

Introduction

- Uzzah touches the Ark of the Covenant to keep it from falling and is killed by God.
- This story is described in 2 Samuel 6:5-11.
- Why does God kill a priest for such a small thing?

Other Passages

- In Exodus 19, God descended on Mt. Sinai to give the law.
- Anyone who came near or touched the mountain would be killed, even animals.
- Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu died for offering the wrong burnt offering (Lev 10).
- Leviticus 16:1 says they tried to come near to God when they should not have.
- Aaron is warned not to weep or mourn, or he will be killed (Lev 10:6).
- The priests who drink before entering the tabernacle will be killed (Lev 10:7).
- Entering the holy of holies at an improper time or in an improper way will lead to death (Lev 16).
- Only the high priest may enter the presence of the ark once a year, wearing particular garments, after a purification bath, making several sacrifices.
- No one else is allowed to be in the tent at the same time as the high priest.
- When Moses sees the burning bush, he is warned to not come near (Ex 3:5).
- When Isaiah sees God on the throne, he is afraid (Is. 6).
- Only those with clean hands and pure hearts can stand in God's place (Psalm 24:4).
- Ananias and Sapphira are killed for lying in the church (Acts 5).

Communion Warnings

- There are warnings in 1 Corinthians 11 that wrong partaking leads to death.
- God warns against taking separately or in cliques.
- God warns against taking while relational conflict is happening
- God warns against taking if an unbeliever
- God warns against taking while in unrepentant sin
- God does not warn against taking it too often or without the right heart.
- Believers must examine themselves to avoid judgment.

Moving the Ark

- The Ark was made with rings and poles to carry it (Ex 25:14).
- The poles are to always remain with the Ark so it may be carried (Ex. 25:15).
- Only the sons of Kohath are to carry the holy things (Num 4:15).
- They must not be touched or they will die (Num 4:15).
- The Kohath clan must always endure because only they can move the holy things.
- No one can even look at the holy things or they will die (Num 4:20).
- The holy things must not be moved by wagons and oxen, but carried on the shoulder (Num 7:9).

Uzzah and Ark

- The Ark has been staying in Abinadab's home instead of the tabernacle.
- Uzzah is not from the right clan to move the Ark.
- The Ark is being moved with a new cart, like the Philistines.
- The Ark is being driven, not guided, by oxen alone.
- The oxen stumble, not the Ark.
- It is forbidden to touch the holy things.
- He may have been trying to keep himself from falling.

Evaluation

- Everything involved in moving the Ark has been wrong.
- David did not ask God if he wanted the Ark moved.
- David has not moved the Ark in the Biblically correct way.
- This is not a minor accident but a violation of everything God has ever communicated about being in His presence.

Jesus

- The beauty of the incarnation is that the presence of God comes without the same amount of danger.
- Jesus is touched and is willing to touch even the unclean and the sinners.
- The blood of Jesus makes us able to enter into the holy place with boldness (Heb 4).
- Jesus death tore the curtain of the holy of holies.

Final Thoughts

- Bible passages where God seems cruel usually require more context.
- We need a greater respect for what God's presence is.
- We need a great appreciation for being allowed to be in God's presence.