

2 Samuel 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

Analysis

And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וְדָוִד And David H1732	וְכָל H3605	בֵּית and all the house H1004	יִשְׂרָאֵל of Israel H3478	מִשְׁחָקִים played H7832	לִפְנֵי before H6440	יְהוָה the LORD H3068
לְ H3605	עֵץ wood H6086	בְּכָל on all manner of instruments made of fir H1265	וְכִנֹּר even on harps H3658			
וּבִנְבָלִים and on psalteries H5035	וּבְתֻפִּים and on timbrels H8596	וּבְמִנְעֻנֵּי and on cornets H4517	וּבַצִּלְצְלִים and on cymbals H6767			

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 13:8 (References David): And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.

Amos 5:23 (Parallel theme): Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

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