

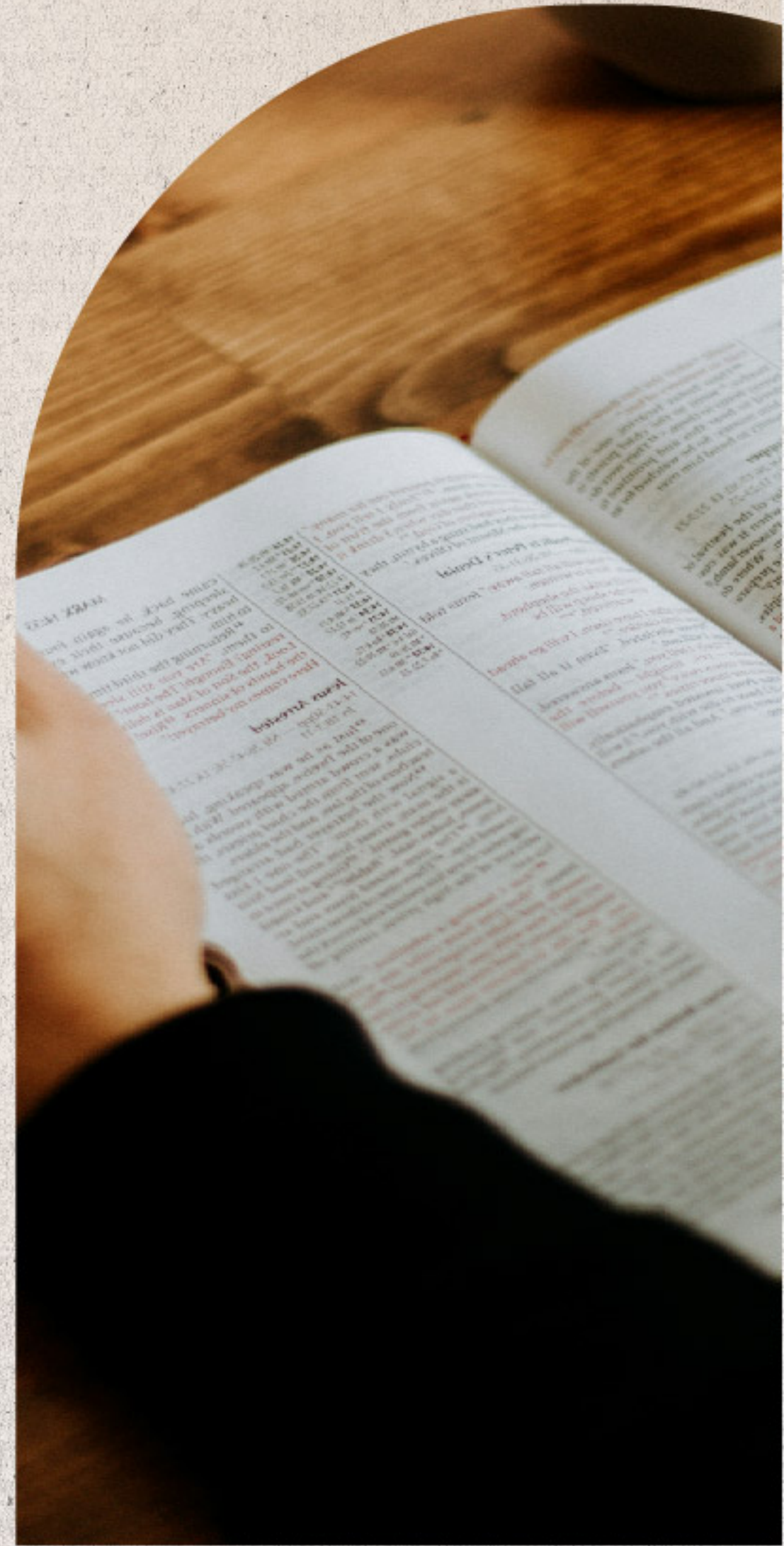


D'WELL BITES

8 JANUARY

1 CHRONICLES 15:1-16:6

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1 Chronicles 15 provides the account of the transportation of the Ark of the Covenant from the house of Obed-Edom to Jerusalem. The Ark of the Covenant was a symbol of God's presence among the Israelites, and it had to be handled with great care. When mishandled in any way, God's wrath was incurred. But when handled according to God's commands, there is blessing.

King David made meticulous preparations for the transportation. He prepared a place for the Ark of God. He consecrated the leaders and formed a worship team. He also warned that only the Levites were to carry the Ark as they were chosen by the LORD to do so.

During the move, as they worshipped, David danced before the Lord wearing a linen ephod (priestly garment) instead of his royal attire which in the eyes of his wife, Michal, was a disgrace. She despised him in her heart which was probably the main reason why she was childless (2 Samuel 6:23).

What can we learn from this amazing account of David's worship?

First, God is holy and we must approach Him with prudence. It is not about how we are dressed, but about the condition of our hearts and about our obedience to God.

Second, we are to consecrate ourselves daily as we are called to worship not only in church weekly but daily, not only through singing but through how we live. Do not confuse singing with worship. Singing is an act of worship but it is not all that worship is. This requirement for consecration is more stringent for those who are in the worship ministry who serve as "priests". Consecration is something we ought to do daily, not only in the few days before we serve.

Third, God is displeased with those who mishandle worship. For the congregation, coming to corporate worship without preparation of the heart to be fully devoted to God, to meet with God and to hear from Him would be a mishandling. For the worship team, our job is to minister to the Lord (see 1 Chronicles 15:2). As the worship team focuses on ministering to the LORD, the LORD will then minister to His people. To focus on ministering to the people would be a mishandling.

May we all offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to the Lord, this is our true, spiritual and daily worship.