

Psalms 132:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lo, we heard of it at Ephrathah: we found it in the fields of the wood.

Analysis

The perspective shifts to finding the ark: 'Lo, we heard of it at Ephrathah: we found it in the fields of the wood.' The exclamation 'lo' calls attention to the discovery. The phrase 'we heard of it' suggests the ark's location was discovered through report or inquiry. 'Ephrathah' refers to Bethlehem's region (Micah 5:2; Ruth 4:11), David's hometown. However, the ark wasn't at Ephrathah but at Kiriath-jearim ('fields of the wood,' Hebrew 'sedeh ya'ar'), where it remained after Philistines returned it (1 Samuel 7:1-2). The verse likely means: 'We (Israel/David) heard about it (the ark) at Ephrathah (David's home region), and found it in the fields of the wood (Kiriath-jearim).' This celebrates locating the lost/neglected ark, first step in restoring proper worship. The ark represented God's presence; recovering it was crucial to David's plan.

Historical Context

The ark remained at Kiriath-jearim approximately 70-100 years after Philistines returned it (1 Samuel 7:2). Saul largely ignored it, but David prioritized recovering and honoring God's presence. David brought the ark to Jerusalem with great celebration (2 Samuel 6), though initially Uzzah died for touching it improperly. The recovery marked restoration of central worship.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why had the ark been neglected at Kiriath-jearim so long?
2. What does locating the lost/neglected ark teach about recovering proper worship?
3. How does physical search for the ark mirror spiritual search for God's presence?
4. What modern equivalents exist to neglecting the ark (God's presence) despite knowing its importance?
5. How does David's priority to recover the ark challenge contemporary priorities in worship?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה	שָׁמָעַנּוּ וְהָ	בְּאֶפְרַת תְּהָ	מָצָאנוּ וְהָ	בְּשָׂדֵי	יַעֲרֵ:
H2009	Lo we heard	of it at Ephratah	we found	it in the fields	of the wood
	H8085	H672	H4672	H7704	H3293

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 17:12 (Parallel theme): Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Beth-lehem-judah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men for an old man in the days of Saul.

1 Samuel 7:1 (Parallel theme): And the men of Kirjath-jearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

Micah 5:2 (Parallel theme): But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.