

***Entering In:***

*What evidence do you see in the world that God rules the nations?*

1. In Samuel's rebuke of Saul (1 Samuel 13:14) he prophesies about a king who will replace him. What characteristic does he attribute to the new king?

Who was this man, and why is he referred to as such (cf. Acts 13:22)?

What do the following verses teach us about what it means to be *a man after God's own heart*?

- 1 Samuel 17:37, 45-47
- Psalm 119:47, 48
- Psalm 26:6, 7; 100:4
- 2 Samuel 11:2-5, 13 (cf. Psalm 51:1, 2)

Is this a status that is only reserved for kings, or is it a pre-requisite for all those who would be God's servants? Explain.

What does it mean to have a heart for God? Do you have a heart for God?

2. Why did David want to bring the Ark to Jerusalem?

- A. He believed that the ark would bring blessing wherever it went.
- B. He was jealous for others to be blessed.
- C. He thought the ark would give him authority for his kingship.
- D. He viewed the LORD as the real source of blessing.
- E. He wanted to bind the tribes and the central government more firmly.
- F. Other

What specific instructions had the LORD given to Israel about transporting the Ark?

- Exodus 25:14, 15
- Numbers 4:15

From our study of 1 Samuel (7:1), where was the Ark of the Covenant being kept during Saul's reign?

Read 2 Samuel 6:1-7. What happened that put an end to David's first attempt to move the Ark to Jerusalem? Why do you think God's wrath was so severe?

How did David respond to God's displeasure?

What was different about David's second attempt to move the Ark to Jerusalem (6:13a)? What had David learned? [cf. 1 Samuel 15:22]

What was the significance of the offering made at the beginning of the journey, "after they had taken six steps" (6:13b)?

By wearing "a linen ephod" (6:14), what role was David taking?

What caused David to dance before the Ark?

Does the presence of God make your heart overflow with joy? How do you bring that to expression?

3. In 1 Samuel 18, we learn about Michal. Who was Michal (v.20), and why did Saul want to give her to David as his wife (v.21)?

Why didn't David want to become a son-in-law to Saul (vv.17-19, 22-26)?

What eventually happened to their marriage (19:11ff, 25:44)?

How did Michal come to be with David again as one of his wives (2 Samuel 3:12-16)?

Why did Michal despise David in her heart when she saw him rejoicing in the procession in front of the Ark (2 Samuel 6:16)?

Have you ever felt resentment toward another person because they had good reason to celebrate? What causes that kind of resentment?

4. What was David's focus in his response to Michal (vv.21-22)?

Why do you think the writer tells us that Michal had no children to the day of her death (v.23)?

How did David live out his understanding of Deuteronomy 32:35 (cf. Romans 12:17ff) with Saul? with Michal?

How do you treat your enemies? What might you need to change about that?

***Living It Out:***

*To who do you need to show kindness even though they don't "deserve" it?*