

1 Chronicles 13:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-edom, and all that he had.

Analysis

And the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-edom, and all that he had—After Uzzah's death frightened David, the ark diverted to Obed-edom's home. The Hebrew barak ('blessed') indicates comprehensive prosperity. This Gittite Levite (15:18) properly honored the ark, receiving blessing David had sought improperly.

The principle is profound: God's presence brings blessing when approached rightly. Obed-edom's obedience contrasted with the expedition's earlier presumption. His blessing became the catalyst for David's renewed attempt (15:25), this time following proper procedures. Sometimes God uses others' blessing to rebuke our disobedience and teach right worship.

Historical Context

Obed-edom was a Gittite (from Gath-rimmon), a Levitical city. His three-month guardianship of the ark (c. 1002 BC) bridged David's failed and successful attempts. The visible blessing on his household testified that proper treatment of sacred things brings divine favor, not judgment.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does observing God's blessing on others' obedience instruct our own worship?
 2. What 'proper procedures' in spiritual life have you neglected despite knowing better?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּשֶׁב	אֶרְאָרׁוֹן	בְּאֶלְהָיָם	עַם	בְּיִתְהָרָא	בְּעֵד	אָדָם
remained	And the ark	of God	H5973	in his house	H0	of Obededom
H3427	H727	H430		H1004		H5654
בְּיִתְהָרָא	שְׁלֹשׁ	יָמִים	בְּיִצְחָרָה	יְהָה	אֶת	בְּיִתְהָרָא
in his house	three	months	blessed	And the LORD	H853	in his house
H1004	H7969	H2320	H1288	H3068		H1004
עֵבֶד	אָדָם	וְאֶת	כָּל	לֹא	אָשָׁר	
H0	of Obededom	H853	H3605	H834	H0	
H5654						

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:22 (Blessing): The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Genesis 39:5 (Blessing): And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

Genesis 30:27 (Blessing): And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, tarry: for I have learned by experience that the LORD hath blessed me for thy sake.

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