

DAVID'S "NEW" WAGON

By Keith Greer

"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**." (2 Samuel 6:3)

When the nation of Israel was given instructions concerning the building of the tabernacle, God was very precise in his instructions. "And he put poles into the rings at the sides of the ark, to bear the ark." (Exodus 37:5) God also gave instructions concerning transporting of the ark of the covenant. The sons of Kohath, were given the duty of transporting "the most holy things". "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." (Numbers 4:15)

The tribe of Levi was given the duties of the priesthood. Yet, even among them each family had special duties. Just because one was a Levi, did not give him the right to "touch" the furnishings .of the tabernacle.

When the nation of Israel failed to obey God, they were defeated by the Philistines and the ark was taken. If they had driven these people out when they took the land, as God had commanded, the ark would not have been taken. David added to the problem by designing "another" mode of moving the ark!! "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." (2 Samuel 6:6-7)

"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." (2 Samuel 6:8) Why should David be mad at the Lord? Who's fault was it that he had died? True, Uzzah disobeyed God when he touched the ark, yet, this could have been avoided, if God's previous instructions for transporting had been followed!

What can we learn from this story of the past? I believe we can see the danger in changing God's plans, for those of our own! God had a purpose for having the ark carried. Do you read in the accounts of all the moving of the tabernacle, a problem with the ark falling? Wonder why? The one time we do, it cost a man his life!

Sadly, in our day and time we have many "new wagons." Examples? In the New Testament we have been instructed to SING in our worship to God, Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 14:15. Today we have not only the organ and piano but bands, rock gospel, choirs, solos and praise teams. Mind you, God gave no authority for any of these things. Men have determined these are "optional matters" and not matters of faith. Churches are involved in the "soup kitchen ministry" feeding the hungry, pancake breakfast, ice cream socials, and chicken leg fellowship. No problem, just a way to have a closer "fellowship." Mind you that the word fellowship is never used in the word in a physical way – always spiritual.

When will man learn he cannot "outthink" God? Mark it down, whenever men "change" God's plans, for any reason, the end results will not be profitable for him. Sadly, many in the Lord's church are still building "new wagons". God left patterns and designs for a reason – they belong to His church, work and wisdom! God, who created the world in six days by speaking it into existence, needs no help to perfect any pattern He designed! Unfortunately, our fate will be far worse than that of Uzzah's! ***