

## **2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19<sup>ii</sup>**

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the LORD with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the LORD with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. They brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the LORD. When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

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<sup>ii</sup> **About 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19**

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When David had become king over Israel, in order to unify the tribes of the north and those of the south, he had shrewdly chosen the conquered city of Jerusalem—a formerly neutral Jebusite city located on the boundary of the territories of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin—as his capital and royal city.

To ensure that all the tribes direct their loyalty to Jerusalem, he brought to the city the ark of the covenant, which held the Lord's commandments and signified the presence of God to the people. Instead of moving from sacred place to place, the ark would now reside permanently in Jerusalem and eventually be enshrined in a temple that David envisioned but never got to build.

Today's reading describes the great excitement and rejoicing that accompanied the relocation of the ark. This was the final sign that power had been transferred from Saul to David, hence the bitterness with which Michal, Saul's daughter perceives the unseemly merriment.