

GAME OF THRONES

THE REIGN OF DAVID

A Holy Kingdom

Key idea:

God is utterly holy, and the only way for sinful humans to be blessed rather than destroyed in His Holy Presence is because of the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

Key text:

2 Samuel 6

David again brought together out of Israel chosen men, thirty thousand in all. ² He and all his men set out from Baalah of Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim that are on the ark.

³ They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart ⁴ with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. ⁵ David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals.

⁶ When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. ⁷ The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God. ⁸ Then David was angry because the LORD's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah.

⁹ David was afraid of the LORD that day and said, "How can the ark of the LORD ever come to me?" ¹⁰ He was not willing to take the ark of the LORD to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. ¹¹ The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite for three months, and the LORD blessed him and his entire household.

¹² Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went down and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the City of David with rejoicing. ¹³ When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf.

¹⁴ David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, ¹⁵ while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets. ¹⁶ As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷ They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD. ¹⁸ After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty.

¹⁹ Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes.

²⁰ When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, disrobing in the sight of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!"

²¹ David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD's people Israel — I will celebrate before the LORD. ²² I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor." ²³ And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

Key points:

1. The Ark of the Covenant was the very Presence of God and thus was the holiest place in the entire created order.
2. No one could touch or look into the Ark of the Covenant without being destroyed because unholy humans cannot come into unmediated contact with God's holiness without dying.
3. Uzzah died for touching the Ark of the Covenant, which was forbidden. It did not matter that his intentions were sincere. Unmediated contact with the Holy Presence of God meant death for him.
4. The basis for coming into the Holy Presence of God is blood sacrifice, for only the blood of death can remove sin (Leviticus 17:11).
5. God's Holy Presence is the source of great blessing when we approach God properly.
6. The proper response to God's Holy Presence and blessing is the abandon of true, joyful worship.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. When you read the story of Uzzah, what is your initial reaction? Does the description of God burning with anger at Uzzah and striking Him dead seem unreasonable to you? Do you resonate with David's reaction of anger and fear?
3. Why is the holiness of God such a problem for humans? Why are we tempted to reduce God's holiness to a more manageable level?
4. Can you think of current examples where our culture is attempting to reduce or eliminate the holiness of God? Can you think of specific examples in your own life?
5. Why is blood sacrifice necessary for humans to come into contact with the holiness of God and be blessed rather than destroyed?
6. When we consider how Christ's sacrificial death has borne the holy wrath of God in our place so that we receive the blessings of God's covenant rather than the punishment we are due, what should this prompt in us?
7. Question 7 in the BRCC catechism defines God's character as perfect in holiness, love, and integrity. Which of these do I find easiest to embrace? Which do I find most difficult to embrace? How can I grow in equally embracing all of God's character?
8. When I read 2 Samuel 6, is my reaction to the Gospel more like David or Michal? Does the Gospel prompt extravagant, joyful, expressive worship? Or do I find such expressions undignified and embarrassing? What does my reaction say about my own response to God's holiness and grace?

Preview of next week:

Title: A Kingdom of Worship

Text: 1 Chronicles 16:7-36