

Song of Ascents 13 - Ps 132 - Until I Find a Place for the LORD

Psalms 132:1-8 O LORD, remember David and all the hardships he endured [*KJV and all of his afflictions*]. 2 He swore an oath to the LORD and made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob: 3 “I will not enter my house or go to my bed—4 I will allow no sleep to my eyes, no slumber to my eyelids, 5 **Until I find a place for the LORD**, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.” 6 We heard it in Ephrathah, we came upon it in the fields of Jaar: 7 “Let us go to his dwelling place, let us worship at his footstool, saying, 8 ‘Arise, LORD, and come to your resting place, you and the ark of your might.’

David had a burning desire to “find a place for the Lord”

- He longed for a place to worship God
- A place to experience the power of God
- He wanted God’s presence , power and guidance WITH him

Short History of the Ark to understand this better

Moses - Joshua

- The ark was the place where God choose to meet and speak from there
- It was to be considered Most Holy to them Ex 13:36
- Lev 16:2 - If Aaron went in improperly he would drop over dead
- When the ark set out “Rise up, LORD! May your enemies be scattered”
- The ark went before them in their travels through the wilderness
- The ark went before them when they crossed Jordan on dry land
- They carried the ark around Jericho

Samuel’s time: Eli, Hophni and Phineas

- 1Sa 2:12 NIV Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the LORD.
- 1Sa 2:17 NIV This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD's sight, for they were treating the LORD's offering with contempt.
- 1Sa 4:21-22 NIV She named the boy Ichabod, saying, "The Glory has departed from Israel"--because of the capture of the ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband. 22 She said, "The Glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

The Ark was with the Philistines 7 months 1Sa 6:1-2

- They moved it to the temple of Dagon - and Dagon fell 1Sa 5:1-2
- They moved it to the city of Ashdod - there was an outbreak of tumors 1Sa 5:6-9
- Then they moved it to Ekron - the people there said to send it back to Israel 1Sa 5:10-12
- It was moved to Beth Shemesh and 70 men were killed for looking into it 1 Sa 6:19

It was in Kiriath Jearim for 20 years - largely forgotten 1Sa 7:1-5

The ark had been NEGLECTED during Saul’s reign 1Ch 13:3

1Ch 13:3 NIV Let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we did not inquire of it during the reign of Saul."

- The ark had been neglected
- Shouldn't the ark be at the center of our lives?
- When life takes precedent over God, maybe we should ask ourselves the question, "where have placed 'the Ark of God'?"

David attempts to bring it back - it is the presence of God

1Ch 13:6 NIV David and all Israel went to Baalah of Judah (Kiriath Jearim) to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who is enthroned between the cherubim--the ark that is called by the Name.

- Uzzah is killed 2Sa 6:1-9
- He was afraid - wondered if it could ever come to him

It was at Obed-Edom's house for 3 months - the Lord blessed him

2Sa 6:9-17

- David was jealous in a godly way of the blessing of Obed-Edom and wanted it back in Jerusalem 2 Samuel 6:12
- David wanted to build a house for the Lord 2Sa 7:1-8

Not permitted to build the temple - but committed \$

1Ch 29:3 ESV Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God:

David gave roughly \$6 Billion in today's dollars (July/2012)

The desire for God's presence and power is what burned in his soul.

So we see a history of the ark, once regarded as sacred and holy and powerful, now forgotten, neglected and disregarded . David intended to restore that.

David endured hardship & made a vow (commitment)

"I will not enter my house or go to my bed—4 I will allow no sleep to my eyes, no slumber to my eyelids" UNTIL....

Your “UNTIL” is the Key to Endurance & Commitment

There is something we are pursuing that captures our heart and dedication

climbing Mt Everest	Writing a novel	Starting a business
Getting a PhD	Building a house	Raising a child

Prov 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint

Having a hope or vision enables us to endure hardship

Heb 11:24-27 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Heb 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

How about me?

Am I finding a place for the Lord?

There is a pearl of great value...

Matthew 13:44-46 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (45) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, (46) who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

- What are we willing to pay to get it?
- Has the presence, power and of God captured my heart?
- Has the kingdom so captured our heart that we endure hardship for the sake of it?
- Has the kingdom so captured our heart that commitment is the norm and not an extra effort?

- He is calling us to sell everything to purchase the pearl in the field...

At what point are you willing to turn back?

Matthew 19:16-22 And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" (17) And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." (18) He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, (19) Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (20) The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" (21) Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." (22) When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.