

The Tragedy at the Threshingfloor of Chidon

1 Chron. 13:1-10

Introduction:

- A. The ark of the Lord carried away by Philistines.
 - 1. Describe the ark (cf. Heb. 9:4-5)
 - 2. Philistines put the ark in the house of their God - Dagon.
 - 3. Ark became a curse to them.
 - a. Brought disaster wherever they kept it.
 - b. Decided to carry it back to Israel.
 - c. Placed in the house of Abinadab.
- B. Later David attempts to move the ark to the “city of David.”
 - 1. During the move, Uzza angers the Lord at the threshingfloor of Chidon.
 - 2. The Lord kills Uzza there.
- C. Two mistakes were made that led to this tragedy:

Discussion

I. The Touching of the Ark (vv. 9-10).

- A. Uzza disobeyed God’s law (Num. 4:15).
 - 1. Should not the circumstances have made a difference?
 - 2. The sanctity of God’s law and authority must be maintained.
- B. We can learn from Uzza’s mistake:
 - 1. God’s attitude toward sin – even one sin.
 - a. How many sins did Adam and Eve commit?
 - b. How many sins did Nadab and Abihu commit?
 - c. How many sins did Ananias and Saphira commit?
 - d. The seriousness of *any* disobedience (1 Sam. 15:22; Heb. 2:1-4)
 - 2. Situation ethics is not an option with God.

II. The Transporting of the Ark (v. 7).

- A. Israel violated God’s law for transporting the ark (Num. 4:15; 7:8-9)
 - 1. Transferred it from shoulders of Kohathites to a new cart.
 - 2. Had followed example of Philistines (1 Sam 6:7)
 - 3. Would not the cart be faster and easier than the other?
 - 4. What difference does it make as long as it transported?
- B. We can learn from Israel’s mistake:
 - 1. One sin often leads to others..
 - 2. When God specifies, we must not substitute.
- C. Many today are driving “new carts” by adding to and/or substituting for God’s way.
 - 1. Sprinkling and pouring rather than just immersion.
 - 2. Instrumental music rather than just singing.
 - 3. Human institutions rather just the local congregation.
 - 4. Carnal gimmicks rather than spiritual activities.
 - 5. Divorce for any cause rather than just one cause.

Conclusion:

- A. We need to obey God:
 - 1. To please Him (cf. 1 Thess. 4:1)
 - 2. For our good (cf. Deut. 10:13)
- B. God’s way cannot be substituted for.