

Episode: One-Hit Wonders No. 15

Narrator: Obed-Edom

Primary Scriptures: 2 Samuel 6:1-19, 1 Chronicles 13:1-14, 16:37-38

Story Summary: Obed-Edom is blessed because he houses the Ark of the Covenant

Location: House of Obed-Edom

Time: Circa 975 BC

Suggested Memory Scriptures: 2 Samuel 6:11

A popular game to play at Christian youth group gatherings is to name people in the Bible starting with each letter of the alphabet. You can be certain when the game reaches the letter “U” the name shouted out will be Uzzah. His sad death seems to stick with people who hear his story.

King David has rebuilt Jebus, the City of David. He has united the tribes of Israel under his leadership and begun conquering all his enemies. His kingship is going well and he remembers that the Ark of the Covenant is not being revered.

He also remembers the Ark had been captured by the Philistines during the time of Eli, the last of the judges. God had inflicted the Philistines with plagues because they had the Ark, so they sent it back to the Israelites at Beth Shemesh. The first Israelites to receive the Ark had looked inside. This horribly offensive act caused God to destroy seventy of them. In their fear, they sent the Ark to be housed at Keriath Jearim in the house of Abinadab. The Ark had remained there ever since.

In his excitement, David plans a huge event with 30,000 men to celebrate the movement of the Ark to its new home in Jerusalem. Reading the story from the future, it seems as if David could not have done a better job to celebrate and honor God. Surely God would have to be pleased with David's actions and heart.

The Ark is loaded on a special ox cart so it can be moved safely. When one of the oxen slips, the Ark starts to slide. Uzzah reaches out to keep the Ark from falling on the ground, and God instantly strikes him dead. The celebration comes to an immediate halt. David is scared, and a little angry, but knows something is out of kilter. He takes the Ark to the nearby home of Obed-Edom where it is kept safe.

Obed-Edom treats the Ark with all the care he can, and God blesses him abundantly for doing so. He is so blessed that King David hears of it, and wants some of the blessing for himself. He concludes that the mistake he made with the Ark was not moving it in accordance with the strict and specific regulations God had given to Moses.

When David moves the Ark properly, God blesses his effort. As the Ark arrives in Jerusalem, David sets a new record for celebrating before the Lord.