

April 22 Answers

- 1) The Philistines tried to kill David after he became king. David **sought** God's guidance in each battle, **obeyed** God's instructions, and gave God the **glory** for the victory (2 Sam 5:19–25). This is an excellent example of how we should fight our own battles. David's decision to capture **Jerusalem** showed political and military wisdom. The fortress of Zion was located in neutral territory on the border of Benjamin and Judah, and it was still occupied by the **Jebusites**, a Canaanite tribe that had never been expelled (Jdg 1:21). By making Jerusalem the capital of Israel, David avoided giving **preeminence** to any tribe, which was very important given the recent civil war. This teaches us that a wise leader understands his people's feelings and makes prudent decisions to **bring** people together. God gave David great honor and success, and he recognized that God had prospered him, not for his own sake, but for the sake of **Israel** (2 Sam 5:12). This reminds us to always use our **position** and **success** to further the cause of God's kingdom. David also showed his love for God's name by trying to bring the **ark** to Jerusalem. He consulted with his advisers but he neglected to consult God's **law** (1 Chr 13:1–4; cf. 1 Chr 15:13). This led to humiliation and death, for God had told Israel exactly how the ark should be moved (Num 4:5–15). David learned an important lesson from this disaster, and he was careful to follow God's law the next time he tried to move the ark.