

# The Presence of God

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## 2 Samuel 6

1 Chronicles 13:1-14 And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, If it seem good unto you, and that it be of the LORD our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren every where, that are left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us: And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we inquired not at it in the days of Saul. And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor of Egypt even unto the entering of Hemath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath-jearim. And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kirjath-jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it. And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets. And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God. And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzza: wherefore that place is called Perez-uzza to this day. And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me? So David brought not the ark home to himself to the city of David, but carried it aside into the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. And the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-edom, and all that he had.

### I. The Ark of the Covenant represented the presence of God.

Exodus 25:8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

- A. When God gave the instructions for the building of the tabernacle and all its furnishings, He began with the ark because it represented the presence of God.
- B. The tabernacle was just an empty shell without the Ark.
- C. When the Ark was carried away by the Philistines 20 years before this the presence of God had also departed from Israel as a nation.

1 Samuel 4:21-22 And she named the child I-chabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband. And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.

- D. Now with the kingdom united under David and the hearts of the people turned toward God it is time for the Ark to be back in it's own place signifying the presence of God with his people again.

### II. The evidence of the presence of God is that his Word has power.

- A. God's presence is not evidenced by excitement and enthusiasm and happiness.
  - 1. It is very possible to have all these things without the presence of God.
  - 2. These are the things that most people in all ages aim for in their attempts to worship God.

3. But this only leads to idolatry.
- B. The presence of God is realized when his people hear his Word and obey it.
- C. When God's Word is not obeyed the glory departs because God departs – He withdraws himself from people who honor him with the lips but do not regard his Word.
  1. The reason the Ark was carried away was that Eli's sons were the priests and they had refused to obey the Word of God concerning moral law and the sacrifices, and Eli would do nothing about it but complain.
- D. No matter how zealous and pious people may be about their religion, if they are not truly governed by the Word of God they do not know the real presence of the Lord.

John 8:37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

- E. And you may be sure that if a person, or a people, ceases to obey the Word of God that God's presence will depart from them.

III. The failure to obey God's Word here is the reason for the disaster that happened when they tried to bring the Ark to Jerusalem.

- A. David did something a little different here: he consulted the people instead of consulting God.

1 Chronicles 13:1-4 And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, If it seem good unto you, and that it be of the LORD our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren every where, that are left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us: And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we inquired not at it in the days of Saul. And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

1. Not a word here about consulting God and getting direction from Him about this matter.
2. It was simply the right thing to do and so we are going to do it now, any way we can, in the most convenient manner for us.
3. And all the people were in agreement; unity of mind and purpose is important, but not as important as doing it the way God says to do it.
- B. The Ark had been in the house of Abinadab for 20 years and all had been well.
  1. Before this wherever the Ark was with the Philistines it was a disaster for them – Dagon fell and broke his head off; the hemorrhoids; God's hand heavy on them to destroy them.
  2. Then the Philistines carried the Ark to Gath and the disaster continued there; then to Ekron and the same things kept happening.

1 Samuel 5:10 Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, They have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people.

1 Samuel 5:12 And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

3. So they decided to send it back to Israel and it rested in the house of Abinadab and no one got hemorrhoids or plagues because of it's presence.
4. This simply shows that when unrepentant, ungodly people are in the presence of God it is miserable and painful and disastrous for them.

- C. The sons of Abinadab drove the Ark – one before and one behind.
  1. They were familiar with the Ark and had grown up with it in their house.
  2. Yet Uzza committed a transgression worthy of death – God killed him.
  3. “... Uzza put forth his hand to hold the Ark; for the oxen stumbled.”
  4. The Ark was not to be carried by oxen.
  5. The Ark was not to be touched by human hands, but carried on staves through the rings on the sides by four men who were Levites.
  6. Uzza was a victim of the carelessness and zeal of leadership that failed to obey the Word of God.
  7. Uzza attempted to preserve and protect the symbol of the presence of God with his own hands.

IV. The road to revival is the road to renewed obedience to the Word of God.

1 Chronicles 15:1-3 And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent. Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever. And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it.

1 Chronicles 15:12-13 And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.

- A. Apparently, David retreated and sought for answers from God about what had happened and what was wrong.
- B. He had realized that he had not obeyed God’s Word in the matter and that was the cause for the breach.
  1. It was not because God did not want the Ark in Jerusalem among his people.
  2. They had not missed the will of God in the matter, but had failed to seek his counsel from his Word in the matter before attempting to do it themselves.
  3. Their transgression was that they had tried to honor God while disobeying his Word.
  4. God will always judge harshly any work of man that is founded on such faulty and shallow thinking.
- C. So since we didn’t miss the will of God but did it in a way that was not pleasing to God we will do it again and we will do it right this time according to what God says.

1 Chronicles 15:14-15 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD.

1. The music was done differently this time, also. The first time it was ALL the people singing and playing with all their might.

1 Chronicles 13:8 And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.

2. This time it is done decently and in order by certain people – who were Levites.

1 Chronicles 15:16 And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of musick, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy.

- a) A long list of names of those who sang and played is given and how they done it all decently and in order.
- b) The only ones doing the singing and making music were those who had been sanctified – no worldly people and no worldly music.

3. This time they realized the help and blessing of the Lord immediately.

1 Chronicles 15:26 And it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bullocks and seven rams.

4. They were dressed differently this time.

1 Chronicles 15:27 And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also had upon him an ephod of linen.

5. The trip was joyful this time without any interruption by death and disaster.

1 Chronicles 15:28 Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, making a noise with psalteries and harps.

6. It is a blessed day for everyone when the presence of God is realized among those who love Him and desire his presence.

1 Chronicles 16:1-3 So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God. And when David had made an end of offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD. And he dealt to every one of Israel, both man and woman, to every one a loaf of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine.

- D. So the road to revival and reconciliation with God and the renewal of his presence begins with obedience to his Word.
- E. Do not neglect to study and know his Word.
  1. It is likely to cost someone's life.
  2. It is sure to deny you and others the presence of God.
  3. You may have a form of godliness, but when you do not obey God's Word you are denying the power of God.
  4. FACT: Only those who obey the Word of God know the real presence of God.