

# Unbridled Enthusiasm

July 10, 2016 ~ 2 Samuel 6.1-15 (*Read only thru v11*)

## Part 1 ~ David's 1<sup>st</sup> Attempt to Transport Ark to Jerusalem

### (Uzzah's Death Spoiled a National Celebration)

- ❖ **v1** ~ “.. David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand.”
  - ✧ Kiriath-jearim is a mere 6 miles W/NW from Jerusalem
  - ✧ If Legacy represents Jerusalem, the ark would be in Bennington
  - ✧ Labor Day parade in downtown Omaha (*thousand people?*)
- ❖ **v6** ~ “.. Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it ..”
- ❖ **v7** ~ “.. Then the anger of the Lord was aroused .. God struck him there .. he died.”
  - ✧ Uzzah was one of Abinadab's sons / Ark was in his home 20 years
  - ✧ What Uzzah did was meant to be helpful, so common, so understandable
  - ✧ What God did, by comparison, seems so hurtful, so shocking, so inexplicable

### Dark Times ~ Corruption of Priesthood (~80 yrs earlier)

- ❖ Tabernacle worship corrupted by Eli's family
  - ✧ Eli's sons were wicked priests / “they did not know the Lord” (**1 Sam 2.12**)
    1. They took the meat while fat was on it (**1 Sam 2.15-16**)
    2. They slept with women who gathered at door of tabernacle (**1 Sam 2.22**)
      - The women wanted food / Hophni & Phineas provided it
  - ✧ A prophet foretold their deaths and the collapse of Eli's house (**1 Sam 2.34**)
- ❖ Just afterwards Philistines defeated them and carried off ark
  - ✧ They attempted to use the ark in battle as had been done in wilderness
  - ✧ Israelites learned that disregarding God's commands has consequences

### Dark Times ~ Tyrannical King & Civil War(~50 yrs earlier)

- ❖ Samuel arose and judged them but his sons were evil too, like Eli's
  - ✧ The people wanted a king and God gave them one / just like their neighbors
- ❖ Saul was initially humble but quickly became proud and selfish
  - ✧ Saul abused power worse than priests / tyranny reigned for 30+ years
  - ✧ David arose (*anointed king*) but Saul persecuted him for decade
- ❖ Saul and Jonathan died in battle / Abner makes Ishbosheth king (**2 Sam 2.8**)
  - ✧ **Read 2 Sam 3.1** ~ “Now there was a long war .. weaker and weaker.”

**Xition: A revival was coming to the land / David was bringing it . . .**

## David was Living the Dream

- ❖ He'd been anointed king by Samuel as a teenager (~20 yrs earlier)
  - ✧ God blessed him immensely and protected him from Saul
  - ✧ He'd led Judah as their king for over 7 years from Hebron (**2 Sam 2.1**)
- ❖ Ishbosheth confronts Abner and he betrays his king to David (*power politics*)
  - ✧ Joab murders Abner to retain his role as commander-in-chief (**2 Sam 3.22**)
  - ✧ Ishbosheth is murdered by 2 captains of his troops (**2 Sam 4**)
- ❖ Elders of Israel ask David to become their king too (**2 Sam 5**)
  - ✧ David takes Jerusalem ("*the heights*") and establishes his throne there
  - ✧ Philistines immediately attack him twice but they're defeated both times

## Meanwhile ~ Ark of the Covenant Languished for Generations

- ❖ During time of the Judges ark resided mostly in Bethel & Shiloh
  - ✧ Tabernacle sometimes somewhere else so proper worship not maintained
- ❖ About 80 years earlier the ark had fallen into enemy hands
  - ✧ Hophni & Phineas carried it into battle against Philistines and were killed
- ❖ David knew the importance of the ark (**Read 1 Chr 13.1-3**)
  - ✧ He took action immediately to co-locate it with his throne

## David Erred Critically in Initial Attempt to Move Ark

- ❖ Duties of Sons of Kohath (**Read Numbers 4.1-15**)
  - ✧ Priests broke down tabernacle and covered everything
    - ◆ veil / ark / table / lampstand / altar / all utensils
  - ✧ Kohathites were tasked with carrying them
- ❖ Six mistakes David made that day
  1. Ark was to be covered (Priests were to do this)
  2. Ark was to be carried (He had it on a new cart as had the Philistines)
  3. Ark was to be carried by Kohathites (Not Levites, let alone Kohathites)
  4. Ark was to be carried by Kohathites using poles (no mention of them)
  5. Ark was to be carried by sanctified Kohathites using poles (**Num 8.21-22**)
  6. Ark was not to be touched (*even by Kohathites*)

**Xition: Before we discuss 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt to move ark let's review Philistine experience**

## The Ark of the Covenant in Philistia

- ❖ The Philistines feared the God of the Israelites (**1 Sam 4.6-7**)
- ❖ First God humbled then destroyed their god, Dagon (**1 Sam 5.1-4**)
- ❖ Then His hand was then heavy upon the people of Ashdod (**1 Sam 5.6**)
  - ✧ He ravaged them and struck them with tumors
- ❖ Then He brought great destruction upon Gath (**1 Sam 5.9**)
  - ✧ He struck the men of the city (small and great) with tumors
- ❖ The people of Ekron complained as the ark arrived (**Read 1 Sam 5.10**)
  - ✧ God brought deadly destruction throughout the city
  - ✧ Men who didn't die were stricken with tumors
- ❖ Note the escalation and the narrowing of God's judgment over months
  - ✧ "ravaged" -> "great destruction" -> "deadly destruction"
  - ✧ "people of Ashdod" -> "men of the city" -> "men who did not die"
- ❖ "Why did God not just strike the Philistines dead from the very first?"

## God's Punishments Predicated on Revelation and Expectations

- ❖ "What did the Philistines know of God and His law?" Little or nothing
  - ✧ Would they have been expected to know it? No
- ❖ "What did the Israelites know of God and His law?" Little or nothing
  - ✧ Would they have been expected to know it? Yes
- ❖ God's mercy was more evident at the start w/Philistines / Israel's enemy
  - ✧ His justice in regards to His holiness grew over months
- ❖ The Israelites ought to have known better
  - ✧ Their ignorance was inexcusable

## Part 2 ~ David's 2<sup>nd</sup> Attempt to Transport Ark to Jerusalem

### David Finally Does His Homework

- ❖ **Read 2 Sam 6.12-15** ~ "Now it was told King David .. the sound of the trumpet."
  - ✧ David being jealous of Obed-Edom is not the entire story . . .
- ❖ **Read 1 Chr 15.1-2** ~ "No one may carry the ark .. before Him forever."
  - ✧ David acknowledges the critical role of the Kohathites in carrying ark
- ❖ **Read 1 Chr 15.4-5** ~ "Then David assembled .. of his brethren."
  - ✧ Compare these invitees to those from our **Samuel** text ~ "all the choice men"
- ❖ David states why 1<sup>st</sup> attempt failed **v11-13** ~ "And David called .. proper order."

**Xition: David's 1<sup>st</sup> attempt was "unbridled enthusiasm". The bridle he lacked was ..**

## Regulative Principle of Worship

- ❖ Phil preached on this text in his “**Life of David**” series in Dec 2012
  - ✧ The title for the message on this text was “**Reforming Worship**”
  - ✧ He defined & defended the “**Regulative Principle of Worship**”
- ❖ **III: CA PCA Svc:** Young woman gave the congregational prayer opening worship
  - ✧ Here at DCC we would never do this . . .
    - ◇ “**Are we merely outdated, old-fashioned, or out of step with our time?**”
    - ◇ “**Do we regard women as inferior to men, less capable, or less holy?**”
  - ✧ **No.** What we are, and will try to remain, is obedient to Scripture
    - ◇ We’re committed to this / Even if we must oppose our culture

## Uzzah’s Death Speaks to More than Obedience in Worship

- ❖ Obedience in worship reflects more on elder’s obedience or disobedience
  - ✧ But all of us are called to obedience
  - ✧ All of us must apply God’s Word consistently to our lives and culture
- ❖ Uzzah’s life was lost that day due to widespread ignorance of God’s Word
  - ✧ David bears a great responsibility for that ignorance
- ❖ Our collective obedience begins with widespread knowledge of God’s Word
  - ✧ We all bear responsibility for that in our lives and one another’s lives

## “To Whom Much is Given Shall Much be Required”

- ❖ This is a principle derived from God’s Word, from Jesus’ parables
  - ✧ God rewards some knowledge with greater knowledge
  - ✧ God rewards some obedience with greater obedience
  - ✧ God rewards some wisdom with greater wisdom
- ❖ God rewards His faithful children with contentment and joy

❑ Proverbs 14.23 ~ “**In all labor there is profit.**”

❑ 2 Tim 2.15 ~ “**Be diligent to present yourself approved to God.**”

❑ To be ready in the day of battle we must be prepared

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

To God our Savior, who alone is wise,

Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

Amen \*pause\* Go in peace . . .