
1CHRONICLES 15: 1 David made him houses in the city of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent.

David prepares to bring home the ark, and musters the Levites, 1Chr 15:1-11. They sanctify themselves, and bear the ark upon their shoulders, 1Chr 15:12-15. The solemnities observed on the occasion, 1Chr 15:16-26. David dances before the ark, and is despised by his wife Michal, 1Chr 15:27-29.

Verse 1

Made him houses - One for himself, and one for the ark; in the latter was a tent, under which the ark was placed.

1CHRONICLES 15: 2 Then David said, "No one ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites. For the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God, and to minister to him forever."

Verse 2

None ought to carry the ark - but the Levites - It was their business; and he should have thought of this sooner, and then the unfortunate breach on Uzza would have been prevented; see 1Chr 15:13.

1CHRONICLES 15: 3 David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem, to bring up the LORD's ark to its place, which he had prepared for it.

1CHRONICLES 15: 4 David gathered together the sons of Aaron, and the Levites:

1CHRONICLES 15: 5 of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief, and his brothers one hundred twenty;

1CHRONICLES 15: 6 of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, and his brothers two hundred twenty;

1CHRONICLES 15: 7 of the sons of Gershon, Joel the chief, and his brothers one hundred thirty;

1CHRONICLES 15: 8 of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, and his brothers two hundred;

1CHRONICLES 15: 9 of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, and his brothers eighty;

1CHRONICLES 15: 10 of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, and his brothers one hundred twelve.

1CHRONICLES 15: 11 David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab,

1CHRONICLES 15: 12 and said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' households of the Levites. Sanctify yourselves, both you and your brothers, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel, to the place that I have prepared for it.

1CHRONICLES 15: 13 For because you didn't carry it at first, the LORD our God broke out in anger against us, because we didn't seek him according to the ordinance."

1CHRONICLES 15: 14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel.

1CHRONICLES 15: 15 The children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders with the its poles, as Moses commanded according to the LORD's word.

Verse 15

Upon their shoulders - That is the staves which went through the rings rested on their shoulders, but the ark itself rested on the staves like a sedan on its poles.

As Moses commanded - See Num 4:5, Num 4:15.

1CHRONICLES 15: 16 David spoke to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brothers the singers, with instruments of music, stringed instruments and harps and cymbals, sounding aloud and lifting up the voice with joy.

1CHRONICLES 15: 17 So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brothers, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brothers, Ethan the son of Kushaiah;

Verse 17 - Heman - Asaph - Ethan - These were the three chief musicians in the time of David; see 1Chr 6:31.

1CHRONICLES 15: 18 and with them their brothers of the second degree, Zechariah, Ben, and Jaaziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, Eliab, and Benaiah, and Maaseiah, and Mattithiah, and Eliphehu, and Mikneiah, and Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, the doorkeepers.

1CHRONICLES 15: 19 So the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were given cymbals of brass to sound aloud;

1CHRONICLES 15: 20 and Zechariah, and Aziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, and Eliab, and Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with stringed instruments set to Alamoth;

Verse 20

With psalteries on Alamoth - Some suppose that the word signifies virgins, or women singers, the persons mentioned here being appointed to accompany them with psalteries, and preside over them.

The Vulgate says arcana cantabant, they sang secret things or mysteries; probably prophetic hymns.

1CHRONICLES 15: 21 and Mattithiah, and Eliphehu, and Mikneiah, and Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, and Azaziah, with harps tuned to the eight-stringed lyre, to lead.

Verse 21

On the Sheminith - According to the Targum, this signifies an instrument that sounded an octave, or, according to others, an instrument with eight strings. The Syriac and Arabic have it, instruments to sing with daily, at the third, sixth, and ninth hour; the Vulgate, an octave, for a song of victory: some think the eighth band of the musicians is intended, who had the strongest and most sonorous voices; and that it is in this sense that shelomith and lenatstseach should be understood.

1CHRONICLES 15: 22 Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was over the song: he instructed about the song, because he was skilful.

Verse 22

Chenaniah - he instructed about the song - This appears to have been the master singer; he gave the key and the time, for he presided במשא bemassa, in the elevation, probably meaning what is called pitching the tune, for he was skillful in music, and powerful in his voice, and well qualified to lead the band: he might have been precentor.

1CHRONICLES 15: 23 Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark.

1CHRONICLES 15: 24 Shebaniah, and Joshaphat, and Nethanel, and Amasai, and Zechariah, and Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, blew the trumpets before the ark of God: and Obed-Edom and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark.

1CHRONICLES 15: 25 So David, and the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands, went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the house of Obed-Edom with joy.

1CHRONICLES 15: 26 When God helped the Levites who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams.

Verse 26

God helped the Levites - When they saw that God had made no breach among them, as he had in the case of Uzza, in gratitude for their preservation, and his acceptance of their labor, they sacrificed seven bullocks and seven rams.

1CHRONICLES 15: 27 David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites who bore the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: and David had on him an ephod of linen.

Verse 27

A robe of fine linen - A robe made of בוץ buts, probably the tuft or beard of the Pinna Magna, a species of muscle found every where on the shores of the Mediterranean, growing sometimes, as I

have seen, to a foot and a half in length. I have seen a pair of gloves made of this very rich stuff; the color is a deep dark yellow, something inclining to what is called the lilac. The butts or byssus was not heard of in Israel before the time of David: after that it is frequently mentioned.

1CHRONICLES 15: 28 Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, sounding aloud with stringed instruments and harps.

1CHRONICLES 15: 29 As the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out at the window, and saw king David dancing and playing; and she despised him in her heart.

Verse 29

Michal - saw - David dancing - and she despised him - See this whole business explained 2Sam 6:20 (note), etc., where David's conduct is vindicated, and the nature of Michal's disgrace and punishment hinted at, but all left to the reader's determination.