

David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn. (2 Samuel 6:15)

Almighty God, you have promised an eternal kingdom to Christ, the descendant of David. We praise you for your glory! Give us a sense a joy as we welcome you into our hearts, that you may rule within us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Introduction

David, son of Jesse, had already been chosen by God, anointed as a young man by the prophet Samuel. With the death of Saul, David was officially recognized as king. He set his throne in the great City of Jerusalem and brought up the Ark of the Covenant to Mount Zion, where the temple would later be built.

Read: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 6:1-5

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

The Biblical Context

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel and the books of 1 and 2 Kings tell the story of Israel as a united nation and the subsequent division into north and south kingdoms. Part of the biblical books of History, some of this same content is repeated in 1 and 2 Chronicles in a more abbreviated form.

The time of the Monarchy was a high point for the nation of Israel, where one king ruled over a united land. The first was King Saul, a troubled leader who later turned away from God. The Lord raised up King David to take Saul's place.

These two struggled against one another until the death of Saul, when David ascended to the throne (today's lesson). David ruled for many years, and was succeeded by his son, King Solomon, who built the temple in Jerusalem.

Discussion Questions

1. The story of the actual anointing of young David by the prophet Samuel is told in 1 Samuel 16:1-13. In verse 3 of our lesson today, it says that the "elders of Israel" anointed David. How does this public declaration of David as king confirm a decision that had been made by God years earlier?
2. In verse 5:2, God refers to David as the chosen shepherd of his people Israel. What is the role of a shepherd? Why is this an appropriate image with which to describe a faithful ruler?
3. After capturing the city of Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:7), David made the city his capital. From what you know of Scripture, what significant events in biblical history later took place in this city?
4. Verses 6:1-5 say that David brought up the Ark of the Covenant with him into the city. What is the significance of the Ark of God? What did this ceremonial box contain?
5. Read: 2 Samuel 6:12b-22. What were David and the people doing when the Ark entered the city? Who disapproved of this? Why?
6. Read: Mark 11:8-10. This event happened at the same location, 1000 years later. Who was entering the city? What were the people doing?
7. How do David's words in 2 Samuel 6:21-22 foreshadow what would happen to Jesus? How was Christ the fulfillment of the promise God made to David?