

2 Samuel 6:1-13
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INTRODUCTION

The Bible holds all of the answers that the so-called “lovers of truth” are looking for.

“Philosophy” means “lover of wisdom.”

Yet — there are a lot of “philosophers” - self-proclaimed lovers of wisdom — who refuse to look to the source of all wisdom for answers. They would rather speculate about the meaning of life and skirt any idea, or source that deals in absolutes.

NOTE:

THAT is why they avoid the Bible. Because the Bible deals in absolutes. The Bible does NOT ask to be numbered amongst possible explanations. Instead, it speaks in absolutes concerning:

- the existence and nature of God
- man’s origin and man’s destiny.

The Bible itself claims to be the ABSOLUTE authority in those matters. The Bible itself claims to be PERFECT. We are told in *Psalms 19* that God’s Word is PERFECT. WE are not perfect — Our WORLD is not perfect. But God’s Word is PERFECT. The Bible itself claims to be a guide for our life.

*Psalms 119:105 (ESV) Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.*

In *Psalms 119:105* — an amazing chapter of the Bible — a non-stop declaration of the perfection and helpfulness and truthfulness of the Word of God — the Bible claims to be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. The Bible claims to be TRUE.

John 17:17 (ESV) Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

In *John 17:17* (the high priestly prayer of Jesus — His longest prayer in the Bible). Jesus prays this — Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

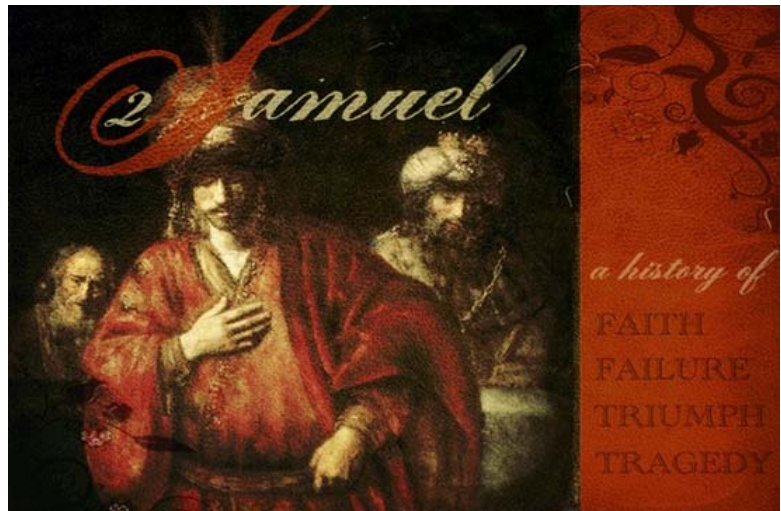
The Scriptures declare that they are to be obeyed.

James 1:22 (ESV) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

The Bible declares to have the absolute answer to man’s most important questions - “What is the meaning of life?” “Why am I here?”

NOTE:

The Bible does NOT leave man in the dark concerning these matters. The Bible makes it inescapably clear that we were created to BRING glory to God; And EXPERIENCE the glory of God in our own lives. Within the heart



of every man and woman there is a craving to know and experience the glory of God.

KEY QUESTION:

What is the glory of God?

The Hebrew word for glory is kâbôd kaw-bode. It means “weight, or substance”. EACH OF US are searching for that which lends substance and weight to life. BUT - Without Jesus, that search is like craving something at about 10 p.m. you know the feeling! You go to the refrigerator — the cupboard — and you just stand and stare! Then you begin to feed your face. “No, that’s not it.... No, that wasn’t it.” At the end of the night you are SICK — but not SATISFIED.

In the realm of the spirit — That weight — that substance — that we are longing for is actually the glory of God. It is only when we are in fellowship with “the God of glory” that we are satisfied. It is HIS presence in our lives — Him being exalted and glorified in our lives — that alone can satisfy us.

KEY QUESTION:

“HOW can we experience the glory of God?”

2 Samuel 6 gives us an insight into the experience of God’s glory. As we have studied 1st and 2nd Samuel we have seen that David was a man who loved God. He longed to know and experience the glory of God.

Psalm 63:1-5 (NLT) O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water. {2} I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory. {3} Your unfailing love is better to me than life itself; how I praise you! {4} I will honor you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer. {5} You satisfy me more than the richest of foods. I will praise you with songs of joy.

Beyond his own life — David was a king with the heart of a shepherd. He wanted to LEAD the people of God into the experience of God’s glory. David wanted Israel to be alive with a sense of the near presence and glory of God. So after he had conquered Jerusalem, he erected a tabernacle; a place of worship for the people. The only problem is that there was no ark of the covenant.

KEY INSIGHT:

The ark of the covenant was that very important piece of furniture that was involved in Old Testament worship. God commanded Moses to make it more than 400 years before David’s time. It was a wood box (the word ark means “box” or “chest”) completely covered with gold and with an ornate gold lid or top known as the mercy seat. The ark of God was 3 feet 9 inches long, 2 feet 3 inches wide and 2 feet 3 inches high.

In it were:

- the tablets of the law that Moses brought down from Mount Sinai
- a jar of manna
- and Aaron’s rod that miraculously budded as a confirmation of his leadership.

It was there above the Ark of the Covenant that the Lord revealed His glory in a visible and tangible way.

Exodus 25:22 (ESV) There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

The ark of God represented the immediate presence and glory of God in Israel. David wanted Israel to be alive with a sense of the near presence and glory of God. The last we saw of the ark of God was when it came back from the land of the Philistines in *1Samuel 7:1*. It sat at the house of Abinadab for some 70 years.

2 Samuel 6:1-3 (ESV) David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. 2And David

arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah bah-al-ay' yeh-hoo-daw' to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. 3And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart,

David is being moved by a very high and pure motive. He has a SINCERE desire to see the people of God experience the glory of God. Driven by that motive he devises a way for the people to experience God's glory. In essence — David says, "I know, let's have a parade! A BIG parade!" 30,000 men were chosen to bring back the Ark, which symbolized the glory of God. Not only that — but the Ark was placed upon a NEW cart. WHY would David do that?

Numbers 4:15 (ESV) And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, as the camp sets out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry these, but they must not touch the holy things, lest they die. These are the things of the tent of meeting that the sons of Kohath are to carry.

Numbers 7:9 (ESV) But to the sons of Kohath he gave none, because they were charged with the service of the holy things that had to be carried on the shoulder.

In Num. 4:15; 7:9 God had clearly defined HOW the Ark was to be moved and WHO was to move it. The Ark was ONLY to be carried by the Levites on poles that rested on the shoulders of the Levites.

NOTE WELL:

David was apparently IGNORANT of God's prescribed method of transporting the Ark.

ALSO — It would appear that David used the Philistines as his model.

REMEMBER — He had spent 14 months in the heart of Philistine country

He knew all about how the Philistines tried to send the ark they had captured from the Israelites BACK to the Israelites— They placed it on an ox drawn cart. So we'll copy these unbelievers. Only we'll do it better. We'll make a brand new cart. No broken down cart will do for the Ark of the Lord."

THIS SCENE — along with it's consequences — is being replayed in countless churches today. It is being played out by individuals and ministries that desire a good thing. They want people to enjoy fellowship with God and to experience His glory in their lives. - **GREAT MOTIVE!**

They want to see their churches full. They want their bank accounts to grow. Because if the pews and bank accounts are full they can reach more people. BUT — Though they might have RIGHT MOTIVES —they use **WRONG METHODS**. To achieve God's ends they employ **the world's methods**.

1.) They say - "Let's have a parade."

"If we generate enough hype, the people will want to know God, join our parade."

"We need to make them FEEL as though they have experienced God."

EXAMPLE: March 25, 2009

THIS SATURDAY, March 28, will be THE GREATEST DAY in _____'s history. OVER 2,000 people have already signed up to become members of our church family on a single day! Two thousand years ago - the Day of Pentecost was the first day of the Christian Church. Acts 2:41 tells us, "About 3,000 people were baptized and joined the church that day." If you'll join us this weekend, history could be repeated at _____! Want to make history?

EIGHT REASONS TO JOIN THIS SATURDAY & NOT PROCRASTINATE:

1. I'm personally teaching Class 101 for the first time in ten years.
2. I'm personally baptizing after Class and you'll receive a photo & baptism certificate.
3. You'll get a free one year subscription to _____ Connection magazine. (Never offered before)
4. You'll get free copy of _____ Church book.
5. Your name will be included in the historical list of ___ Pioneer Members who joined in our first 30 years. (This Easter is our 30th Easter and I want you included in this list.)
6. The class is 1 hour shorter than normal.
7. You'll be a part of making Christian history! The largest membership class ever!
8. We love you & want you in our family. There is no good reason to procrastinate.

I was asked, "_____, If you could wish for anything to celebrate your 30 years of service at _____, what would you dream of?" I said, "To experience a repeat of Pentecost - and see 3,000 people affirm their faith and join our church family on a single day." Will you be a part of making this a reality?

ONLY ONE SMALL MISSING THING – Pentecost was the result of the **HOLY SPIRIT** falling upon the disciples and Peter proclaiming the message of Christ Crucified – the need to **REPENT** – and the crowd was **PIERCED** in their heart.

2.) They say - "Let's bring God to people on a new cart."

Someone once defined a cart as **nothing more than a bunch of boards and big wheels**. Many churches are depending upon boards and big wheels to bring the glory of God to man. The models for many ministries and ministers today are no longer the prophets and pastors of the Bible. Instead – the corporate executive is the model for the minister. Instead of the work of the Spirit through the ministry of the Word – They bring in the big names – the big wheels, to draw people.

3.) Secondly – There was the "NEW cart."

There are those who – in their desperation – are groping for something **NEW** to help them succeed. "That 'Old Book' just isn't effective. People don't want to hear a message from the Bible." That mentality has come home to roost in many churches today. We see ministries looking for that "New Cart" - that new subject matter – to bring life to their church and bring people to their church.

CONTRAST – Deuteronomy (*2nd giving of the Law*) – "Old Truth for a New Generation."

As we are going to see – The parade – the cart – the "new cart" tragically failed to bring the glory of God to the people.

4.) Not only did David have a big parade, and a new board and big wheels – He also had a great team to help him

UZZAH and AHIO

- UZZAH = Strong

He was a strong man – the kind of guy that you want in positions of leadership because he is strong and can keep things stable.

- AHIO = Brotherly

He's the kind of guy you want around because he shakes hands and makes people feel at home. He would be a great guy to work with numbers of people because he is charming and disarming.

- An amazing event – staffed and planned!
- 30,000 men marching
- The new cart
- Mister Brotherly and Mister Strong at the cart

2 Samuel 6:5 (ESV) And David and all the house of Israel were making merry before the Lord, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

The ORIGINAL concert ministry

2 Samuel 6:6 (ESV) And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.

In David's plan of bringing the glory of God to the people, things got bumpy. But that's O.K. - Mister Strong (Uzzah) is there.

2 Samuel 6:7 (ESV) And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God.

As the Ark begins to teeter on the "new Cart" – Uzzah reaches out to give God a hand in the delivering of His glory

CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

God does NOT need us to give Him a hand. He does NOT need us to stabilize His work.

HERE'S THE PICTURE –

So many people have attempted to HELP God's work – HELP or STABILIZE a problem – And along the way end up creating a problem.

NOTE WELL:

Uzzah was doing what he thought was right. In doing what he thought was right he went down.

2 Samuel 6:8-9 (ESV) And David was angry because the Lord had burst forth against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah, to this day. 9And David was afraid of the Lord that day, and he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?"

Some of your translations might read – David was "displeased". David was not "displeased" because Uzzah had tragically died. He was ANGRY because his grand plan to deliver the Ark had failed – His pride was hurt.

CRUCIAL:

Uzzah's death was God's condemnation of David's plan! David made a memorial of the place that should challenge our hearts today. We must NEVER stop at the issue of motive. **Pure motive is a MUST** – But **God's methods must be utilized** in reaching Godly goals.

"HOW can the ark of the Lord come to me?"

Here is the question that we are concerned with. How shall the glory and the substance of God come to me? How can I bring the Gospel to the most people?

IF it is NOT through -

- Hype
- Boards and Big Wheels
- New Methods
- Mr. Strong and Mr. Brotherly
- Soul Moving Music

THEN HOW does it come?

How do:

- We as a church experience the glory of God?
- I as an individual experience the glory of God?

- We bring others to experience the glory of God?

2 Samuel 6:10-12 (ESV) So David was not willing to take the ark of the Lord into the city of David. But David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. 11And the ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and all his household. 12And it was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing.

KEY OBSERVATION:

For three months, the Ark stayed at Obed-edom's house. During that time David took the time to search the Scriptures in order to discover God's way of transporting the Ark. David discovered that God had a way for the ark to be transported.

1 Chronicles 15:2-3 (ESV) Then David said that no one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, for the Lord had chosen them to carry the ark of the Lord and to minister to him forever. 3And David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the Lord to its place, which he had prepared for it.

2 Samuel 6:13 (ESV) And when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal.

They stopped EVERY six steps! This was NOT a QUICK method. To kill an ox and fillet it would not be a quick and easy thing to do. There might have been those who said – David - We've got miles to travel, and stopping every 6 steps is NOT the going to get the job done. David had tried it the fast way earlier and the consequences were brutal.

CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

What appears to be EXCESSIVE SACRIFICE communicated 3 things

- 1.) A recognition of the need for ATONEMENT
- 2.) Consecration to the Lord
- 3.) A longing for fellowship with God on God's terms.

In *1 Chronicles 15:11-15* David specifically commanded the priests to carry the ark the right way - On their shoulders.

YOU SEE – God always wants His presence and glory to come on the shoulders of Consecrated – obedient – worshipping – men and women.

NOTE:

This is without a doubt a much bigger production than the first attempt.

BUT NOW – David understands that the problem with the first attempt wasn't that it was a big production – but that it was a big production that came from man and not God.

CONTEMPORARY APPLICATION:

Today there are many People –

- whose lives are empty and meaningless.
- Churches – that are desperate to experience the glory of God.
- Churches – that are desperate in their desire to bring people into an experience of Christ's life.

The Church must be very careful to define it's methods from a Biblical basis. Because it IS possible to succeed on the human level and yet FAIL to see the true and lasting work of God accomplished.

LET ME ILLUSTRATE THIS –

When the world wants to sell something, it recognizes that it must appeal to a “market.” The goal in marketing is to leave the consumer satisfied. Anything that leaves the consumer UNSATISFIED is rejected.

BUT – The Church can NEVER view ministry as MARKET DRIVEN. It can NOT see it’s goal as something to be achieved by drawing and satisfying the unbeliever as though he were some consumer

BECAUSE –

- 1.) Preaching about sin and righteousness and judgment is NOT an easily sold bill of goods.
- 2.) Marketing principles soon determine what should be preached and what shouldn’t.
- 3.) Elements of the Word of God that do NOT satisfy the carnal consumer are omitted.

DANGER – It is 100% possible to be SUCCESSFUL at marketing your church but FAIL to see God glorified in the saving of souls and in the building up of the Body of Christ. You can draw and satisfy the customer with the PARADE MENTALITY. You can replace the declaration and explanation of Scripture with skits and music whose content is designed to leave the audience affirmed and feeling good! You do that by leaving out words such words as hell or sin.

So having done their market research, the churches plan series of messages on topics such as

- Dealing with depression
- Belonging to a community
- Overcoming anger, etc.

BUT HERE’S where churches fail – The root of these “felt needs” is skirted because the root problem is on the surface user-UNFRIENDLY. Mans GREAT and ONLY need is to know the God of Glory – to live for God’s Glory. The things that separates man from such a life is SIN. Man’s REAL NEED is JESUS – who alone can take away our sin because of what He accomplished in our place on the cross. The root is SIN. The solution is SIMPLE and it is NARROW. Turn from sin and commit your life to Christ. What if the Old Testament prophets took that attitude? Jeremiah preached 40 years without any converts... And his audience wanted to kill him.

CRUCIAL:

The result of having right motives but wrong methods is FATAL. There might be increased attendance and inflated tithe records.... BUT you end up with people who are now: comfortable with church, feel good about themselves because they are going to church; But have never been born again!

CRUCIAL:

Not only are those people still comfortably lost and on their way to hell. You now have a church that is filled with carnal people and you are NOT in a position to begin to preach holiness.

CLOSING

1.) Maybe you came this evening with FELT NEEDS.

I praise the Lord, because if that is you - you surely didn’t get here by any marketing mentality. You were either drawn sovereignly and directly by the Holy Spirit or you were invited by a believer that has grown closer to Jesus through the study of His Word.

PLEASE KNOW THIS -

The FELT NEEDS are merely SYMPTOMS of your real problem. Your REAL NEED is to experience fellowship with God. Your sin is what is keeping you from God.

You can come to God today through faith in Jesus Christ – Because

- Jesus died in YOUR place on the cross.
- Jesus bore the wrath of God that YOU deserve.
- Jesus Redeemed you from the penalty and power of sin.

2.) You who are believers who desire to see somebody come to Christ (bring the Ark to them, so to speak) -

No matter how pure your motive is – you must NEVER try to be “successful” by using the worlds methods. Hype is fatal. Boards and big wheels are fatal. New marketing strategies are fatal. God has given to the Church very clearly defined means to bring people to the experience of relationship with God. THIS FOLLOWS PERFECTLY from our topic in last night’s OPEN. God has not left lost man to SPECULATE as to how we can know Him or serve Him. God has graciously REVEALED to lost man THE WAY to know him and the WAY to serve Him – Even as God REVEALED to Moses, The WAY to approach Him in the Levitical sacrifices

HOW He was to be served

God has REVALED to the Church very clearly defined means to bring people to the experience of relationship with God.

1.) PRAYER

2 Corinthians 10:4 (ESV) For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

Ephesians 6:18-20 (ESV) praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

2.) THE WORD

Romans 1:16 (ESV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

3.) THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 2:4 (ESV) and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

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