

1CHRONICLES 13: 1 David consulted with the captains of thousands and of hundreds, even with every leader.

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David consults with his officers, and resolves to bring back the ark from the house of Abinadab, 1Chr 13:1-4. They place it on a new cart, and Uzza and Ahio drive the cart; the oxen stumbling, Uzza puts forth his hand to save the ark from falling, and he is smitten by the Lord, 1Chr 13:5-10. David is displeased, and orders the ark to be carried to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite, 1Chr 13:11-13. The ark abides there three months, and the Lord blesses Obed-edom, 1Chr 13:14.

Verse 1

David consulted - Having taken the strong hold of Zion from the Jebusites, organized his army, got assurances of the friendly disposition of the Israelites towards him, he judged it right to do what he could for the establishment of religion in the land; and as a first step, consulted on the propriety of bringing the ark from an obscure village, where it had remained during the reign of Saul, to the royal city or seat of government.

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1CHRONICLES 13: 2 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 abroad everywhere to our brothers who are left in all the land of Israel, with whom the priests and Levites are in their cities that have suburbs, that they may gather themselves to us;

1CHRONICLES 13: 3 and let us bring again the ark of our God to us. For we didn't seek it in the days of Saul."

1CHRONICLES 13: 4 All the assembly said that they would do so; for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

1CHRONICLES 13: 5 So David assembled all Israel together, from the Shihor the brook of Egypt even to the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath Jearim.

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Verse 5

From Shihor of Egypt even unto the entering of Hemath - "Therefore David gathered all Israel, from the Nile, נילוס Nilos, of Egypt, even to the entrance of Antioch." - T.

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1CHRONICLES 13: 6 David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kiriath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD that sits above the cherubim, that is called by the Name.

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Verse 6

Whose name is called on it - "Where his name is invoked." - T.

And so the Hebrew, אשר נקרא שם asher nikra shem, should be understood, his name was not called on it, but invoked at it.

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1CHRONICLES 13: 7 They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart.

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Verse 7

In a new cart - Lest it should be profaned by being placed on any carriage that had been employed about common uses.

Uzza and Ahio - All the versions understand אחיו achyo as signifying brother or brothers; so does Jarchi, who observes, from 2Sam 6:3, that these were the sons of Abinadab.

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1CHRONICLES 13: 8 David and all Israel played before God with all their might, even with songs, and with harps, and with stringed instruments, and with tambourines, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.

1CHRONICLES 13: 9 When they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled.

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Verse 9

Uzza put forth his hand - See this transaction explained 2Sam 6:6 (note), etc.

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1CHRONICLES 13: 10 the LORD's anger was kindled against Uzza, and he struck him, because he put out his hand to the ark; and there he died before God.

1CHRONICLES 13: 11 David was displeased, because the LORD had broken out against Uzza. He called that place Perez Uzza, to this day.

1CHRONICLES 13: 12 David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How shall I bring the ark of God home to me?"

1CHRONICLES 13: 13 So David didn't move the ark to him into the city of David, but carried it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

1CHRONICLES 13: 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.

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Verse 14

The Lord blessed the house of Obed-edom - That this man was only a sojourner at Gath, whence he was termed Gittite, and that he was originally a Levite, is evident from 1Chr 15:17, 1Chr 15:18.

The Targum ends this chapter thus: "And the Word of the Lord blessed Obed-edom, and his children, and his grand-children; and his wife conceived, and his eight daughters-in-law: and each brought forth eight at one birth, insomuch that in one day there were found, of fathers and children, fourscore and one; and He blessed and increased greatly all that belonged to him." This exposition will not be generally received; but all rabbins must be allowed to deal in the marvellous.

For other remarks see on 2Sam 6:1 (note), etc.