

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



JUDGMENT AND BLESSING

TEXT: 1 Chronicles 13:3-14 (See also 2 Samuel 6:2-11)

God has many characteristics. We know Him as a God of love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness, among others. Today we will contrast His judgment and blessing.

There is an awesome story in 1 Chronicles, with a parallel in 2 Samuel, that illustrates these characteristics beautifully. At first glance it may seem harsh, but through this study I believe you will see more clearly.

1. After reading the two text passages, have someone read Deuteronomy 10:8.
 - a. Who did God designate to carry the Ark of the Covenant?
2. King David had solidified his political kingdom, centered in Jerusalem. Now he wanted to bring the Ark of the Covenant to establish Jerusalem as the spiritual center of the kingdom as well.
 - a. Where was the Ark being kept when David went to retrieve it?
 - b. Were the Levites allowed to physically touch the actual Ark? (Numbers 4:15)
3. At Kiriath-jearim, who was storing the Ark?
 - a. Who was Abinadab? (1 Samuel 17:13)
4. How was the Ark prepared for travel? (1 Chronicles 13:7)
5. Which two of Abinadab's sons were transporting the Ark?
 - a. Were they descended from the tribe of Levi or Judah? (Matthew 1)
6. What happened at the threshing floor of Kidon (or Nacon)?
7. What was God's emotional response and resulting judgment on Uzzah? (1 Chronicles 13:10)
 - a. How did David respond to God? (13:11-12)
8. Where did David take the Ark? (13:13)
 - a. How did God respond to Obed-edom?
9. What did David ultimately do to fix the mistake? (1 Chronicles 15:1-2, 11-15, 25-29)

Let's review and make application based on God's judgment and blessing.

JUDGMENT – the Levites were the only ones allowed to carry the Ark, and they were to carry it with poles on their shoulders. Instead, Uzzah and Ahio, grandsons of David from the tribe of Judah, put the Ark on a new cart (a Philistine tradition). Then Uzzah touched the Ark (even though his intention was sincere (he had broken numerous of God's laws) prior to touching the Ark) and died right there on the spot as a result of God's anger and judgment. At that point, David was afraid to continue and did not bring the Ark to Jerusalem.

10. What kinds of things do we do today that rouse God's anger?

11. How do we disobey Him?

12. Can you be sincere and still be spiritually wrong?

BLESSING – After the fiasco at the threshing floor, David placed the Ark in the home of Obed-edom of Gath for three months. God blessed the household of Obed-edom and everything he owned. (1 Chronicles 13:14)

In chapter 15 we find David moving the Ark to Jerusalem properly, and with great celebration and worship. God was pleased and helped the Levites as they transported the Ark so that all went according to God's plan. (1 Chronicles 15:25-29)

13. Describe a time in your life when you deliberately did something in direct obedience to God, and how you saw Him specifically bless your life.

14. God took a negative action and punishment for disobedience, and ultimately brought blessing and good to David and Israel. Has He ever done something similar in your life?

15. Does God's blessing always look the same? Can he bring blessing from judgment (punishment or discipline)?

16. Do God's judgment and blessing have both physical and eternal ramifications?

17. How can you use the concepts of judgment (or discipline) and blessing in your relationships with bikers?

18. Can you share an analogy you can use with bikers that relates to judgment?

19. Can you share another that can illuminate blessing?

20. How can you use judgment and blessing as an avenue to share Jesus with a biker this season?

PRAYER: Pray for wisdom to live a life that evokes God's blessing rather than His judgment. Ask for sensitivity and courage to share Jesus with others, using whatever means God makes available.