

Going After the Presence of God – the Wrong Way!

I. More on God's Preparation of David for Leadership

A. How long it took and the nature of the preparation

1. Scholars believe David was probably _____ years old at the time he was anointed by Samuel for the kingship.
2. He was _____ years old when he began his reign over Judah. But as 2 Samuel 2:10 notes, "only the _____ followed David."
3. He was _____ years old when he began to reign over all Israel – 2 Sam 5:1-5.
4. This means that the Lord took _____ to prepare David to be king of Israel!!!
5. The preparation came through the _____ he experienced under king Saul. God allowed all that to build _____ in David. David also made some mistakes in making friends with the enemy of God's people the Philistines along the way, and experienced devastating _____ as well as _____ and _____ from his own guys
6. But it was this hardship and loss and hurt that God used to _____ David and _____ him for the call that was on his life.
7. There is a *direct correlation between* _____ we respond to the hardship, loss, hurt, injustice, persecution and victimization in our own lives and _____ it takes for the Lord to prepare us for leadership.

II. Background – Why the Ark Needed to be Retrieved

NOTE: The ark of the covenant housed the literal presence of God. He manifested His presence between the two cherubim and above the mercy seat which covered the ark (Exodus 25:22; 1 Sam 4:4; 2 Sam 6:2). When it the ark was captured by the Philistines, it was cried that the glory of God had departed from Israel (1 Sam 4:19-22).

1 Samuel 4

- A. The ark had been captured by the _____ many years earlier.
- B. God allowed the ark (the presence of God) to be stolen by the enemy because of the _____ in the priesthood. It was a _____ intended to shake the people of Israel out of their lethargy and idolatry.
1. _____ wants to steal the presence of God from the Church because in the presence of God he is defeated. Without the presence of God, the _____ are defeated.

1 Samuel 5

- C. The Philistines had taken the ark to _____ and taken it into the temple of _____ and set it right beside the idol of Dagon. They recognized the power of God but they wanted compromise and mixture – they wanted to be able to worship Him and Dagon as well
- D. They kept finding the statue of Dagon fallen over on its face, and kept putting it back until finally the head and hands broke off. They also experienced a plague with ravaged the entire area. Scholars think it likely from the description of the plague that it was _____.
- E. Eventually they decided, “Get rid of the ark!” and sent it to _____, where the people there also were struck down with the plague.
- F. So Gath sent it to _____, where the same thing happened!

1 Samuel 6

- G. Finally the Philistines had enough. They consult their priests who tell them to send it back to Israel with a trespass offering to God of five golden tumors and 5 golden rats.
- H. They put it on an oxcart and send it up the road. The two cows pulling the cart headed straight to Israel to Beth Shemesh. The people of Beth Shemesh rejoiced greatly, but over 50,000 were struck down by the Lord for having the presumption to _____.
1. To look in the ark, one had to lift _____ out of the way; one had to remove the _____ because the blood was applied to the mercy seat. Inside the ark were the tablets of the _____. Looking at the law without God's covering of mercy and the blood of atonement killed them. We see the same principle in the NT where the Apostle Paul said, "_____."
- I. Out of fear, they called for the men of Kirjath Jearim to come and take the ark and so it was in Kirjath Jearim in the home of _____ for at least 20 years.
- J. During the years that the ark was with the Philistines and in the house of Abinadab, worship was continuing in the _____. They were going through the motions, saying and doing all the right things, but the presence of God was _____ there!
- K. We don't know exactly how many years the ark was gone from Moses' Tabernacle because scholars disagree. Some say 70 years, some say 50 years, some say 100 years. But we do know from the historical account that it was _____ MINIMUM.
- L. We get the impression from _____ that during the reign of Saul, no one was concerned or bothered about the fact that they were missing the presence of God.

III. 1 Chronicles 13:1-14 (Parallels 2 Samuel 6:1-11)

- A. Verses 1-4 - David consulted the people about going to get the ark, who all thought it was a good idea.
- B. Verses 5-6 - David gathered all Israel together to bring up the ark from Kirjath Jearim.
- C. Verses 6-7 - They brought the ark back on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, with Uzza and Ahio driving the cart.
- D. Verse 8 – They moved the ark in a procession, with all Israel worshipping before the Lord “with all their might” in song and with various instruments.
- E. Verse 9 – 10 – The oxen stumbled and Uzza put his hand out to steady the ark. Then the Lord struck him down because he touched the ark
- F. Verses 11 – 12 – David became upset, angry, fearful and frustrated as a result of what happened.
- G. Verses 13-14 – The ark was moved to the house of Obed-Edom for 3 months while David could sort out what to do. The house of Obed-Edom was blessed because the presence of God was there.

IV. Five Mistakes David made in Pursuing the Presence of God

NOTE: Before we mention David’s mistakes, it is important to stress that David’s desires were usually pure. When he stumbled he was quick to repent and cry out to the Lord. God called David a man after His own heart (1 Sam 13:14). We say that to mean someone who follows after the example of another. But it can also mean David was one who went after or sought or pursued God’s heart. Certainly, his prayers, his psalms and his life (despite his mistakes) seem to suggest that conclusion. David was passionate about the presence of God. He sought God, pursued Him and worshipped Him with a whole heart. We see this in his frustration in 1 Chron 13:12 as he agonized, “How shall I bring the ark home to me?” Dave’s passion and wholehearted seeking after the presence of God was a good thing. The Lord used it to restore His presence to His people and to usher in a season of restoration and freedom which would foreshadow the dispensation of grace to be brought to all the earth through the coming Messiah

A. All of David's mistakes in going to get the ark the first time, can be described in modern terminology

1. " _____ "

2. " _____ "

3. " _____ "

B. MISTAKE #1 – _____.

1. "If it seems good to you ..." (vs 2)

2. "for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people" (vs 4)

3. "the Lord our God broke out against us because we did not consult Him about the proper order" (15:13)

4. David's mistake was NOT wanting to go after the presence of God. His mistake was looking for the _____ and _____ of the people and consulting them instead of inquiring of the Lord about it.

a) This opened the door for human _____ and human _____ to saturate the plan to get the ark, resulting in failure and tragedy.

C. MISTAKE #2 – They did not _____ themselves in _____ for being in the presence of a _____ God.

1. God had ordained that those who ministered before Him wash themselves and consecrate themselves before coming into His presence (Ex 30:19-20; 40:12-13, 31; Lev 16:2-4)

2. Jesus illustrated the same principle in _____ when He told Peter, "if I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

3. If we are careless and sloppy in our walk with God, failing to respond when he brings conviction or when He stirs our hearts to a deeper level of consecration to Him, we may similarly experience _____ in our efforts to do "good" things.

D. MISTAKE # 3 – _____.

1. God had ordained that the ark be carried only on _____ (Num 4:5,6,15; Num 7:9; Deut 10:8; 1 Chron 15:2;15).
2. The Philistines had sent the ark back on a _____, which they broke up and used for firewood for the sacrifice to celebrate the ark's return (1 Sam 6:14). The Israelites probably figured it had worked for the Philistines, why not do it the same way? They imitated the ways of the _____ around them, instead of doing it God's way. Again, failure and tragedy were the result!
3. _____ always symbolizes _____ in the Bible. The fact that they tried to bring the ark back on a wooden cart speaks of man's vehicle and plans, man's method or way of doing things.
4. The fact that it was a "new" cart is important. Because it was new and fresh and exciting, they missed the fact that it was not _____ of doing it!

a) Why we need discernment in the Body of Christ –

E. MISTAKE #4 – _____.

1. The picture we get in 1 Chron 13 is that of excitement and zeal with no accompanying _____ or _____. David had not inquired of the Lord nor thought through what they were going to DO with the ark when it arrived!
2. The natural thing to do would have been to return it to its former resting place in the _____. Perhaps that is what David intended to do. Yet, we know that was NOT God's plan as David discovered when he finally did seek the Lord on it (see 1 Chron 15:1,12-13).
3. In this case, the _____ thing was NOT the _____ thing. As WE seek the return of God's manifest presence to the Church ...
 - a) Do we know what HE wants to us to do with His presence?
 - b) Have we prepared a place in our own hearts and in the corporate Body for His presence?

- c) Have we thrown out the things not of Him and made room for Him to dwell?
- d) Have we allowed Him to cleanse and purify us that He might find a “holy habitation” within us for Himself?

F. MISTAKE # 5 – _____.

1. Uzza means “_____”. Ahio means “_____”. Human strength and human unity was driving the new cart representing man’s plan and way of doing things.

2. The oxen stumbled, shaking the ark.

3. Uzza reached out to try to steady the ark and touched it. This was in contradiction to God’s command that _____. He had already warned that they would die if they did (_____).

a) In 2 Sam 6, it uses a Hebrew word that means _____ to describe Uzza’s sin.

4. Like David, Uzza’s _____ was good and honorable but like David, he didn’t handle the situation God’s way.

V. Summary

A. David’s _____ was pure but his methodology “missed the mark”.

B. David operated out of more _____ than _____ in this account.

C. His methods were impure because they incorporated human _____, human _____, human _____, and human _____. What he did violated God’s _____ and the directions He had previously given for how things were to be done.

D. _____ were the result.