After generations of wars with their neighbors under King David and earlier leaders, the nation of Israel is unified and at peace - and David yearns to fulfill his desire builds a permanent house for God in the royal city. His first step is to transport the Ark from the Avinadav family's home in Givah on a wagon guided by two family members, Uzzah and Achiyo, but disaster strikes: Uzzah touches it, and God kills him. ("Avinadav" combines the names of Avihu and Nadav whom God also suddenly strikes down for their trespasses while participating in the Tabernacle's inauguration, as recounted in this week’s Parashah.) The Ark spends the next three months in the nearby home of Obed-Edom, whose family is blessed by its presence. With jubilation led by David and trepidation, the Ark is successfully carried by hand to Jerusalem. Afterward, Michal tells her husband, David, that his jubilation degraded the crown. David rejects her criticism - and her, too. Some time later, David tells the prophet, Nathan, that he wants to build a permanent house for God. Nathan approves - but God does not. He instructs Nathan to tell David that his son, not he, will build His Temple. God nonetheless assures David that He will support his royal line forever.

**Haftarah Breakdown**

**Verses 6:1-5: David sets out to bring the Ark to Jerusalem.**

*II Samuel 6:2*

David and all the people who were with him set out from Baalim of Judah to bring up from there God's Ark called [by] the Name- the name, "Lord of Hosts Enthroned on the Cherubim."

**Verses 6:6-8: Uzzah supports the Ark with his hand and is struck dead...**

*II Samuel 6:7*

The Lord’s anger flared against Uzzah. God smote him there for his error, and he died there, at God’s Ark.

**Verses 6:9-12a:... so David leaves the Ark with Obed-Edom, to whose family it brings blessings for three months.**

*II Samuel 6:10*

David would not remove the Lord’s ark to him into the city of David. David carried it aside into the house of Obed Edom the Gittite.

**Verses 6:12b-19: With sacrifices and dancing jubilation led by David, the Ark is carried to a tent in the royal city.**

*II Samuel 6:15*

David and all the house of Israel brought up the Lord’s ark with shouting, and with the sound of the shofar.

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1 Sephardim read only 6:1-19. I Chronicles 13-17 greatly expands upon the Haftarah’s narrative.
Verses 6:20-23: Michal, David's wife, criticizes his dancing before the Ark. David rejects her words and her.

**II Samuel 6:20**

Verses 7:1-3: Dwelling peacefully in his palace, David deems it fitting to build a house for the Ark.

**II Samuel 7:2**

Verses 7:4-7: God tells the prophet Nathan that David will not build Him a home...

**II Samuel 7:7**

Verses 7:8-17: ...but David's son will build it. God will support David's royal line forever.

**II Samuel 7:13**

Connections

For Maimonides, David's humble exultation before the Ark exemplifies proper love of God and His precepts.

**Mishneh Torah, Shofar, Sukkah and Lulav 8:15**

The joy of a person rejoicing when performing a precept, and when loving God who commanded us to perform them, is a great act of divine service. Anyone who refrains from this joy deserves punishment, as Scripture (Deut. 28:47) states, “Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and with a good heart.” Anyone who is arrogant and glorifies himself, or considers himself glorious, on such occasions is a sinner and a fool. Solomon warned against this, saying (Prov. 25:6), "Do not beautify yourself before the King." Anyone who humbles himself and his body on such occasions is the great and honored one who serves the Lord out of love. Similarly, David, King of Israel, said (II Sam. 6:22), “I would lower myself even more than this; I would be lowly in my own eyes.” Greatness and honor are [attained] only by rejoicing before the Lord, as Scripture states (II Sam. 6:16), "King David leapt and danced before the Lord."

With emendations, all translations are from Sefaria.org. To dedicate, comment, or subscribe, email zbeer570@gmail.com.