

# Uzzah

**2 Samuel 6:3-7** [New King James] *“So they set 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, drove the new cart. And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals. And when they came to Nachon’s threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.”*

**Perhaps you have wondered why God dealt with Uzzah in such a harsh way.**

Why did God take his life for trying to steady the ark when it was about to fall to the ground?

A closer study of this incident and the background to it reveals valuable insight into how the Creator God views our lives now and our future opportunities.

**Deuteronomy 10:8** [New King James] *“At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister to Him and to bless in His name, to this day.”*

The Creator God had commanded that **only** the priests, the sons of Levi, were to bear the ark.

Notice that when the Israelites crossed the Jordan river under the command of Joshua, it was the priests who carried the ark, [**Joshua 3:3, 6, 8, 17; Joshua 4:9-10, 16-18**].

Further, God commanded that the ark should be carried on their shoulders, [**Numbers 7:1-9**].

Nobody other than Aaron and his sons, [Kohath was the second son of Levi] was to touch the ark.

What was the penalty for violating this command from the Creator God?

**Numbers 4:15** [New King James] *“And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. ‘These are the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.’”*

**How then were they to bear the ark without touching it?**

**Exodus 25:12-14** [New King James] *“You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners; two rings shall be on one side, and two rings on the other side. And you shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them.”*

**God told Moses to equip the ark with four rings, one in each of the four corners. Staves were to be passed through these rings so that the ark could be lifted and carried by four men without them touching it.**

**Therefore, on two points the ark which Uzzah touched was being transported in a fashion totally unacceptable to the Creator God.**

1) Uzzah was **not** of the Levitical priesthood. Uzzah was the son of Abinadab, David’s brother, [**1 Chronicles 2:13**].

2) Instead of having the ark carried on poles by four men, David had put it on a cart, [1 Chronicles 13:7].

Even King David who was accompanying the ark had obviously forgotten these conditions.

David had actually chosen to do what “*was right in the eyes of the people*” rather than consult God’s clear law in the matter, [1 Chronicles 13:1-13].

As a result of Uzzah’s death, King David gave some serious thought to the situation and corrected the wrong that had occurred.

King David gave instructions, this time basing his orders on God’s law, [1 Chronicles 15:2]. Action followed all in harmony with God’s law and showing great respect to the Creator God, [1 Chronicles 15:4, 11-16, 25-28].

**What can we learn from this episode in the life of King David and Israel?**

**Perhaps we feel sorry for Uzzah, for on the surface, it would appear that he was merely the unwitting victim of unfortunate circumstances.**

**But we must always remember that the Creator God has recorded and preserved certain events in the history of Israel for us to learn from.**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-12** [New King James] *“Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.’ Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”*

One thing we can learn is that the Creator God does **not** compromise with His commandments.

**In the example of Uzzah, God acted in a very public way to halt a dangerous trend.**

Certainly the Creator God’s laws were being ignored which would have led to others also being cast aside.

**God was stamping out disobedience before it spread.**

**Another lesson is that the Creator God on occasions allows physical suffering so that spiritual lessons can be brought home to us in a more forceful manner.**

**Romans 8:18** [New King James] *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*

**Our eternal wellbeing is of primary importance to the Creator God.**

In order that we can learn important spiritual lessons, severe physical trials are sometimes necessary, [James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7; 1 Peter 4:12].

The Creator God, who has called us to become His created children, is constantly aware of our circumstances, [Psalms 139:1-16].

The Creator God has promised that He will **not** allow us to be tempted beyond our capability, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to handle the situation, [**1 Corinthians 10:13**].

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10** [New King James] *“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

When we read this in context we can understand how Paul could boast because of the great personal revelation he had received from the Creator God.

**How reassuring such knowledge can be to any of us.**

As a result it is very important that we are constantly and carefully examining our lives, before God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and before the Creator God in prayer, to see if we have moved out of line with God’s law.

**Too often we only carry out this personal examination when we are going through a severe trial.**

**It would be far better to be constantly studying God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and measuring ourselves against its teaching.**

**Had Uzzah and those around him been studying God’s commands, Uzzah probably would have lived to a ripe old age.**

**Revelation 20:11-13** [New King James] *“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.”*

Uzzah is **not** lost, for he will have a chance to study personally, with experienced personal help, God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

**This will be a chance for Uzzah to bring his life in harmony with that of the Creator God, and reap all the benefits of eternal life, with no more pain, [Revelation 21:4].**

**This is the hope of everyone who has lived and died without ever knowing the true Creator God and His Son, Jesus Christ, along with all the wisdom and promises of God’s Word, the Christian Bible.**

**2 Peter 3:9** [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

God’s greatest desire is that **all** will come to a place of repenting the breaking of His laws. Then through the sacrifice of our Saviour Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit in us, actually become created children in His eternal family, the Kingdom of God.