• The Ark of God is a type of Christ and a picture of the presence of God. Jesus Christ is our Ark. He alone is our Sabbath of rest. We enjoy His blessings as we obey Him doing His work, His way.

- **Revival in desire for God**

• The Ark of God ended up with the Gentile Gibeonites of Kiryat-Yearim who said “It is welcome with us.” They brought it home where they were blessed with it in seclusion, while the rest of Israel forgot about it for many years.

  - The Gibeonites were of the Hivites (The Gibeonites were called Hivites in Josh. 9:7) whom the sons of Jacob deceived in the matter of Dina. They inhabited Gibeon and these people later deceived the sons of Jacob with their moldy bread. Their life was spared due to the oath they took, but they were to forever be servants to the Levites.

  - But these people embraced the God of Israel and became installed in the regular service of the Temple centuries later. They were later called the “Nethinims,” (given ones) who served.

• So the ark - a picture of Christ - lay in obscurity among the Gentiles in the house of Abinidab until Israel was awakened to its value.

- **Resetting in doctrine**

• When David and the people of Israel went to get the Ark, it was a noble thing.

  - In our flesh, we often presume that a noble cause justifies the means. We accept whatever means are available and presume God submits to them because of the nobility of the cause.

  - When you suggest the importance of conducting God’s work God’s way, they wave you off. They will say you are just too idealistic; old fashioned or you have no love.

• But where did the people of God get the idea to use an oxcart in the first place?

  - They got it from the Philistines, who returned the Ark of God on one.

  - When Christians get their tail in a knot over the conflict of their new cart and the Bible, I simply ask “Where did you get the idea for those things in the first place?”

• The children of God did not need to put the Ark on an oxcart when God had already prescribed how they were to carry it.

• The important thing we can nail down here. There is a very good reason David didn’t leave the ark there. David had prepared a place for the Ark.

  - It was because he had a place prepared for the presence of God that he could not remain offended that his presumption of the world’s way of doing things was not acceptable with God.

  - This is exactly the same crucial point for every Christian.

• When a Christian is confronted with the fact that their Philistine cart is not according to the word of God, they might get offended and go no further with the presence of God. But God is not going to change for them.

  - But if they have a place prepared for the presence of God, the cannot remain offended. They will submit to the Biblical way and have great joy in doing so.

- **Rejoicing in the delight of truth**

• That is not the end of the story.

• I would like to continue here this afternoon with a short biography of someone who welcomed the presence of God and who continued with it.

• Let’s take a look at this man Obed-Edom

**I. He was a Gittite**
A. There are many in the Bible who are identified with a name ending in “ite.”

1. We sometimes tend to just scan over it without taking into account just what that means. **It usually signified a person’s nationality or where the were from.**
2. **In Hebrew, this signification is just “i”** So Obed-Edom was called the “Gti”

B. **His proper name is interesting** in itself. \( אדומ \) \( עבד \) is two words.

1. **עבד** means **servant or worshipper.** Worship is always connected with work, whether it be good or evil.
   a) **There is no concept in Hebrew of a servant of God whose testimony is not known by their works. You cannot be a servant without literally serving**
   b) **This ties in for us in the NT with Eph. 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
2. **אדומ** means **red** (literally) but it is also the name of the **Edomites.**
3. **Thus, his name could mean worshipper (from) Edom.** or even perhaps worshipper who is red. **But he is not called an Edomite.** He **is called a Gittite** which indicates **where he was from.**

C. **I could just tell you where that is, but you need to see it in Scripture to know the background.**

1. **The first mention of the Gittites is in Jos 13:3** From Sihor, which is before Egypt, even unto the borders of Ekron northward, which is counted to the Canaanite: five lords of the Philistines; the Gazathites, and the Ashdothites, the Eshkalonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites:
2. The spelling of places often vary through the Bible. But if you will look at those five cities, you might **recognize the five chief cities** as being the place of origin for these “ites.” Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron
3. **In the last phrase of 2Sa 6:10 we saw “. . . .but David carried it aside into the house of Obededom the Gittite.”** I don’t believe David did this randomly. **He probably knew** Obededom.

D. **David seemed to have gained an affinity among some mighty men of Gath.**

1. If you will remember, Goliath was from Gath. **1Sa 17:4** And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. **He is referred to as Goliath the Gittite in 2Sam 21**
2. **David bravely killed the giant of Gath.** But when David was later running from Saul, he went to . . . . Gath. **1Sa 21:10** “And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.” He later returned in **1Sa 27:3** “And David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household;”
3. Why would he be safe in Gath? You would **think** that to be a dangerous place for the killer of their champion. Not quite.
4. David’s bravery and valor earned him a respect and following of those who saw him stand up squarely to their champion and kill him.
   a) In fact, I think we could give evidence that it worked toward the conversion of some heathen from Gath.
   b) Those who think that we can win the world by the cowardice of compromise will not understand any of this.

E. David had a following of men from Gath.
   1. These men of war were apparently won over to David for his courage, bravery and character.
   2. *2Sam. 15:17-22* And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and tarried in a place that was far off. 18 And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king. 19 Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou art a stranger, and also an exile. 20 Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth be with thee. 21 And Ittai answered the king, and said, As the LORD liveth, and as my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be. 22 And David said to Ittai, Go and pass over. And Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones that were with him.

   3. This Ittai became one of his Generals. *2Sa 18:2* And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab’s brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also.

F. Obededom who was entrusted with the ark was a Gittite and a faithful servant - not of the gods of Gath - but of *the God of Israel*.
   1. He was not simply a convenient religious convert, as we will see. He was a Gentile who was *grafted into the root* of Israel by the grace of God.
   2. Some of the greatest servants of God in Israel were Gentiles who sought the Lord and were ingrafted into the root of faith.
   3. Caleb the Kenezite -was a man whose father was among the faithful in Judah and the God of Israel whom his father had embraced became His God in a mighty way. *He and Joshua alone stood* by faith against the multitude of who doubted God. He knew his inheritance in Israel when he said “*I want that mountain*” and bravely killed the giants that were occupying what God had given him.

G. The Gittites became David’s *personal guard* among those which the Bible calls *David's Mighty Men*.
   1. When David became king, the Gittites went with him.
   2. They were honored for their faithfulness not only by David, but this Obededom the Gittite was also honored by God Himself.

II. He had a desire for God
A. When Uzzah reached out to steady the ark, God killed him instantly. This was a tragedy and caused David to fear. He did not complete his mission at that time, not knowing what to do.

1. This ark was the symbol of the presence of God which God took very seriously. It turned out to be too hot of an item for David to handle. But what do you do with it now?

2. You started to bring it home. You can’t just unload it and flee. You have to put it somewhere it will be taken care of. But who is going to take such a thing?
   a) If you remember, fifty thousand and three score people of Bethshemesh were slaughtered because someone looked in it.
   b) Bethshemesh was a Levite city of Israelites who rejoiced when the ark first came to their city. They were glad to get rid of it when they took it lightly.
   c) Before that, many Philistines were smitten just for having it around. The people of Gath were plagued from it and sent it to Ekron (1Sam 5:8)

B. And yet this man from Gath welcomes it to his home.

1. It not only comes to his home, he is blessed by it. There is something different about this man from Gath that is not like those who were plagued by it earlier.

2. Perhaps it not the man of Gath, but the true faith of God that made the difference? It is not written in the text, but I would venture to say that Obededom did not take God lightly.

3. He had to have had a delight in the God of heaven, and for him the treasure of God’s presence was granted him in a blessed way.

4. He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (Ps. 91:1)

C. There is bound to be a lesson there for us. What would happen to you if the ark came by your way?

1. Most people would be as the Philistines and die without understanding.

2. Many Christians would be like they of Bethshemesh. They would like to treat the ark of God like a rock star and would perish.

3. The Protestant fundament Baptists would probably be like Uzzah. They had respect for it, but are caught up in an unbiblical system which would require some unbiblical maneuvers to cover for them.

4. I wonder how many people would be like Obededom?

D. Something else about his desire for God is seen in what happens when it is time to move the ark to its rightful place - in the right way.

1. Obededom could have seen it off, waved good-by and reminisced for years to come about how good God was to them when they had that special time with him.
a) I have known churches that did that very thing. They reminisced about a
time when God came through and revived hearts. The church is now a
museum for what *had been.*

b) It seems that things dealing with God are *always a progress.* *Joh 8:12*
Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, *I am the light of the world: he that followeth*
me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. Following is not
stagnant.

c) **No matter where you are spiritually**, if you are going to follow the
Lord it is going to **involve some changes** in your life.

(1) *Walking with Christ is not sitting on your blessed assurance.* There may
be many times that you have to follow Him outside your comfort zone.

(2) You are going to have to leave some things behind or shed the weight
that besets you. **But when you hunger and thirst after righteousness,**
you will be filled. *Mt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his*
righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

(3) *I have never known this to come without great reward,* which you
generally **cannot see until you get there.** This is because the
motivation **must be a desire for the Lord.**

2. Obededom could have stayed where he was - as Christians often do. **But he
had had a taste of how good the Lord is.** He was going with the Lord.

a) His comfort zone was no longer where it was. Wherever the ark of God
goes, **Obededom was going too.**

b) He has already established a pattern for this in his life. He already left Gath
to be a servant of the God of Israel. He is not stopping now. He wants all of
God that he can get.

c) **MK 10:29-30** And Jesus answered and said, *Verily I say unto you, There is no man*
that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or
lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this
time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with
persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.*

**III. A willing servant**

A. Remember, **servant** is the **first part of his name.** The Bible knows nothing of
“serving the Lord” without actually serving.

1. **The first part of his name is Obed** which is **service/worship** which is
*our root for our English word “Obedience.”* We get the “ience” ending from
Latin to indicate state of being. Hebrew uses “ote” for the same thing. So it is
עבדות. (Source for Hebrew root of this word: *The Word - the dictionary that*
reveals the Hebrew source of English, Isaac E Mozeson.)

2. Obededom became a gatekeeper as well as a song leader in the house of God.
3. 1Ch 15:17-21 So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brethren, Ethan the son of Kushaiah; 18 And with them their brethren of the second degree, Zechariah, Ben, and Jaaziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, Eliab, and Benaiah, and Maaseiah, and Mattithiah, and Elipheleth, and Mikneiah, and **Obededom**, and Jeiel, the porters. 19 So the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were appointed to sound with cymbals of brass; 20 And Zechariah, and Aziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, and Eliab, and Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with psalteries on Alamoth; 21 And Mattithiah, and Elipheleth, and Mikneiah, and **Obededom**, and Jeiel, and Azaaziah, with harps on the Sheminith to excel. 22 And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skilful. 23 And Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark. 24 And Shebaniah, and Jehoshaphat, and Nethaneel, and Amasai, and Zedekiah, and Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, did blow with the trumpets before the ark of God: and **Obededom** and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark.

4. 1Ch 16:4 -5 And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel: 5 Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, Jeiel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Mattithiah, and Eliab, and Benaiah, and **Obededom**: and Jeiel with psalteries and with harps; but Asaph made a sound with cymbals; Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, Jeiel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Mattithiah, and Eliab, and Benaiah, and **Obededom**: and Jeiel with psalteries and with harps; but Asaph made a sound with cymbals;

B. **Obededom has a position in the worship of the Lord alongside some of the legendary men such as Asaph** (who wrote the 12 Psalms in the word of God). But he also continues **faithfully as the gatekeeper** for the Lord.

1. Serving the Lord is **not about position or titles**. It is about service.

2. Based on the character we see of Obededom, **I would guess** that he just loved being of service in the house of the Lord. Being a doorkeeper was not only NOT beneath him, it was an honor and a joy to him.

3. **Ps 84:10** For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

4. **But that is not the end of the story of Obededom**

**IV. He trained his children**

A. Obededom was not only blessed by his relationship to serve the Lord, **his family was also blessed.**

1. Obededom has **sons and grandsons** that also worshipped and served the Lord. There were 62 men of character and strength.

2. **1Chron 26:4-8** Moreover the sons of Obededom were, Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, and Saera the fourth, and Nathaniel the fifth, 5 Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, Peulthai the eighth: for God blessed him. 6 Also unto Shemaiah his sons were born, that ruled throughout the house of their father: for they were mighty men of valour. 7 The sons of Shemaiah; Othni, and Rephael, and Obed, Elzabad, whose brethren were strong men, Elihu, and Semachiah. 8 All these of the sons of Obededom: they and their sons and their brethren, able men for strength for the service, were threescore and two of Obededom.
3. The sons and grandsons of Obededom were trained well and, by the blessing of God, were endued with wisdom to follow and continue faithfully. That doesn’t just happen.

B. Children don’t just naturally follow the right way. They have to be trained.

1. **Gen 18:17-19** And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; 18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

2. I would guess that Obededom was like Abraham. He was not a raiser of children, he was a trainer and they kept the way of the Lord.

V. He left a legacy

A. **1Ch 26:15** To Obededom southward; and to his sons the house of Asuppim. (context from vs 12)

1. Remember the home he left behind to follow the Lord? He now has an inheritance near the house of the Lord.

2. This gentile Gittite is a faithful servant who has been engrafted into the house of Levi and receives an inheritance among the faithful.

3. When we are faithful in serving the Lord, we will rule and reign with him in the fulness of His kingdom.

B. The faith and obedience of Obededom gave him the entrance of wisdom to increase in the knowledge and understanding of the Lord.

1. There is no such thing as the knowledge and understanding of the Lord without faith and obedience.

2. If you want the blessings of light and relationship with the Lord, you must start with obedience.

C. Obededom’s desire for relationship with God not only established one for himself, but also for his posterity. He received the blessings of God on his family and saw his grandchildren serving God.

1. So, what did Obededom lose out on by seeking, serving and obeying the Lord?

2. **So what is it again that you don’t want to give up for God?** Go ahead and name it to yourself. Put your finger on it right now and say it to yourself in your mind.

3. Considering all that this gentile from Gath gained in the fulness of joy (Ps 16:11) and the blessings that increased to his children and grandchildren, ask yourself again what it is that you don’t want to give up in order to obey and please the Lord.

As for me, I am just a Gittite that has nothing to offer the Lord. But I want all He will give me in relationship and inheritance with Him. How about you?