scripture 12: 3 John 2

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.