

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo  
*Lead Pastor*



1224 Hancock Drive  
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: [www.booneopenbible.com](http://www.booneopenbible.com)  
E-mail: [office@booneopenbible.com](mailto:office@booneopenbible.com)  
[pastor@booneopenbible.com](mailto:pastor@booneopenbible.com)

## SERMON TITLE

The Echoes of Encounter

## SERIES

## DATE

3/5/2023

## KEY SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 6:9-11

## SYNOPSIS

Obed-Edom encountered the presence of the Lord and it affected him for generations.

## HIGHLIGHTS



## ☞ The Echoes of Encounter

### 2 Samuel 6:9-11

9 David was afraid of the Lord that day and said, "How can the ark of the Lord ever come to me?"  
10 He was not willing to take the ark of the Lord to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. **11 The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the Lord blessed him and his entire household.**

Leading up to this is the story of King David wanting to bring the Ark of the Covenant into the capitol city of Jerusalem. David wanted God's presence at the center of his kingdom. Last week we talked about the importance of putting God in the place of priority at the center of your life. That's what David wanted to do. However, in the preceding verses, we see that David was not following the proper etiquette in transporting the Ark, and then Uzzah, while trying to be helpful, actually disrespected God's presence and died as a result. Then David was angry and afraid and decided to cancel his plans. So, he had the Ark delivered to Obed-Edom's house instead of Jerusalem.

So, this whole story about Obed-Edom is actually a result of King David's mistake. This was not the way this was supposed to happen. **When God moves, it is not always in the way we expect it to be.** Not only that, but the city would never be considered as a resting place for the Ark. Obed-Edom, being a Gittite, tells us that he lived in or near the city of Gath, which is where Goliath, the giant was from. Now, at this time, the city had been conquered and was under David's control, but it was no Jerusalem. No way would David intentionally set up the Ark in that area. **☞ When God moves, it is not always where we expect it to be. God often uses unlikely places and unlikely people to accomplish his purposes.**

### 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But **God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.** 28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him.

God seems to enjoy working with unlikely people. Think of the bible characters that God chose: Jacob was a sneaky trickster, but became the nation of Israel; Joseph was conceited and full of himself, but was used of God with humility to save Egypt and Israel; Moses was a stutterer and had anger issues, but God used him powerfully to speak and deliver Israel out of slavery; Gideon was afraid and insecure, but God raised him up as a mighty warrior to save Israel from its enemies; the city of Bethlehem was insignificant and small, but that's where Jesus was born. And the list could go on and on.

In our day, we want a move of God and many expect it will come to a large, notable place like New York, LA, or Chicago, but God chose Wilmore, KY and others to pour out his spirit. We



expect a big-name preacher to spearhead the movement, but instead, it's unnamed students and lay-people spreading the presence of the Lord.

☞ **Why not small-town Boone, Iowa and little ole Open Bible Church and the people here?** Can an outpouring of God's Spirit happen right here? Can the Presence of God powerfully reside in this place? YES!

Let's get back to Obed-Edom. He had an unexpected, unlikely encounter with the Lord and it radically changed his life forever. **One encounter can change everything.** I've already mentioned Jacob, Joseph and Moses being called and transformed by an encounter with the Lord.

*--James W. Goll mentions a few more... Saul's encounter with the risen Christ—in a vision on the road to Damascus—transformed him from a fire-breathing persecutor of the Church into Paul, a fire-igniting apostle who carried the gospel throughout the Roman Empire.*

*The annals of history also demonstrate that one God encounter can forever transform the course of a person's life... Augustine's encounter with God—through a voice that said, "Take and read, take and read"—led him to a passage which changed him instantly from a doubting skeptic into a confirmed believer in Christ, and gave the Church one of its greatest theologians and thinkers.*

*D.L. Moody's encounter with the calling of God—during a prayer meeting in a hay field—changed him from a poorly educated, unconfident shoe salesman into one of the greatest evangelists of modern times. He preached revivals across England and the United States where tens of thousands came to know Christ as Savior.*

*Billy Graham had an encounter with the Holy Spirit's empowering presence in a hotel room in Los Angeles, California and was transformed into one of the Church's all-time great evangelists who ushered hundreds of thousands of souls into the Kingdom of God.*

☞ **One encounter with the Lord can change everything.** There is not a lot of scripture to give us a complete narrative on Obed-Edom, but there is enough to see that he was profoundly affected by what happened in these few verses. He could have just basked in the glory of that one encounter with the Lord, but he chose to not settle. He chose to pursue the Lord's presence. I've been telling you that there is nothing like the tangible presence of God. Once you experience God's presence and an outpouring of his Spirit, you will be hungry for more.

Obed-Edom could have been happy with that short time of the Lord's presence in his home. He could have thought, "Oh, that's nice. I could feel the presence and power of God, but now it's time to get back to normal." You may have had an experience with the Lord, perhaps at Bible camp or around the altar, or whatever. I hope you will be like Obed-Edom. He had a choice. He could have stayed where he was and lived off of that one encounter with God, fondly remembering that experience. Or, he could choose to pursue more of God. He chose to go after God's presence.





He became a gatekeeper, a musician, and a doorkeeper for the Ark. Obed-Edom had already been notably blessed by that short encounter with God, but now God began again to bless him and promote him. He became a worship *leader* and is mentioned along with Asaph the Chief Musician. Obed-Edom is not only blessed in ministry and relationship with the Lord; his family is also blessed. God gives him eight sons and then grandsons who also worshiped the Lord and were blessed by the Lord. They were all leaders, capable men, with strength to do the work. His one encounter with the Lord led to a desire for more of God's presence, which created a legacy of a godly family.

I want you to have a life-changing encounter with the Lord. I don't want you to be satisfied with a little emotional experience on Sunday, but then just go back to normal every week. I want you to really encounter the Lord. Now, God chooses where he will move, but we can make ourselves available for an encounter. One way we can do that is to **stir up the desire** for more of God in our own hearts. You can choose to go after God.

### **Jeremiah 29:13**

You will seek me and find me when you **seek me with all your heart.**

### **Matthew 5:6**

Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they will be filled.

God wants us to be passionate for Him, to get hungry and thirsty for Him. A wise sage once said, **"I think sometimes we aren't really hungry for God because we are already full of other things."** So, you might need to get rid of some stuff that is filling you up. As I said last week, you need to put God back into his place of priority. Clearly, Obed-Edom put God first and went after him. He didn't let his other interests get in the way of being in God's presence.

☞ Another way to really experience the presence of God is to **enter in to worship.**

**Psalm 22:3** tells us that **God inhabits the praises** of his people.

### **Psalms 100:4**

**Enter** his gates **with thanksgiving and** his courts with **praise**;

That's how we come into the Lord's presence. So, don't just sing some words, put your heart into it. Obed-Edom became a worship *leader* in the tabernacle. He jumped in wholeheartedly. When we sing and worship, are you giving your best? If others followed your example, would that be a good thing for the church? Worship is a significant part of encountering the Lord.

When I talk about entering in to worship, we typically think about the music part of our gatherings. But I want to add that it is also about just plain **getting involved** and engaging in what's going on. Obed-Edom chose not to just be a spectator; he got involved. He became part of the crew that welcomed the Lord's presence.



Being a Christian is not a spectator sport. Everyone is an active player on the team. And I know by experience, and others will attest to this – when you get involved and participate in what’s going on, you get a lot more out of our gatherings. One of the best ways to be blessed, is to be a blessing.

Jesus himself said: **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'** (Acts 20:35)

### **Proverbs 11:25**

**...he who refreshes others will himself, be refreshed.**

So, refuse to be a sideline spectator. Participate; plug in; engage and encourage someone.

☞ And finally, another part of encountering the Lord is what I call **“lingering.”** Obed-Edom had the Ark with him for 3 solid months. When King David first tried to move the Ark, there was a lot of commotion, which is fine. But, with Obed-Edom, it seems there was just a quiet, steady presence of the Lord.

### **Psalms 23:2**

he leads me beside **quiet** (still; restful) waters,

We are so accustomed to activity and noise all the time, but God speaks in that gentle whisper, so we need to slow down, quiet ourselves and just wait on him. Multiple times, the bible tells us to wait on the Lord.

Do you want a genuine “God encounter” in your life? Do you wonder whether it could happen to you? God encounters *do* happen, and not just to “super-Christians.” They happen to ordinary people.

So be an Obed-Edom. He had an encounter and experienced the presence of God. One short encounter with God led to a legacy with the Lord. That encounter echoed throughout his life. So, follow his example: Stir up your own desire for God and seek him wholeheartedly. Worship him with thanksgiving and praise. Get involved. Be a blessing. Wait on the Lord. Linger in his presence.

By doing these things, you are setting the stage for more of God’s presence in your life. You can have your own God encounter and keep on experiencing his presence just like Obed-Edom.

☞ **You can have an encounter with God that will echo through generations. (music begins)**

**Altar ministry**