

Teaching Plan
EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Date: June 17, 2018

Lesson Title: "Celebrated"

Lesson Passage: 2 Samuel 5:9-12;6:12-19

ABOUT THIS LESSON

At the beginning of this lesson, David has consolidated his rule over all of Israel, and is in the process of establishing Jerusalem as his capital city. Hiram, king of Tyre, who would become a longtime friend to David (1 Kings 5:1b), has built a royal palace for him. Because of David's devotion to Yahweh, God of Israel, he has the ark of God brought to Jerusalem, publicly celebrating its arrival. This displeases David's wife Michal, a daughter of King Saul, who evidently feels that it is demeaning for a king to pay such lavish tribute to a mere God. The fact that David was girded with a linen *ephod*, pronounced a blessing on the people and offered a sacrifice shows that the king was free to perform priestly functions at this time in Israel's history.

TEACHING/LEARNING GOALS

- (1) Explain David's choice of Jerusalem as his capital.
- (2) Explain Michal's probable reason for "despising" David.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Begin with this: Jerusalem, one of the world's oldest and most famous cities, is at the center of three world religions--Judaism, Christianity and Islam. At the end of the war between Arabs and the new nation of Israel in January, 1949, the city was occupied by both Jews and Muslims. But Israel seized control of Jerusalem's Old City during the Six Day War of 1967, and this continues to be a major bone of contention between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews today, since it is the site of holy places venerated by both. This probably explains why President Trump's recent decision to move America's Israeli embassy to Jerusalem stirred up considerable agitation in the Arab sector. This lesson describes some of King David's important steps toward establishing Jerusalem as the capital of ancient Israel.

TEACHING PROCEDURES

1. *Ask someone to read 2 Sam. 5:6-7. Locate Jerusalem on a map, then comment on David's choice of Jerusalem as his capital:* (1) Before David marched on Jerusalem, it was a foreign city located within the territory of Israel; but it had not yet been incorporated into Israel. It was occupied by a Canaanite group called Jebusites. (2) The city, a thousand years old at this time, was well defended. Its walls and steep slopes made it a natural fortress so formidable that "even a garrison of blind and lame men could ward off an attack," so the Jebusites claimed (v. 6). But David managed to capture the city without much difficulty. (3) Jerusalem offered a strategic political advantage. Since it was on the

border between Judah and Benjamin, David (who was still consolidating his reign over all of Israel) would not seem to be favoring any particular tribe, north or south, by locating his capital there.

2. Since Jerusalem had been occupied by foreigners, belonging to neither Judah nor Israel, it became David's personal property when he captured it (*note the designation, "the city of David" or "David's city" in 2 Sam. 5:9*). He not only took up residence in the city; he owned it.

3. *Note that Hiram, king of Tyre, was unusually devoted to King David.* (1 Kings 5:1 says that he "always loved David" with a personal love that endured even to the reign of Solomon, David's son and successor.) Very probably, the establishment of a diplomatic relationship between Hiram's Tyre and David's Israel contributed to David's perception that "the Lord had established him king over Israel" (2 Sam. 5:12).

4. *Discuss the significance of David's decision to bring the Ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6:12):* (1) The ark of God, which had been held by the Philistines for seven months (1 Sam. 6:1), had been taken to Bethshemesh (1 Sam. 6:10-16), then to the Canaanite city, Kirjath-jearim, which was in the general vicinity of Jerusalem; and, eventually, it stayed for three months in the house of Obedom, originally a Philistine who apparently had embraced the Jewish faith (II Sam. 6:10-11). (2) Upon hearing that the Lord had blessed the household of Obedom, David felt compelled to bring the Ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6:12). (3) David himself was very much involved in the procession that brought the ark into Jerusalem. He not only wore an ephod (6:14), a ceremonial garment usually worn by the priests; he also offered a sacrifice and blessed the people (6:18), both priestly functions.

5. *Comment on the negative reaction of Michal, David's wife, as indicated in verse 16:* (1) Michal, as the daughter of King Saul and wife of the king, gave lip service to the worship of Yahweh, because that was the state religion. But her true feelings were revealed by her contempt for David's devotion to God, which she apparently considered to be very naive. She had inherited her father's pride and jealous regard for her royal position, and didn't want to be upstaged even by God. (2) Her criticism of David for "shamelessly uncovering himself" probably was not prompted by his nakedness, but by his wearing of a linen ephod, which denoted his humble submission to God. ("Even your servants will be ashamed of you," v. 20.) APPLICATION: Michal could not have comprehended the meaning of Paul's confession, "We are fools for Christ's sake (1 Cor. 4:10). Are contemporary Christians careful not to seem "too religious" in today's secular society, because they want to avoid the "fanatic" label?

CLOSING THE LESSON

Conclude with this: It is an impressive thing to see a king at prayer. Most of us could never gain access to our heads of state, but isn't it wonderful to know that any of us, regardless of our status, can participate in the highest form of communication in the world when we come before the Sovereign God, Maker and Sustainer of all the universe?