**Week of Dec 1, 2019**

**1 Chronicles 15:1-3, 14-26, 25-29**

**Key Verse:** “28 So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouts, with the sounding of rams’ horns and trumpets, and of cymbals, and the playing of lyres and harps.”

(1 Chronicles 15:28)

**1 After David had constructed buildings for himself in the City of David, he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it. 2 Then David said, “No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, because the LORD chose them to carry the ark of the LORD and to minister before him forever.” 3 David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the LORD to the place he had prepared for it.**

**14 So the priests and Levites consecrated themselves in order to bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel. 15 And the Levites carried the ark of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the LORD. 16 David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their fellow Levites as musicians to make a joyful sound with musical instruments: lyres, harps and cymbals.**

**25 So David and the elders of Israel and the commanders of units of a thousand went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom, with rejoicing. 26 Because God had helped the Levites who were carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD, seven bulls and seven rams were sacrificed. 27 Now David was clothed in a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who were carrying the ark, and as were the musicians, and Kenaniah, who was in charge of the singing of the choirs. David also wore a linen ephod. 28 So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouts, with the sounding of rams’ horns and trumpets, and of cymbals, and the playing of lyres and harps. 29 As the ark of the covenant of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window.**

**Understanding the Scriptures**

The events of this passage take place during the rein of King David, when he is recognized as the king of all Israel. Today’s scripture passage focuses on David as he prepared to take the ark of God to Jerusalem. The ark of God is also sometime called the ark of the covenant. The ark was viewed as the most sacred object in the religious life of Israel. It was a large, adorned box containing the stone tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments. First Chronicles 13:8-14 records how David’s first attempt to transport the ark was a failure. Instead of following God’s instructions on how to transport the ark. David disobeyed and followed hi own way. David erred by allowing the ark to be transported on a cart instead of being carried on the shoulders of the Levites with carrying poles, as commanded by God. The ark was so sacred that it was never to be touched directly by human hands. During this transport attempt, the oxen pulling the cart stumbled, which caused the ark to fall over. Uzzah, a man not identified as a Levite, touched the ark to steady it, and he immediately died for having touched the ark. The incident caused David to question whether he could ever move the ark again. After this episode, the ark remained at the home of Obed-Edom of Gath.

David reflected on what when wrong during his first attempt to transport the ark. The next time, David made sure that the Levites were purified for the task and that thy carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the carrying poles. The Levites followed all of David’s instructions just as commanded by the Law of Moses. David and the Levites dressed in fine clothing to mark this special occasion. God’s presence was with them as they transported the ark of God to Jerusalem. The musicians were an import part of the crowd that followed the ark and they set a loud, joyous tone for celebration. David danced with excitement to celebrate the arrival of this symbol of God’s presence among Israel.

Reprint from The Sunday School Publishing Board

