

Presumptuous Sins

Psalms 19:12-13 [King James] *“Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.”*

David shows here great concern that God would “keep back” His servant from “presumptuous” sins, admitting that they could dominate his life and lead him into “great transgression.”

Let us study these very important verses closely so that we can then avoid the situation David was fearful of.

The Hebrew word translated “transgressions” is “pasha” which means “rebellion” which would be against our Creator God.

The Hebrew word translated “presumptuous” is “zêd” meaning proud and arrogant.

2 Peter 2:10 [King James] *“But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.”*

The equivalent Greek word used in this scripture is “tōlmētiēs” meaning daring or audacious.

The sin that David had committed as a result of his arrogant pride, was the Hebrew word “chattâ’âh” which comes from the root word “châtâ” meaning to miss the mark leaving us in a situation that needs reconciliation with our Creator God.

This sin was **not** a condition nor was wilfulness implied, it was a wrong decision made as a result of our pride.

This was an action taken without being thought through first.

Psalms 19:14 [King James] *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”*

As a result of David saying this I feel he knew that the Creator God had accepted his prayer and forgiven him.

More evidence of this forgiveness by the Creator God is found in the event in David’s life which I feel was in his mind as he wrote these words of request for God’s grace.

1 Chronicles 13:1-3 [King James] *“And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, If it seem good unto you, and that it be of the LORD our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren every where, that are left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us: And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we inquired not at it in the days of Saul.”*

David took extensive advice of both secular and religious leaders before he acted.

1 Chronicles 13:4-8 [King James] *“And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor of Egypt even unto the entering of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath-jearim. And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kirjath-jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it. And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drave the cart. And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.”*

All agreed it was a good idea and preparations were made and the journey began.

1 Chronicles 13:9-14 [King James] *“And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God. And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzza: wherefore that place is called Perez-uzza to this day. And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me? So David brought not the ark home to himself to the city of David, but carried it aside into the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. And the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-edom, and all that he had.”*

David could not understand why the Creator God had reacted in this way, which he was sure he was pleasing his God.

David’s instant reaction was *“God, that was unfair”* but this very soon turned into fear of the Creator God.

What did David eventually learn from this painful event?

What can we also learn from the same event?

David did **not** give up on his plan to bring the ark of God back to Jerusalem, to the place he had prepared for it to bring glory to his Creator God.

1 Chronicles 15:1-3 [NIV] *“After David had constructed buildings for himself in the City of David, he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it. Then David said, ‘No-one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, because the LORD chose them to carry the ark of the LORD and to minister before him for ever.’ David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the LORD to the place he had prepared for it.”*

David this time made sure he was going to do exactly as God had commanded when the ark was transported.

1 Chronicles 15:11-15 [NIV] *“Then David summoned Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab the Levites. He said to them, ‘You are the heads of the Levitical families; you and your fellow Levites are to consecrate yourselves and bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it. It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the LORD our God broke out in anger against us. We did not enquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way.’ So the priests and Levites consecrated themselves in order to bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel. And the Levites carried the ark of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the LORD.”*

David must have finally realised what the rings on the four corners of the ark were for, to enable the ark to be lifted on poles and carried by ordained people on their shoulders and at no time be touched by humans.

What then can we learn from this event?

- a) We must always pay attention to small details when doing anything, especially if it is directly for our Creator God.
- b) We need to respect God’s government, there are different offices to perform different tasks, and we do **not** overstep these demarcation lines, [**1 Corinthians 12:4-11**] for it is the Creator God who determines who He will use for certain tasks.
- c) When we do sin, even if it is without any intention to do so, it being an unwilfully *“missing the mark,”* we still need to humble ourselves before the Creator God and seek His forgiveness.

d) Admit our error then make sure we bring the Creator God honour in a correct way.

John 4:23 [NIV] *“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.”*

We can only truly worship our Creator God with a humble spirit and in a way He has ordained we should.

Saul in a similar situation tried to pass the blame on to other people and performed an office that was not his, that of the man appointed by God, Samuel.

Read the outcome of this situation, Saul lost his position as king, [**1 Samuel 13:5-14**].

Uzza died a violent death, at his resurrection I'm sure his first question will be the same as David's, *“why, God?”*

David will be there to explain why to him.

We also will be able to tell Uzza that his sudden death was **not** without fruits, that many people are thankful to him that we could learn the lesson of presumptuous sins.

Psalms 19:7-12 [NIV] *“The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.”*

The context to the passage of scripture that we have just studied is the keeping of the law, statutes and precepts of our Creator God, linked with an awe-filled fear.

It is by an intimate knowledge of all of these, that are found recorded in God's Word, the Christian Bible, that we *“can discern our errors and be forgiven for our hidden faults.”*