

2 Samuel 6:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

Analysis

And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Ark Brought to Jerusalem, emphasizing reverence in worship, God's holiness. The ark's journey to Jerusalem emphasizes God's transcendent holiness and the necessity of approaching Him on His terms. Uzzah's death for touching the ark (though apparently well-intentioned) teaches that sincerity doesn't override obedience. David's dancing demonstrates appropriate joy in worship. Michal's contempt reveals heart attitudes toward genuine worship. The Hebrew *qodesh* (קֹדֶשׁ, 'holiness') dominates this chapter.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 6 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding reverence in worship, God's holiness provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and

expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of reverence in worship, God's holiness?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

וּמִיכָל לַדָּוִד	עַיֵּר	בָּא	יְהוָה	אָרֹן	וְהָיָה	
David	came	of the LORD	And as the ark			
H1732	H935	H3068	H727			
אֶת וְיָרָא	הַחֹלֶל וְ	בַּעַד	נִשְׁקָף הוּא	שָׂא וְ	בֵּת	
and saw	through a window	H1157	looked	Saul's	daughter	
H7200	H2474		H8259	H7586	H1323	
וְהָיָה	לִפְנֵי י	וּמְכַרְכֵּר	מִפֵּי ז	דָּוִד	הֶמֶל לְ	
of the LORD	before	and dancing	leaping	David	king	
H3068	H6440	H3769	H6339	H1732	H4428	
וְהִקְדָּשָׁה						
and she despised						
H959						
לִּ	בְּלִבָּהּ:					
H0	him in her heart					
	H3820					

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 2:14 (Parallel theme): But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Psalms 69:7 (Parallel theme): Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face.

1 Chronicles 15:29 (Kingdom): And it came to pass, as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw king David dancing and playing: and she despised him in her heart.

Acts 2:13 (Kingdom): Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

2 Samuel 3:14 (References David): And David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

Isaiah 53:3 (Parallel theme): He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

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