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Keepers of the Sacred Things of God

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**A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS**

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1 Chronicles 13 & 15



# **1 Chronicles 13:1**

**David consulted with all his officials, including the generals and captains of his army.**



# 1 Chronicles 13:2a

Then he addressed the entire assembly of Israel as follows: “If you approve and if it is the will of the Lord our God, let us send messages to all the Israelites throughout the land,



# **1 Chronicles 13:2b**

**including the priests and Levites  
in their towns and pasturelands.**

**Let us invite them to come and  
join us.**



# **1 Chronicles 13:3**

**It is time to bring back the Ark of our God, for we neglected it during the reign of Saul.”**



# 1 Chronicles 13:4

The whole assembly agreed to this, for the people could see it was the right thing to do.



# **1 Chronicles 13:5**

**So David summoned all Israel, from the Shihor Brook of Egypt in the south all the way to the town of Lebo-hamath in the north, to join in bringing the Ark of God from Kiriath-jearim.**



# **1 Chronicles 13:6**

**Then David and all Israel went to Baalah of Judah (also called Kiriath-jearim) to bring back the Ark of God, which bears the name of the Lord who is enthroned between the cherubim.**



# **1 Chronicles 13:7**

**They placed the Ark of God on a new cart and brought it from Abinadab's house. Uzzah and Ahio were guiding the cart.**



# **1 Chronicles 13:8**

**David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all their might, singing songs and playing all kinds of musical instruments—lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets.**



# 1 Chronicles 13:9

But when they arrived at the threshing floor of Nacon, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the Ark.



# 1 Chronicles 13:10

Then the Lord's anger was aroused against Uzzah, and he struck him dead because he had laid his hand on the Ark. So Uzzah died there in the presence of God.



# 1 Chronicles 13:11

David was angry because the Lord's anger had burst out against Uzzah. He named that place Perez-uzzah (which means "to burst out against Uzzah"), as it is still called today.



# 1 Chronicles 13:12

David was now afraid of God, and he asked, “How can I ever bring the Ark of God back into my care?”



# **1 Chronicles 13:13**

**So David did not move the Ark into the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-edom of Gath.**



# **1 Chronicles 13:14**

**The Ark of God remained there in Obed-edom's house for three months, and the Lord blessed the household of Obed-edom and everything he owned.**



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# Principle #1

Doing what others affirm is the  
“right thing” to do with good  
intentions is not the same thing  
as consulting God.



# **1 Chronicles 13:1**

**David consulted with all his officials, including the generals and captains of his army.**



# 1 Chronicles 13:2a

Then he addressed the entire assembly of Israel as follows: “If you approve and if it is the will of the Lord our God, let us send messages to all the Israelites throughout the land,



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**including the priests and Levites  
in their towns and pasturelands.**

**Let us invite them to come and  
join us.**



# **1 Chronicles 13:3**

**It is time to bring back the Ark of our God, for we neglected it during the reign of Saul.”**



# 1 Chronicles 13:4

The whole assembly agreed to this, for the people could see it was the right thing to do.



# Principle #2

We must never take for granted  
the sacred things of God.



# **1 Chronicles 13:5**

**So David summoned all Israel, from the Shihor Brook of Egypt in the south all the way to the town of Lebo-hamath in the north, to join in bringing the Ark of God from Kiriath-jearim.**



# **1 Chronicles 13:6**

**Then David and all Israel went to Baalah of Judah (also called Kiriath-jearim) to bring back the Ark of God, which bears the name of the Lord who is enthroned between the cherubim.**



# **1 Chronicles 13:7**

**They placed the Ark of God on a new cart and brought it from Abinadab's house. Uzzah and Ahio were guiding the cart.**



**Why Do We Take the  
Sacred Things of God  
for Granted?**



**What Are the Sacred  
Things of God that We  
Take for Granted?**



# Principle #3

Careless mistakes often lead to  
huge catastrophes.



# **1 Chronicles 13:7**

**They placed the Ark of God on a new cart and brought it from Abinadab's house. Uzzah and Ahio were guiding the cart.**



# **1 Chronicles 13:8**

**David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all their might, singing songs and playing all kinds of musical instruments—lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets.**



# 1 Chronicles 13:9

But when they arrived at the threshing floor of Nacon, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the Ark.



**Background**



# Numbers 4:1

Then the Lord said to Moses  
and Aaron,



# **Numbers 4:2**

**“Record the names of the members of the clans and families of the Kohathite division of the tribe of Levi.**



# Numbers 4:3

List all the men between the ages of thirty and fifty who are eligible to serve in the Tabernacle.



# Numbers 4:4

“The duties of the Kohathites at the Tabernacle will relate to the most sacred objects.



# Numbers 4:5

When the camp moves, Aaron and his sons must enter the Tabernacle first to take down the inner curtain and cover the Ark of the Covenant with it.



# Numbers 4:6

Then they must cover the inner curtain with fine goatskin leather and spread over that a single piece of blue cloth. Finally, they must put the carrying poles of the Ark in place.



# Numbers 4:17

Then the Lord said to Moses  
and Aaron,



# Numbers 4:18

**“Do not let the Kohathite clans  
be destroyed from among  
the Levites!**



# Numbers 4:19

This is what you must do so they will live and not die when they approach the most sacred objects. Aaron and his sons must always go in with them and assign a specific duty or load to each person.



# Numbers 4:20

The Kohathites must never enter the sanctuary to look at the sacred objects for even a moment, or they will die.”



# Principle #4

We must obey all that the Lord commands with an attitude of reverence or there will be consequences.



# 1 Chronicles 13:9

But when they arrived at the threshing floor of Nacon, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the Ark.



# 1 Chronicles 13:10

Then the Lord's anger was aroused against Uzzah, and he struck him dead because he had laid his hand on the Ark. So Uzzah died there in the presence of God.



# Principle #5

When we handle the sacred things of God with holy reverence we will enjoy our relationship with the Lord, and we will receive the outpouring of His blessings.



# 1 Chronicles 13:11

David was angry because the Lord's anger had burst out against Uzzah. He named that place Perez-uzzah (which means "to burst out against Uzzah"), as it is still called today.



# 1 Chronicles 13:12

David was now afraid of God,  
and he asked, “How can I ever  
bring the Ark of God back into  
my care?”



# 1 Chronicles 13:13

So David did not move the Ark into the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-edom of Gath.



# **1 Chronicles 13:14**

**The Ark of God remained there in Obed-edom's house for three months, and the Lord blessed the household of Obed-edom and everything he owned.**



# Principle #6

Because the Lord is committed to developing His kingdom of priests, He usually requires us to retake our failed tests.



# **1 Chronicles 15:1**

**David now built several buildings for himself in the City of David. He also prepared a place for the Ark of God and set up a special tent for it.**



# 1 Chronicles 15:2

Then he commanded, “No one except the Levites may carry the Ark of God. The Lord has chosen them to carry the Ark of the Lord and to serve him forever.”



# **1 Chronicles 15:3**

**Then David summoned all Israel to Jerusalem to bring the Ark of the Lord to the place he had prepared for it.**



# **1 Chronicles 15:4**

**This is the number of the descendants of Aaron (the priests) and the Levites who were called together:**



# **1 Chronicles 15:5**

**From the clan of Kohath, 120,  
with Uriel as their leader.**



# **1 Chronicles 15:11**

**Then David summoned the priests, Zadok and Abiathar, and these Levite leaders: Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab.**



# **1 Chronicles 15:12**

**He said to them, “You are the leaders of the Levite families. You must purify yourselves and all your fellow Levites, so you can bring the Ark of the Lord, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it.**



# 1 Chronicles 15:13

Because you Levites did not carry the Ark the first time, the anger of the Lord our God burst out against us. We failed to ask God how to move it properly.”



# **1 Chronicles 15:14**

**So the priests and the Levites purified themselves in order to bring the Ark of the Lord, the God of Israel, to Jerusalem.**



# **1 Chronicles 15:15**

**Then the Levites carried the Ark of God on their shoulders with its carrying poles, just as the Lord had instructed Moses.**



# **1 Chronicles 15:16**

**David also ordered the Levite leaders to appoint a choir of Levites who were singers and musicians to sing joyful songs to the accompaniment of harps, lyres, and cymbals.**



# **1 Chronicles 15:25**

**Then David and the elders of Israel and the generals of the army went to the house of Obededom to bring the Ark of the Lord's Covenant up to Jerusalem with a great celebration.**



# 1 Chronicles 15:26

And because God was clearly helping the Levites as they carried the Ark of the Lord's Covenant, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams.



# 1 Chronicles 15:27

David was dressed in a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who carried the Ark, and also the singers, and Kenaniah the choir leader. David was also wearing a priestly garment.



# **1 Chronicles 15:28**

**So all Israel brought up the Ark of the Lord's Covenant with shouts of joy, the blowing of rams' horns and trumpets, the crashing of cymbals, and loud playing on harps and lyres.**



# Principle #7

The Lord desires that we learn a great deal from our past failures because when we do, it releases more of God's blessings in our lives and further transformation into Christlikeness.



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