

GETTING USED TO GOD

1 SAMUEL 7; 2 SAMUEL 6

Text:

(1 Sam 7:1-2 KJV) "And the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. {2} And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjathjearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD."

(2 Sam 6:1-7 KJV) "Again, David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. {2} And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims. {3} And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart. {4} And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark. {5} And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals. {6} And

when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. {7} And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God."

Introduction:

Give the history of the Ark of the Covenant.

- Read the instructions on building the ark. (Ex. 25:10-20)

(Exodus 25:10-20) "And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. {11} And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. {12} And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. {13} And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. {14} And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them. {15} The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it. {16} And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee. {17} And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half

shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. {18} And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. {19} And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. {20} And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be."

- Was to be kept in the Holy of Holies (Ex. 26:33)

(Exodus 26:33) "And thou shalt hang up the veil under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy."

- Was to have a pot of manna and Aaron's rod laid up before it. (Ex. 16:33, Num. 17:10).

(Exodus 16:33) "And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations."

(Numbers 17:10) "And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite

take away their murmurings from me, that they die not."

- A copy of the law was also laid in the sides of it. (Deut. 31:26)

(Deuteronomy 31:26) "Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee."

- Was a symbol of the presence and glory of God.
- Was holy (2 Chron. 35:3)

(2 Chronicles 35:3) "And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto the LORD, Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; it shall not be a burden upon your shoulders: serve now the LORD your God, and his people Israel,"

The children of Israel had gone to war and they took the ark of God to war with them. However, they were defeated and the ark was captured by the Philistines, in which it was passed around from city to city. As a result many things happen. Several folks died in one city. A false god fell to its face twice in another city, and the third time it was broke into several pieces. So

the Philistines decided that they didn't want it and decided to get rid of it. So they called the men of Kirjath-jearim. So when they came and took the ark the decided instead of taking it back to Jerusalem where it belonged, that they would just take it to Abinadab's home.

Now Abinadab had two son by the name of Uzzah and Ahio. Now the ark had been in the home of Abinadab, Uzzah, and Ahio for twenty years as we read in our text.

(1 Samuel 7:2) "And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjathjearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD."

So by now they had become a custom to the presence of God. And as we have already seen the Ark of God was to be kept in the Holy of Holies. This was a holy thing. Now God had given very specific instructions as to the handling of the holy ark of God. Now that brings us to our text. The text says that when the ark began to shake that Uzzah put forth his hand to keep it from falling, which resulted in his death. You might be asking why all this took place. I believe it was because:

1. THEY WERE NOT DOING THINGS THE RIGHT WAY.

A. They were to transport the ark of God a certain way.

B. They tried to improve on God's way, by carry the Ark of God on a cart with wheels.

1. Is rebellion

Illustration: Missionary called to South America jungle. Wife didn't want to go in fear of the snakes.

C. We need things God's way and no other way.

2. UZZAH DIDN'T REALIZE HE WAS DOING THE WRONG THING.

A. Was praising God, while doing wrong. (2 Sam. 6:5)

(2 Samuel 6:5) "And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals."

B. Had not been trained, by those who should have trained him.

1. Parents
2. Preachers
3. Teachers

C. That is why that we need to do all that we can as parents, preachers, and teachers to train up a child in the way that he should go.

3. HE WAS USED TO GOD.

A. It was just another piece of furniture in his home.

B. I believe that is the way many Christians are today.

1. God has become just another thing to us.

2. The Bible is just another book to us.

3. Church is just somewhere to go.

C. We need to realize that God is real and not just someone or something that preachers talk about.

Illustration:

Christian School students getting used to God

Bible college student getting away from God

Why did Uzzah grab the ark and die, because he grown used to God.

4. THE RESULT OF GETTING USED TO GOD.

- A. Some folks die prematurely
- B. Some folks die unprepared.
- C. Some folks lose all they have.

5. SIGNS THAT WE ARE GETTING USED TO GOD.

- A. The word of God has no effect on us.
- B. The thoughts of people dying and going to hell don't affect us.
- C. Attendance to the house of God is based on convenience, instead of priority.
- D. Souls getting saved don't excite you like it once did.

Illustration:

Lynn Swan making the great catch to win the Super Bowl against Dallas We can get all excited over something that has no eternal value.

E. Conviction isn't present in our lives like it once was.

F. Reading the Word of God only occurs if there is any time left at the end of the day.

G. Prayer occurs only when trouble is present.

H. Our lost loved ones don't cause our heart to break.

I. Our standards begin to fall.

1. Music

2. TV

3. Dress

J. Lost the joy of your Salvation.

(Psalms 51:12) "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."

K. Lost your desire to be a soul winner.

(Nothing excites a Christian more to win someone to Christ)

Close:

Have you got used to God? If so ask God to make Himself real to you again in your life.