



Huddle Up  
Part 3  
June 13, 2021  
The Price of His Presence - Worship

*1 Chronicles 15:1-3; 12-15*

*2 Samuel 6:3*

*1 Chronicles 13:3*

Tonight, I want to preach a message entitled, “The Price for His Presence” (REPEAT) If you will, please get out your Bibles and turn with me to the book of 1 Chronicles, chapter 15. I want to teach from the Book of Chronicles tonight because this text will allow us to gain a deeper insight into what it means to carry the presence of God.

1 Chronicles 13:1-14, “David consulted with the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, with every leader. 2 And David said to all the assembly of Israel, “If it seems good to you and from the Lord our God, let us send abroad to our brothers who remain in all the lands of Israel, as well as to the priests and Levites in the cities that have pasturelands, that they may be gathered to us. 3 Then let us bring again the ark of our God to us, for we did not seek it<sup>[a]</sup> in the days of Saul.” 4 All the assembly agreed to do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. 5 So David assembled all Israel from the Nile of Egypt to Lebo-hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim. 6 And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, that is, to Kiriath-jearim that belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord who sits enthroned above the cherubim. 7 And they carried the ark of God on a new cart, from the house of Abinadab, and Uzzah and Ahio were driving the cart. 8 And David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all their might, with song and lyres and harps and tambourines and cymbals and trumpets. 9 And when they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzzah put out his hand to take hold of the ark, for the oxen stumbled. 10 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he put out his hand to the ark, and he died there before God. 11 And David was angry because the Lord had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzza to this day. 12 And David was afraid of God that day, and he said, “How can I bring the ark of God home to me?” 13 So David did not take the ark home into the city of David, but took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

14 And the ark of God remained with the household of Obed-edom in his house three months. And the Lord blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that he had.

### 1 Chronicles 15:1-3 King James Version (ESV)

David built houses for himself in the city of David. And he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it. <sup>2</sup>Then David said that no one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, for the Lord had chosen them to carry the ark of the Lord and to minister to him forever. <sup>3</sup>And David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the Lord to its place, which he had prepared for it.

### 1 Chronicles 15:12-15

12 and said to them, “You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites. Consecrate yourselves, you and your brothers, so that you may bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel, to the place that I have prepared for it. 13 Because you did not carry it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not seek him according to the rule.” 14 So the priests and the Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel. 15 And the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord.

(PRAY)

Explain historical value behind the text:

- Saul is dead and David is now king
- David is striving to conquer the Philistines and unify the Nation
- And in 1 Chronicles chapter 13, it is recorded that David sees a great need to restore the rightful place of authority back into the hands of God and to get the presence of God back in its rightful place, thus he orders for the Ark of the Covenant to be brought from Kiriath-Jearim to the City of David.
- Now this is where the plot takes a major twist. David calls for the Ark to be brought to the City of David BUT David makes a grave mistake in 1 Chronicles 13...When they first bring the Ark from the House of Abinidab, which had been there for twenty year, they did not bring it the way that God told them to bring it.
- David goes back in history and remembers when the Philistines sent the Ark back to Israel on a new cart pulled by oxen thus David orders the same process to be implemented again in the escorting of the Ark from Abinidab's house to the City of David; Thus Uzza, the son of Abinidab, is killed because he reached out his hand and touched the Ark of the Covenant. (We are going to revisit this point later on in this message)
- Now we must bear in mind that, historically, the Ark represents the Presence of God. The Ark of the Covenant signified the manifest presence of the Lord.

- Though it is true that God is omnipresent, that is to say that He is everywhere at the same time, (there is no place that God is not), only Israel was able to enjoy or experience His manifest or rather His residence presence.
- Just as the Israelites were able to enjoy His presence, so are we, as New Covenant Believers, able to experience the manifest presence of God! When we gather together, God meets us there!
- Jesus said, in the Gospel of John 12:32, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” Hear me well tonight, God does not come because people are there... People come because God is there! You cannot build a great ministry based upon people; people are the secondary consequence to God being there!
- Jesus said that if I be lifted up then I will draw all men unto myself. It is imperative that we understand that we can build a fine church that is packed with thousands of people but if God is not there... It is a mausoleum! It is a cemetery!
- It is His presence that makes the Church alive; not our act of occupying a building. What distinguishes our churches from auditoriums is that God is there! We, as the Church, must make a vested interest in getting God in the house but we have to fulfill some prerequisites that facilitate His Presence...
- David was seeking to make a vested interest in getting the presence of God but He did not bring the Ark in the manner that God’s Word outlined for it to be brought.



- David wanted the presence of God but he wanted God's presence on his own terms; he did not see the value of the "Due Order" or the "Rules" until calamity struck. Isn't it interesting how crisis causes us to recalibrate our course of operation?
- When you build a habitation for His presence, you have to escort His presence per the way that He wants and not the way that we want. Simply put, you will not be able to carry the presence of God and be living a life of rebellion against His statutes.

1. **Point 1 - The Presence of God will not be carried by those whom are not submitting to the due order.**

- a. Holiness is a central theme of Scripture: God is Holy. Thus, there is a standard of living that is required if we are to be the ones who bear up His presence and become a habitation for the Presence of God! We need a reformation of Holiness and start living right!
- b. Like David, let's go back in history and rediscover what caused the Great Azusa Street Revivals, and the Jesus Movement, and the Healing Revivals and the Pentecostal Renewal and rediscover what it means to become a habitation of His presence!
- c. Uzza's death is not completely due to David's failure to follow the rules per the Law of Moses. Uzza was the son of Abinidab; Abinidab being the man who hosted the Ark at his residence for two decades, 20 years.

- d. Uzza's Achilles heel was that he had been raised around the presence of God and the presence of God had become common.
- e. Turn with me to 2 Samuel 6:3-4 and let's look at a very interesting nugget that is found within this text... 2 Samuel 6:3-4, "And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart, with the ark of God, and Ahio went before the ark." Now why do I note this passage of Scripture? Because we discover a nugget of truth not recorded in 1 Chronicles 13; Uzzah, the man who was killed by touching the Ark, was the son of Abinidab whose house was the place that the Ark had rested for 20 years.
- f. The presence of God had become so common to Uzzah that He felt that the rules did not apply to him anymore because He had been raised around the Ark; the Ark became common and Uzzah lost his reverence and respect for the things of God.
- g. Thus when the Ark shifted on the cart, Uzza felt that the rules didn't apply to him. The rules applied to everyone else but not him because he had been raised around it. And like Uzza, there are those of us who were raised in Church, raised around the presence of God, raised in or around Spirit Filled Churches.

- h. Thus we feel that the rules don't apply to us. We make the mistake of thinking that God will excuse us because, and I quote, "God knows my heart..."
- i. Listen friend, when we make the mistake of touching God outside of the due order then calamity will follow. Our familiarity with the presence of God can breed contempt because we feel that due to our knowing of God that the rules don't apply to us. When we lose the wonder of His presence; we will make the fatal mistake of treating His presence as common and commit the fatal act of Uzza.

2. **Point 2- The Presence of God must never become common!**

- a. We must never lose the wonder of the God that we worship.<sup>1</sup> Chronicles 15:12-15, the text records, "12 and said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites. Consecrate yourselves, you and your brothers, so that you may bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel, to the place that I have prepared for it. 13 Because you did not carry it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not seek him according to the rule." 14 So the priests and the Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel. 15 And the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord.



- b. Notice the thirteenth verse, **13 Because you did not carry it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not seek him according to the rule.**” What is the rule that David is speaking of?
- c. I believe that in the midst of David’s frustration over the Ark not being in Jerusalem and Uzza’s death, David received a revelation that can help us tonight. “Sacrifice always precedes the Presence” This is found to be true for Moses and Aaron, David, Solomon at the dedication of the temple, and in the last and final offering of Jesus on the Cross.
- d. The sacrifices that Aaron offered in the Tabernacle in the wilderness afforded the Israelites to experience the presence of God in a dessert place. David received this same revelation and called for the Chief Priests and the Levites to sanctify themselves and to go down to Obed-Edom’s house to bring the Ark of His presence to Jerusalem.
- e. So, according to 2 Samuel 6:13, David ordered that after every six steps; the seventh step was a sacrifice of an ox and a fatted animal. We must understand that the presence of God was meant to be carried on the back of men because God desired for man to understand the weight and responsibility of bearing up His presence. I believe that in the midst of all of this that David caught a revelation about God’s presence that we need to lay hold of.

3. Point 3- The Presence of God is always the secondary consequence of Sacrifice; Sacrifice always precedes His presence.

- a. “Well, all of that sounds good pastor but I want the presence of God in my life as a Christian. What must I do to become a perpetual habitation for the presence of God?”
- b. Jesus gave us some insight to this in the Gospel of Luke 14:27 when he said, “Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”
- c. To be a disciple means to submit to learn of another person. Jesus goes on to say in Matthew 11:29, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.”
- d. Like David, we must come to the place where we see the value in sacrifice. As Christians, we must come to the place where we see the value in our Cross. If we want the presence, let’s make a vested interest by embracing the cross, which Christ has called us to bear. Remember the words of Jesus in Luke 9:23, “And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross DAILY and follow me.” Simply put, if you want His presence daily then you must see the necessity of living a life of sacrifice, daily...

**IF WE DESIRE TO BEAR UP HIS PRESENCE THEN WE MUST BE WILLING TO BEAR UP OUR CROSS!**