

# Revealed and Concealed Aspects of the Ark's Journey from Kiryat Ye'arim to Jerusalem

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This article is divided into four sections: 1. the preparations preceding the Ark's journey 2. the transfer of the Ark from Kiryat Ye'arim to Goren Nachon in a cart 3. the events of Goren Nachon [*peretz 'Uzah*] 4. the final transportation of the Ark from Jerusalem to the City of David [*Ir David*] on the Levites' shoulders. The first section discusses three contradictions between the account of these events in the Book of Samuel and the account in Chronicles, and the resolution of these contradictions in rabbinical tradition. The second section examines the rationale King David had in transporting the Ark in a cart, in opposition to what the Torah prescribes, and suggests that this reasoning was correct till the Ark arrived in Goren Nachon, which is identified as the Temple Mount [*har ha-bayit*] according to Rashi in the name of R. Menachem Helbo. The third section considers the reasons the cattle dropped the Ark in Goren Nachon: from that point the Ark had to be transported physically by the Levites. This was primarily because the transfer of the Ark from Goren Nachon to the City of David was a new journey, and not the continuation of the journey from the field of Pelishtim to Beth-Shemesh. The fourth section reframes the objections voiced by Michal and suggests they stemmed not only from concern for David's honor, but also from interests related to her father Shaul and the tribe of Binyamin. This leads to the conclusion that the Ark finally comes to dwell in *har ha-bayit* because that geographical location belongs jointly to Yehudah and Binyamin.