

“Why Did God Do It?!”

1 Chronicles 13:6-14

Intro. – Have you ever wondered why God does some things the way He does them? Our bodies are excellent examples of what I’m talking. For instance, have you ever wondered why God made our bodies to have pimples?... Have you ever wondered why God gave our bodies tonsils?... Have you ever wondered why God made it so hair would grow in our noses and ears?...

I use this to introduce our text. Why did God do it? Here was a young man who seemingly did a good thing; yet, God immediately strikes him dead. Why? Why did God do it?!

Purpose: to better know God always has a reason for doing what He does

We may not understand that reason and in turn may not agree with that reason, but, be assured God’s reasons is always in our best interest. With this in mind, let’s look at why God did what He did to Uzzah and the lessons we can and ought to learn from this historic event:

I WHY DID GOD DO IT?

- background to this event:

- 1) David’s intense love for God led him to a spiritual revival when he was seated as king
- 2) During Saul’s reign, God had been abandoned and forgotten. The ordinances of His house had been almost entirely neglected.
- 3) David’s spiritual revival led first to the returning of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem... Note: his intentions were good BUT, right things must be done in the right manner.
- 4) Summons made for the Ark. One sin, however, usually follows another. If they hadn’t put the Ark on a cart, the trouble would not have happened. Now, young Uzzah, who had been living in the house where the Ark had been kept, puts out his hand to stead the swaying box. He instantly falls to the ground as a dead man. Horror goes through the crowd and the music stops. David stands aghast. Why did God do it?!

A. Too Little Thought Given

1. David consulted the people (13:1-2), but, nothing is recorded about him consulting God if this was His will and how David ought to go about doing it if such were God’s will...
2. Cooperation of the people was desirable, but, consulting God and receiving His blessing more important and certainly more significant...
3. there should have been much prayer and supplication offered prior to and during this undertaking!
- note: there was singing, harps, trumpets, cymbals, a new cart and cattle, but, humility with God’s counsel and approval are conspicuously missing...
4. This first attempt to bring the Ark home was too much after the will of the flesh rather than after the will of God...
5. Because of this the 1st attempt ended in failure and tragedy... Note: worship of God must be in *Spirit and truth* – something Uzzah miserably failed in doing!

B. Priests Not in Their Place

1. Men of war were brought to the forefront and priest of God were pushed aside...
2. In true worship, the priest of God were of first importance – true then and is true today – e.g. our High Priest, Jesus the Christ, must be put in the right place...
3. Because the priests of God were forgotten, because the Levites were not carrying the ark as God specifically commanded, because laboring oxen took place of God appointed duties, Uzzah!
- note: if priests had been where they should have been, Uzzah not been where he was!

C. There Were No Sacrifices

1. Putting the ark on a cart, they went before, behind and around it, yet offered no sacrifices...

2. Being out of the habit of worshiping God for so long a time, David and Israel had forgotten God's appointment for proper worship.
3. Because of this omission of atoning sacrifice, Uzzah died.
4. Seems like a severe punishment...? Remember not the only time God acted this way:
 - a. Children of Israel after worshipping the golden calf...
 - b. Nadab and Abihu offered *strange fire* before God and they fell dead immediately
 - c. 1 Samuel 6:19 50,070 men of Bethshemesh slain when they looked into the ark

Point is clear = God will not be trifled with... His ark, will not be treated with disrespect!

II LESSONS WE MUST LEARN

A. Good Intentions Don't Hack It

1. Illus. – Driving Dad's new Honda Accord... fireworks... turning around, broke the front turn/parking light cover... brothers loved watching me sweat in telling Dad... point is I had good intentions but they just didn't play out very well!
2. God in no way is *beholding* to us, it's we who are beholding to Him in all ways; thus, our worship and service to Him must be free of presumptions, thoughtlessness, and irreverence.
3. So much worship and service today might be filled with good intention; yet, it's not in accordance with God's bidding or His plan!

B. God is a Jealous God

1. Exodus 34:14 "*For you shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.*"
2. Change the "j" to "z" and you'll have a proper idea of this word being used here...
3. God is concerned with our welfare; thus, in Leviticus 10:3 we read "*...By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored.*" – God is Jealous!!

C. Reverence to God is a Must

1. Again, trifling with God (testing, trying, seeing how far can go) is dangerous business at the least!
2. The nearer our relationship with God the more displeased God is with presumptions, assumptions, trifling, and thoughtlessness in our approach to Him...! Reverence to God is a must!!

D. Submit to God's Discipline

1. Hebrews 12:5-6 "*...My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him; for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.*"
2. David's anger on this occasion showed a quarrelsome nature, not a submissive one.
3. If God be angry with us, dare we quarrel and be angry with Him?
4. Must recognize God's rebukes as even more proof that He loves us!
 - Illus. – parents who fail to discipline their kids... really don't love them...

E. Work Must Go On

1. David was driven from his duty for a while rather than from his sin.
2. We can and do get in the same predicament – God's rebukes are intended to drive us from sin, not the work before us...!

There are more lessons to be learned but for now let us see that Uzzah's death was so unnecessary!

Conclusion: Remember my asking at the beginning of this message – Why Did God Do It?!

- 1) pimples? -- ... as oil builds up inside oil glands it swells and becomes irritated. To protect itself, the body sends white blood cells to that area. They manufacture pus around the gland. In short, pimple is evidence of the body taking care of itself!
- 2) tonsils? – manufacture germ fighting white blood cells, which trap bacteria and infection...
- 3) hair in nose and ears? – guard for the body. Best filtering system a going against dust, insects etc...

In short, God has a reason for each of these questions. Likewise God had a reason for striking Uzzah dead. God's plan had been violated. His will had been ignored and thus not carried out. I'm sure other matters were involved that we don't understand. We do know this much there are important lessons for us to learn:

1. Good intentions don't hack it... don't justify wrong actions
2. God is a jealous God...
3. Reverence to God is a must...
4. Submit to God's discipline...
5. Work must go on...

God always has a reason for doing what He does and this you and I can bank on, it will always be for our own good no matter what the action or command of God is!