

Theme: 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.

I. Intro - Raiders of the Lost Ark

- A. Indy Jones and Nazi's in a race to find Lost Ark of Israel
- B. Nazi's think it will give them power; manipulate it
- C. Nazi's look into Ark, it destroys them all - and we cheer!
- D. But what about Uzzah? How could God do this? Why?

II. The Terror of God's Holy Presence

- A. David decides to bring the Ark to Jerusalem

“Let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we did not inquire of it during the reign of Saul.”⁴ The whole assembly agreed to do this, because it seemed right to all the people. 1 Chronicles 13:3–4

 - 1. The Ark of God's Presence was neglected for years
 - 2. The Philistines had captured it at one point, and since then it was neglected
 - 3. David had now defeated the Philistines
 - 4. They wanted to bring it to the new capital so they could seek God's will
 - 5. Once again, David is seen as better than Saul - he wants the Ark of God's Presence near him
- B. A joyful celebration - God is with them!

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. 2 Samuel 6:5

- 1. They are having a party - music and dancing
- 2. Why not? God is with them! Celebrate!

C. Joy turns to terror in a moment

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. 2 Samuel 6:6–7

- 1. The oxen stumble; the ark almost falls; Uzzah dies
- 2. The text is clear - Uzzah was irreverent; God was angry; God struck Uzzah down
- 3. David reacts as we probably would - anger and fear!

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?”** 2 Samuel 6:8–9
- 4. What in the world is this about? Why strike Uzzah?

D. The Terror of God's Holy Presence

- 1. They had brought the Ark up irreverently and wrong

They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, 2 Samuel 6:3

 - a. God had told them Levites must carry it on poles (see Numbers 7:9)
 - b. They brought it up on a cart behind ox - the way the Philistines had moved it (see 1 Samuel 6:7-8)
 - c. They did not seek God for how to do it (1 Chronicles 15:13), but just followed the ways of the pagans

- d. Whenever God's people follow the ways of the world rather than the ways of God, disaster is sure to follow.
2. The Ark was the very Presence of God 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. 2 Samuel 6:2
- a. They were acting like it was a toy box or a talisman
 - b. This was the holiest place in the whole created order
 - c. It bore the unutterable Name of God, and His Presence was manifested in this Ark
 - d. This was why God had warned and instructed them about how to handle the Ark
 - 1. It was to be carried by Levites, who must not even look at the holy items - especially inside the Ark
 - 2. Only the High Priest could go into the Holy of Holies
 - 3. The Philistines had violated this - and died! (1 Samuel 5)
 - 4. The men of Beth Shemesh had violated this and died (1 Samuel 6:19)
 - 5. They knew all this - and still decided they need not fear the Presence of God
3. Sinful humans may not touch the Presence of God
- a. This was why Uzzah died - sinful human hands may not touch the very Presence of God
 - b. Uzzah knew this but he thought the danger was the Ark falling in the mud. He thought the Ark was too holy to be sullied with mud. In reality, it was too holy to be sullied by human sin.
 - c. Like Uzzah, we think that mud is a problem, but our sin is not. And like him, we are disastrously wrong.

Mud is not unholy, it is just dirt and water. But we are unholy, full of sin and rebellion, guilty of treason on a cosmic scale.

- d. A sinful human dare not touch the naked, unmediated holiness of God, for to do so can only bring death.
- e. It does not even matter if our motives are "sincere" - sincerity will not protect us from the terrible holiness of God.

III. The Blessing of God's Holy Presence

A. God's Holy Presence blesses Obed-Edom

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.** 2 Samuel 6:10–11

- 1. Obed-Edom must have wondered about this gift!
- 2. But the Holy Presence of God brings blessing - and his whole house is blessed!

B. David brings the ark back to Jerusalem

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. 2 Samuel 6:12

- 1. David hears that God's Holy Presence brings blessing - and he wants the blessing of God!
- 2. David knows that the blessing of God is so important that one must do whatever is necessary to enter God's Holy Presence.

C. The basis for God's blessing: sacrificial blood

When those who were carrying the ark of the Lord had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf... 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. 2 Samuel 6:13, 17 (1 Chr. 15:26-27)

1. This time David has it done according to God's Law
2. But even then, he begins and ends with a sacrifice of blood
3. David has learned that sincerity will not cover our sin; it can only be removed by the blood
4. The only way sinful humans may ever receive the blessings of God's Holy Presence is through the blood of Jesus Christ, the Perfect Lamb of God

D. The response to God's blessing: worship

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. 2 Samuel 6:14–15

1. Now that God's Holy Presence is a source of blessing rather than terror, David and Israel worship with all their might
2. When a human finds God's favor because of the blood of Christ, the only reasonable response is the abandon of joyful worship!

E. Epilogue: the blessing received, relayed, and rejected

1. After approaching God properly, David receives the blessing and relays it to others

After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord Almighty. 2 Samuel 6:18

- a. When God is recognized as utterly holy and approached on the basis of the blood sacrifice, blessing abounds
- b. When one receives the bountiful blessing of God, there is an immediate desire to extend that blessing to others.

2. Michal, daughter of Saul, despises true worship and rejects God's blessing for herself

- a. Michal despised David's response of true worship

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.** 2 Samuel 6:16

1. There are always those who are repulsed by the message of God's holiness, the need for blood sacrifice, and uninhibited true worship
2. Such people will mock and despise true worship and those who offer it

- b. Michal rejected the blessing of God

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!" 2 Samuel 6:20

1. David comes home full of the Spirit and ready to extend God's blessings to his whole household
2. Michal rushes out to mock him, for despises true worship and the blessing it brings

- c. The effect of Michal's rejection

And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death. 2 Samuel 6:23

1. Michal rejected the blessing of God - and died childless
2. She is the true daughter of Saul, responding as he so often did, and thus forfeiting the blessing offered to her
3. Thus ends any chance for a descendant of Saul to sit on the throne of Israel again.

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do I embrace the holiness of God?

1. This is a tough text for us to take!
2. The message of God's holiness is an affront to sinful humans, so we tend to reject it or alter it to make it more palatable
3. The modern American church has almost entirely lost the understanding of God's holiness
4. God is utterly holy, totally love, and completely full of integrity
5. Q7 - What is God's character like? Answer - God is perfect in holiness, love, and integrity
6. Do I embrace the holiness of God and thus have true fear of God? Or do I try to remove the awful holiness of God?
 - a. Do I let the law of God have full weight in revealing my sin?
 - b. Do I believe and rejoice in the Gospel as God's answer for my sin?
 - c. Do I rejoice and give myself to unrestrained worship in light of Christ's sacrifice for me?

B. The Table of Holiness, Love, and Integrity

1. This Table shows us the holiness, love, and integrity of God
 - a. He is so holy that all sin MUST be judged in wrath, so loving that He sent His Son to bear wrath, and so full of integrity that He does not change, even at the cost of the death of the Son
 - b. This Table is an ever-present reminder of the holiness of God, and that our only access to the Holy God is through the shed blood of the Son
2. Come to the Table in the fear of God, covered by the blood, to receive the blessings of God

A Holy Kingdom

2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 13-16 (2 Samuel 6)

July 8, 2018

Communion

Psalm 79:9

Teaching keywords: biblical characters; holiness; worship; God's character; fear of God; grace; salvation and deliverance

May God our Savior, help you, for the glory of His Name; may He deliver you and forgive your sins for His name's sake.
Psalms 79:9

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 cart⁴ 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. 2 Samuel 6