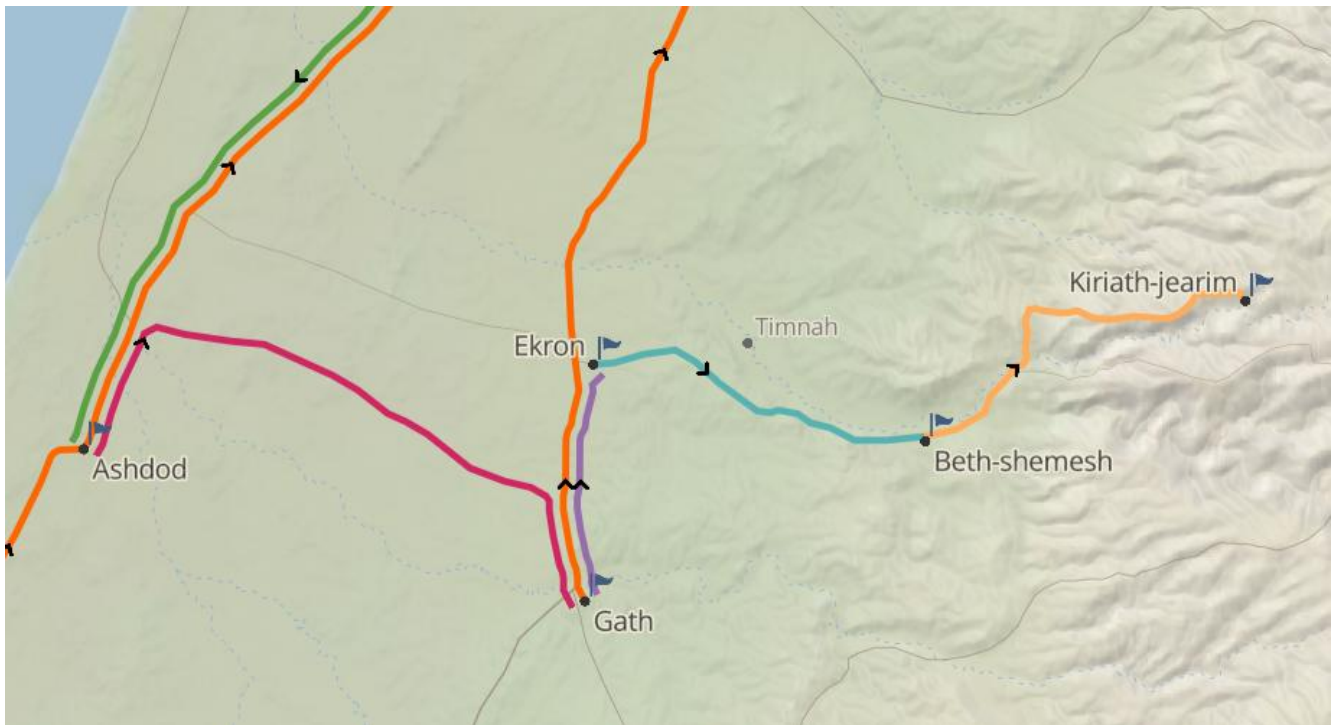


Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

Moving the Ark to Jerusalem

- David gathered together his standing army of 30,000 “chosen” men [2 Sam 6:1].
 - King Saul had 3,000 “chosen” men [1 Sam 13:2] whom he took to seek David [1 Sam 24:2; 26:2].
 - Rehoboam will have 180,000 “chosen” men to put down Jeroboam’s rebellion [1 Kgs 12:20-21].
 - Abijah and Jeroboam will wage war with 400,000 and 800,000 “chosen” men [2 Chr 13:1-3].
- David and his men went to Kiriath-jearim to bring the ark up to Jerusalem [2 Sam 6:2].
 - The ark had been taken by the Philistines after they defeated the army of Israel [1 Sam 4:10-11].
 - The Lord struck the Philistines for seven months because they had taken the ark, so they sent it away to Israel at Beth-shemesh where it was received with great joy [1 Sam 5:1-6:18].



- Some of the people of Beth-shemesh looked into the ark of God and the Lord struck them down, so they asked the people of Kiriath-jearim to come and take the ark [1 Sam 6:19-7:2; Num 4:19-20].
- The ark bore the name of God whose presence was found above the mercy seat [Ex 25:22].
- They transported the ark from the house of Abinadab on a new cart led by Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadab’s sons [2 Sam 6:3-4].
 - They were following the Philistine method for moving the ark [1 Sam 6:7].

- They neglected to follow the proper procedure for transporting the ark wherein it was to be carried by poles on the shoulders [Num 4:5-6, 15; 7:6-9].
- Why David did not follow the proper procedure for moving the ark is impossible to know, but it seems possible that his enthusiasm for bringing the ark to Jerusalem got the best of him.
- David and all of Israel celebrated the parade moving the ark [2 Sam 6:5].
 - David had already established Jerusalem as the political capital of Israel and was now celebrating Jerusalem becoming the center of worship as well.
 - The use of musical instruments became common in celebrations during the reign of David as king [Psalm 150].
- Uzzah was struck down by the Lord for touching the ark [2 Sam 6:6-7].
 - At the threshing floor of Nacon the oxen did something to cause the ark to begin falling off of the cart prompting Uzzah to take hold of it.
 - As we have seen, touching the ark is forbidden.
 - The “anger of the Lord” is an anthropopathism to help us understand God’s punishment of Uzzah.
- David freaked out when he saw what had happened to Uzzah [2 Sam 6:8-11].
 - First, David became angry because of the Lord’s response and named the place Perez-uzzah (outbreak against Uzzah).
 - Next, David humbly realized what he had done, regained a proper fear of the Lord and abandoned his plans to continue moving the ark.
 - David left the ark in the care of Obed-edom the Gittite.
 - We don’t know much Obed-edom the Gittite, but we know he was faithful in taking care of the ark and was blessed for the three month period it remained in his house.
- When David learned how Obed-edom had been blessed, he decided to bring the ark the rest of the way to Jerusalem [2 Sam 6:12-19].
 - David made sure the ark was moved according to the proper procedure this time [1 Chr 15:1-28].
 - Another musical celebration followed the procession and this time David joined in the celebration with some zealous dancing.
 - As the ark came into Jerusalem, Michal saw David dancing and despised him.
 - David placed the ark in a tabernacle he had prepared for it, made offerings to the Lord and finished the celebration with gifts for everyone.
- When David got home he was greeted with a sharp rebuke from Michal [2 Sam 6:20-23].
 - In her eyes David had made a spectacle of himself.
 - Michal accused him of exposing himself before the servant’s maids.
 - David defended himself explaining to her that he had been humbly celebrating before the Lord.
 - Michal never had any children, perhaps because David decided to separate himself from her after this incident.