

Encounter(ing) God

3 Responses to God's Presence Part 11

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March 31, 2019

Review... Truly encountering God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- 1) Contrast “Knowing About” and “Encountering” God
 - a. Knowing – *aware and informed*
 - b. Encountering – *revealing (seeing) and transforming – MEETING!*
 - c. The image of God you carry around in your heart and mind affects the way you live your daily life.

Moses says, “Show me Your glory” – God shows Moses His character!

If we want to know what's glorious about God – it is Who He is!

Exodus 34:6-8

And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." *So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.*

Ark of the Covenant (God's Presence)

Remember the Ark...

- **Exodus 25:10-22** acacia wood box covered w/gold
- 45” long, 27” wide, 27” high
- two Cherubim on top facing each other with outstretched wings
- **Exodus 25:22** “I will meet and speak...”; “footstool of God” **1 Chronicles 28:2**

Remember the stories...

- **1 Samuel 5...** Philistine god Dagon fell down broken before the Ark, twice, no coincidence, “every knee will bow.”
- Then... God smote Philistines with tumors in their secret parts.
- **1 Samuel 6...** Philistines made 5 golden tumors and 5 golden rats to accompany the Ark back to Israel, on a new cart pulled by cows, as a trespass offering; sent it toward Beth Shemesh, which it never should have gone toward; but it did due to what it was carrying... Carrying His Presence will keep you on track and against the flow of the world.
- Then... God killed 50,070 Israelites because they looked inside the Ark when they were warned not to.
- Remember God said in Numbers 4 that only the sons of Kohath could carry the Ark — but not touch it directly, or even look at it lest they die.

Application: *there is some seriously thought-provoking stuff surrounding the Ark (or the Presence of God), and since we are people of the Presence of God, we should pay attention, because it seems to be a very important issue with God.*

Fast forward...

- Israelite men come and take the Ark and bring it into Abinadab's house...
- **1 Samuel 7:1-2**
Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the LORD and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. So, it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.
- 20 years in Abinadab's house, Eleazar consecrated, remember him, then King David goes to get it, to bring it to Jerusalem... 7.5 miles
- **2 Samuel 6:1-23**
Again David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand. And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. 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. And David became angry because of the Lord's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day. David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" So, David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household. Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So, David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. And so, it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. So, David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. So, they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So, all the people departed, everyone to his house. Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" So, David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore, I will play (music) before the LORD. "And I will be even more undignified than this and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor." Therefore, Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

3 Responses to God's Presence

- Irreverently producing death
- Passionate worship producing blessing
- Mockery producing barrenness

Uzzah responded to God's Presence in error and, more specifically, *irreverent familiarity*...

- God is serious about how we handle and respond to Him.
- Uzzah's incorrect handling cost him his life!
- Remember the warning went out... he should have known better.

Question: *What went wrong that day?*

- lack of spiritual preparation in transporting Ark, consecration, and doing it God's way
- in **1 Chronicles 15:12-14** – David tells us...
- **1 Chronicles 15:12-14**
He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it. For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order." So, the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

Question: *Why didn't they do it God's way? What made Uzzah think he could take God's Presence into his own hands and not pay the price of death?*

- **Irreverent Familiarity** – Uzzah was Abinadab's son. He grew up with the Ark in his house for 20 years.
- He was so used to it, he figured rules didn't apply to him – he could do what he wanted.

Listen: Uzzah was familiar with God's Presence — but not intimate with God's Presence — *the difference is the difference between life and death.*

Solomon:

- **Ecclesiastes 5:1**
Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil.

Safe but scary to say — walking in irreverent familiarity, not prudently, watching our step, preparing for encounter, can lead to the evil sacrifice of fools... death results.

Question: *Have you become familiar with God's Presence and lost intimacy? Are you on unprepared, unconsecrated "auto worship" because you've become familiar with the process and Presence of God? Used to being in the same house with Him? If yes, hear and heed the warning, return to intimacy and life — or irreverent familiarity and death are close by. King David adjusted to God's Presence, us too?*

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between the Ark being transported in a cart, or carried on poles?
2. Had you ever thought before that it was unfair for God to kill Uzzah for keeping the Ark from falling off the cart? Why?
3. What do you know *now* about what happened to Uzzah, and how could you explain it to someone else?
4. Is there any part of your own life where you are walking in *irreverent familiarity*?
5. If you have become familiar with God's Presence and lost intimacy, what can you do to return to intimacy?
6. Are you ever on "auto-worship" when you come to church? How can you adjust that?