

MAY 4

Read 1 Chronicles 15–17

CHAPTER 15

AND *David* made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent.

2 Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever.

3 And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it.

4 And David assembled the children of Aaron, and the Levites:

5 Of the sons of Kohath; Uriel the chief, and his brethren an hundred and twenty:

6 Of the sons of Merari; Asaiah the chief, and his brethren two hundred and twenty:

7 Of the sons of Gershon; Joel the chief, and his brethren an hundred and thirty:

8 Of the sons of Elizaphan; She-maiah the chief, and his brethren two hundred:

9 Of the sons of Hebron; Eliel

the chief, and his brethren fourscore:

10 Of the sons of Uzziel; Ammi-nadab the chief, and his brethren an hundred and twelve.

11 And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab,

12 And said unto them, *Ye are* the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, *both* ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto *the place that* I have prepared for it.

13 For because ye *did it* not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.

14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

15 And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded

according to the word of the LORD.

16 And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren *to be* the singers with instruments of musick, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy.

17 So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brethren, Ethan the son of Kushaiah;

18 And with them their brethren of the second *degree*, Zechariah, Ben, and Jaaziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, Eliab, and Benaiah, and Maaseiah, and Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obedom, and Jeiel, the porters.

19 So the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, *were appointed* to sound with cymbals of brass;

20 And Zechariah, and Aziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, and Eliab, and Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with psalteries on Alamoth;

21 And Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obedom, and Jeiel, and Azaziah, with harps on the Sheminith to excel.

22 And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, *was* for song: he instructed about the song, because he *was* skilful.

23 And Berechiah and Elkanah *were* doorkeepers for the ark.

24 And Shebaniah, and Jehoshaphat, and Nethaneel, and Amasai, and Zechariah, and Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, did blow with the trumpets before the ark of God: and Obedom and Jehiah *were* doorkeepers for the ark.

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 Obedom with joy.

26 And it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bullocks and seven rams.

27 And David *was* clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also *had* upon him an ephod of linen.

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, making a noise with psalteries and harps.

29 ¶ And it came to pass, *as* the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw king David dancing and playing: and she despised him in her heart.

CHAPTER 16

SO they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God.

2 And when David had made an end of offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.

3 And he dealt to every one of Israel, both man and woman, to every one a loaf of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon *of wine*.

4 ¶ And he appointed *certain* of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel:

5 Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, Jeiel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Mattithiah, and Eliab, and Benaiah, and Obedom: and Jeiel with psalter-

ies and with harps; but Asaph made a sound with cymbals;

6 Benaiah also and Jahaziel the priests with trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of God.

7 ¶ Then on that day David delivered first *this psalm* to thank the LORD into the hand of Asaph and his brethren.

8 Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.

9 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.

10 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

11 Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.

12 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;

13 O ye seed of Israel his servant, ye children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

14 He *is* the LORD our God; his judgments *are* in all the earth.

15 Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word *which* he commanded to a thousand generations;

16 *Even of the covenant* which

he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac;

17 And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, *and* to Israel for an everlasting covenant,

18 Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance;

19 When ye were but few, even a few, and strangers in it.

20 And *when* they went from nation to nation, and from *one* kingdom to another people;

21 He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reprov'd kings for their sakes,

22 *Saying*, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

23 Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation.

24 Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations.

25 For great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also *is* to be feared above all gods.

26 For all the gods of the people *are* idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

27 Glory and honour *are* in his presence; strength and gladness *are* in his place.

28 Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

29 Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

30 Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.

31 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let *men* say among the nations, The LORD reigneth.

32 Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof: let the fields rejoice, and all that *is* therein.

33 Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the LORD, because he cometh to judge the earth.

34 O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

35 And say ye, Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen, that we may give thanks to thy holy name, *and* glory in thy praise.

36 Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel for ever and ever. And all the people said, Amen, and praised the LORD.

37 ¶ So he left there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD Asaph and his brethren, to minister before the ark continually, as every day's work required:

38 And Obbedom with their brethren, threescore and eight; Obbedom also the son of Jeduthun and Hosah *to be* porters:

39 And Zadok the priest, and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD in the high place that *was* at Gibeon,

40 To offer burnt offerings unto the LORD upon the altar of the burnt offering continually morning and evening, and *to do* according to all that is written in the law of the LORD, which he commanded Israel;

41 And with them Heman and Jeduthun, and the rest that were chosen, who were expressed by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because his mercy *endureth* for ever;

42 And with them Heman and Jeduthun with trumpets and cymbals for those that should make a sound, and with musical instruments of God. And the sons of Jeduthun *were* porters.

43 And all the people departed every man to his house: and David returned to bless his house.

CHAPTER 17

NOW it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD *remaineth* under curtains.

2 Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that *is* in thine heart; for God *is* with thee.

3 ¶ And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,

4 Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:

5 For I have not dwelt in an house since the day that I brought up Israel unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from *one* tabernacle *to another*.

6 Wheresoever I have walked with all Israel, spake I a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people, saying, Why have ye not built me an house of cedars?

7 Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepecote, *even* from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel:

8 And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that *are* in the earth.

9 Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning,

10 And since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the LORD will build thee an house.

11 ¶ And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go *to be* with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

12 He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever.

13 I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took *it* from *him* that was before thee:

14 But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever:

and his throne shall be established for evermore.

15 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

16 ¶ And David the king came and sat before the LORD, and said, Who *am* I, O LORD God, and what *is* mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

17 And *yet* this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast *also* spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O LORD God.

18 What can David *speak* more to thee for the honour of thy servant? for thou knowest thy servant.

19 O LORD, for thy servant's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all this greatness, in making known all *these* great things.

20 O LORD, *there is* none like thee, neither *is there any* God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

21 And what one nation in the earth *is* like thy people Israel, whom God went to redeem *to be* his own people, to make thee a name of greatness and terribleness, by dri-

ving out nations from before thy people, whom thou hast redeemed out of Egypt?

22 For thy people Israel didst thou make thine own people for ever; and thou, LORD, becamest their God.

23 Therefore now, LORD, let the thing that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant and concerning his house be established for ever, and do as thou hast said.

24 Let it even be established, that thy name may be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts is the God of Israel, *even* a God to

Israel: and *let* the house of David thy servant *be* established before thee.

25 For thou, O my God, hast told thy servant that thou wilt build him an house: therefore thy servant hath found *in his heart* to pray before thee.

26 And now, LORD, thou art God, and hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:

27 Now therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may be before thee for ever: for thou blessest, O LORD, and *it shall be* blessed for ever.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The Ark of God rested in the House of Obed-Edom for three months. During that time, David prepared a place for the Ark of God and pitched a tent. David had learned a very pointed lesson regarding the Ark of God. He had learned that only the Levites were allowed of God to carry the Ark. This time they moved the Ark according to God's specific instructions. The former failure had taught them to do things "according to the Word of God." The Levites sanctified themselves and carried the Ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves as God had commanded.

This was a great time of praise and singing. A tremendous procession followed. And so the Ark was brought to Jerusalem and placed in the midst of the tent. Remember, the Ark was an Old Testament symbol of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. When Christ is in the midst there is always divine blessing. This time of great rejoicing is only symbolic of the greater time of rejoicing when the King sits down upon the throne of David in Jerusalem and rules and reigns with His people for 1,000 years.

Chapter 16 records a thanksgiving Psalm delivered by David. It is a Psalm that looks forward to the kingdom of heaven on earth, when all the nations acknowledge Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord

of lords. That day is yet future, but the coming of the Lord is the blessed hope of the church.

After David had placed the Ark in the tent in Jerusalem, he became deeply concerned about the building of a permanent house for the Lord. Although David was not allowed to build that house, this was the beginning of the dream realized in the construction of Solomon's majestic Temple. The Davidic covenant is also recorded in chapter 17.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"A good man obtaineth favour of the Lord: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn" (Proverbs 12:2).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 14: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 9.

HYMN FOR TODAY

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

by Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933

While gazing at the magnificent Berkshire mountains of Massachusetts, Henry van Dyke described in "Joyful, Joyful," the many aspects of life that should bring us joy. He insisted that his text, written in 1911, be sung to the music of "Hymn of Joy" from Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*. This combination of

words and great music, makes “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” one of the most joyous expressions of any hymn in the English language.

One of the forceful ideas expressed by van Dyke is that God’s gracious love for us should create a greater “brother love” for our fellow man. With God’s help we can become victorious over strife and be “lifted to the joy divine” as we daily show more love to others.

Henry van Dyke was a distinguished Presbyterian minister who served as a moderator of his denomination for a time and as a Navy Chaplain in World War I. Later he was the ambassador to Holland and Luxembourg under President Wilson. He also served a number of years as a professor of literature at Princeton University. High honors came to him for his many devotional writings. Yet this one inspiring hymn is the reason Henry van Dyke is best remembered today:

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee as the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of
doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!*

*All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heav’n
reflect Thy ways;
stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken
praise;
field and forest, vale and mountain, bloss’ming mead-
ow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in
Thee.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy
rest!*

*Thou the Father, Christ our Brother—All who live in
love are Thine:*

*Teach us how to love each other; lift us to the joy
divine.*

*Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning
stars began;*

*father-love is reigning o’er us; brother-love binds man
to man.*

*Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of
strife;*

joyful music lifts us sunward in the triumph song of life.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1491 B.C.

THE APPROXIMATE DATE THAT MOSES WAS

ON MOUNT SINAI.

You recall this wonderful story. Moses was called by God to Mount Sinai, where he received the Tablets of Stone on which were written the Ten Commandments and the instructions for building the Tabernacle. The Jews were on a march toward the Promised Land.

The leader must have a mountain-top experience. Every Christian leader must spend time on the mountain if he is to have success in the valley. There are two dangers here, however. One is that he will enjoy the mountain so much that he will not go back to the valley. Peter said this on the Mount of Transfiguration. He wanted to build three tabernacles and stay there. All of us have been to spiritual mountain peaks from which we hated to descend. Each of us has hated to go back to the valley, but the valley needs us. On the other hand, it is impossible to be successful in the valley unless there appears a refreshing and spiritual experience on the mountain peak. Before there was a Red Sea, there was a Moses alone with God in the desert for four years. Before there was an Apostle Paul, there was a Paul in Arabia for three years. Before there was a Pentecost, there were the ten days of waiting and praying in the upper room. Oh, to be on the mountain top, and then to go into the valley with the power of God for service.

SOME GIVE THIS AS THE DATE OF MOODY JOINING THE MOUNT VERNON CHURCH.

At any rate, he was a member of Mr. Kimball’s Monday school class. This was about the time that he united with the church.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY 1864

ULYSSES S. GRANT CROSSED THE RAPIDAN and began his duel with Robert E. Lee. At the same time Ben Butler’s Army of the James moved on Lee’s forces. Black division in Grant’s army did not play a prominent role in Wilderness Campaign, but Ben Butler gave his black infantrymen and his eighteen hundred black cavalrymen important assignments. Black troops of the Army of the James were the first Union Soldiers to take possession of James River (at Wilson’s Wharf Landing, Fort Powhatan and City Point).

1961

THIRTEEN FREEDOM RIDERS BEGAN BUS TRIP THROUGH SOUTH. CORE began these freedom rides to force desegregation of southern bus terminals.

The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I AM TOO GREAT A SINNER"

(Assignment 14)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV.com page.)

() Isaiah 1:18

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

() 1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

() Romans 5:6

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

() Romans 5:7

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

() Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.