



Raiders of the Lost Ark

1 Chronicles 13:1-14

The Ark of the Covenant



Where the Ark Has Been

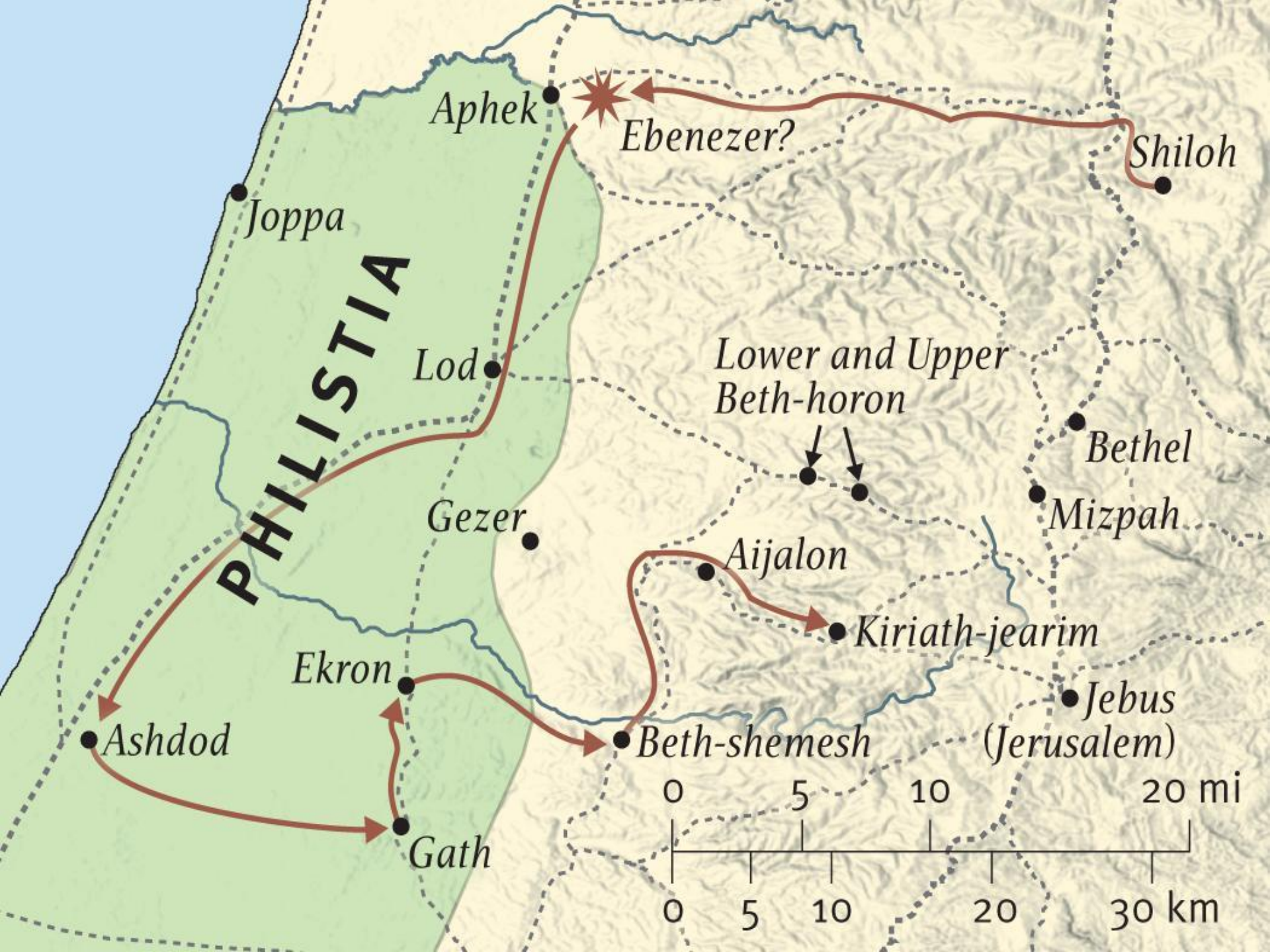
It had been taken by the Philistines in 1 Samuel 5 and removed to their territory, but it caused so much suffering and embarrassment there that they decided to send it back to the land of Judah on a cart drawn by two cows with a guilt offering (1 Sam. 6:1-9).



Where the Ark Has Been

- It was brought to Beth Shemesh, where prying eyes looked into the Ark and the offenders were struck down (1 Sam. 6:10-20).
- Ministers were sent to Kiriath-jearim requesting its removal (1 Sam. 6:21-7:1).
- It was taken to the house of Abinadab and there remained until David removed it (about 70 years).





David and the Ark

- David wanted to bring the ark into his capital because it symbolized the Lord's presence.
- David knew Yahweh was the real source of blessing.
- However, he wanted the people to see that it was important that Israel's God, and what represented Him, should be at the center of national life.



Referring Back to 2 Samuel 5

- Recently, David has defeated the Philistines in battle and destroyed their idols, but he knows the army has not been destroyed and will return to fight another day. (We will study this battle in the next chapter).
- He is also aware that his decision to destroy the Philistine gods would invite a response, and a possible target is the Ark of the Covenant.



1 Chronicles 13:1

1 Then David consulted with the captains of the thousands and the hundreds, even with every leader.

The Chronicler is taking great pains to inform us that the moving of the Ark was a joint effort of all Israel (as the conquest of Jerusalem had been, as well).



1 Chronicles 13:2-3

2 David said to all the assembly of Israel, “If it seems good to you, and if it is from the Lord our God, let us send everywhere to our kinsmen who remain in all the land of Israel, also to the priests and Levites who are with them in their cities with pasture lands, that they may meet with us; **3** and let us bring back the ark of our God to us, for we did not seek it in the days of Saul.”



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Word was to be sent far and wide to
the rest of the people throughout
Israel, to the priests, to the Levites,
in the towns and in the
pasturelands to join together in a
great enterprise to bring back the
Ark.



The Ark Has Been Absent

- Neglect of the Ark in the days of Saul was at least in part the reason for the failures of Israel during that time.
- Clearly, if the Ark was hidden away, Israel failed to inquire of the Lord as they should have.



1 Chronicles 13:4-5

4 Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. 5 So David assembled all Israel together, from the Shihor of Egypt even to the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim.



The Results Are In!

- “all the assembly” agrees to the proposal, and it seemed right to “all the people.”
- Again, “all Israel” assemble to bring the Ark of God from Kiriath-jearim to Jerusalem, a distance of about 8 miles.





Kiriath-jearim

- In Joshua 18:14, it is called Kiriath-baal
- In Joshua 15:9, it is called Baalah
- Here in 1 Chronicles 13:6, it is called Baalah of Judah (Baale-Judah in 2 Sam. 6:2)
- It was later the home of Uriah, the prophet of Jeremiah's day (Jer. 26:20)
- It also figured in postexilic history (Neh. 7:29)



1 Chronicles 13:6

6 David and all Israel went up to Baalah, that is, to Kiriath-jearim, which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, the Lord who is enthroned above the cherubim, where His name is called.



According to 2 Samuel 6

David brings 30,000 men to
this Ark relocation project.

30,000 Men?!?!



How the Ark is Described

“the ark of God, the Lord who is enthroned above the cherubim”

The Ark is centrally important to Israel's temple worship because it represented the presence of God among His people.

It was both the throne of God and a receptacle for the law.



Exodus 25:22

“There I will meet with you; and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel.”



1 Chronicles 13:7-8

7 They carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. **8** David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all their might, even with songs and with lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals and with trumpets.



“a new cart”

This is a sign of respect for the
Ark.

However...

As respectful and well-intended as
David's effort was, it violated Torah
guidelines.



Numbers 4:15; 7:9

15 When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy objects and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is to set out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them, so that they will not touch the holy objects and die. These are the things in the tent of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.... **9** But he did not give any to the sons of Kohath because theirs was the service of the holy objects, which they carried on the shoulder.





1 Chronicles 13:9-10

9 When they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, because the oxen nearly upset it. **10** The anger of the Lord burned against Uzza, so He struck him down because he put out his hand to the ark; and he died there before God.



An Unforeseen Tragedy

- Because “the oxen nearly upset” the Ark, instinctively, Uzza reached out to stabilize and protect it.
- However, in doing so, he committed a capital offense.



In His Effort to Protect the Ark

- Uzza actually defiled it; accordingly, “the anger of the Lord burned against Uzza,” and it is God who strikes him dead.
- Clearly, when we read this, we think overreaction, but that is our own rationalization.



The Significance of the Ark



Remember Numbers 4:15?

“When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy objects and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is to set out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them, **so that they will not touch the holy objects and die.**”



Some Additional Parallels

- Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10)
- Achan (Joshua 7)
- Ananias and Saphira (Acts 5)

What do all these people have in common?



1 Chronicles 13:11

11 Then David became angry because of the Lord's outburst against Uzza; and he called that place Perez-uzza to this day.

“David became angry”?



David is Angry

- He should be angry at himself because if he had transported the Ark correctly, this event would not have happened.
- David memorializes the event by renaming the site “Perez-uzzah” (“Uzzah’s Breach”).



A Spiritual Truth

**God's work must be
done in God's way to
secure God's
blessing.**



1 Chronicles 13:12

12 David was afraid of God that day, saying, “How can I bring the ark of God home to me?”



David's Attitude Changes

“David was afraid of God that day”

Fear is not necessarily a bad thing.

One commentator writes: “when people are no longer awed, respectful, or fearful of God’s holiness, the community is put at risk.”



The Ark in Jerusalem

- Would be protected from the Philistines
- Would increase David's prestige
- Would increase the city's prestige

But David now has reservations about bringing the Ark into his new capital.



1 Chronicles 13:13-14

13 So David did not take the ark with him to the city of David, but took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. **14** Thus the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months; and the Lord blessed the family of Obed-edom with all that he had.



David Orders the Ark

- To be taken to the house of a Levite, “Obed-edom the Gittite.”
- We don’t know the location; perhaps it was the closest Levitical residence to the disaster.
- The Ark was there 3 months, and blessings abounded on Obed-edom and his house.





Next Week:
David vs. The Philistines

