

A HEART FOR GOD

LEARNING FROM THE LIFE AND POETRY OF DAVID, part 2

1. Read 2 Samuel 6:1–23. What significance does the ark of God have for Israel? What does it represent? (6:2; see also Exodus 25:22)
2. In their method of moving the ark, David and the priests clearly violate God’s instructions as detailed in the law (e.g., Exodus 25:12–15; Numbers 4:15). What do you think is a possible reason for this error?
3. No doubt Uzzah has the sincerest motives in moving the ark; however, touching it has deadly consequences for him. Why is sincerity not enough for God when it comes to doing his work?
4. How does David react to what happens to Uzzah? (vs. 8) What does this reaction lead to? (vss. 9–10) Do you think that God’s judgment of Uzzah is overly harsh? Why or why not?
5. What do we learn here about our sin and God’s holiness?
6. What is the difference between David’s first and second attempts to move the ark into Jerusalem?
7. Read 2 Samuel 7:1–3. When the battles are over and won, what occupies David’s thoughts? How about you—what occupies your mind when you have some leisure time?

8. Read 2 Samuel 7:4–17. How does God’s plan differ from David’s? What does God call David in verses 5 and 8, and what meaning does this title convey?

9. What promises does God make to David concerning the following (see vss. 10–16):
 - a. the people of Israel?
 - b. David himself?
 - c. David’s successor?
 - d. God’s house?
 - e. David’s ancestors?

10. From our vantage point in history, who do verses 13 and 16 refer to? (See Luke 1:31–33; Mark 11:7–10.)

11. Read 2 Samuel 7:18–29. How does David respond to God’s words? How do you react when God says no to your plans?

12. As David prays, what does he praise God for? What does he ask God for?

13. David remembers God’s faithfulness in the past (vss. 21–24). What would this do for his confidence in God to keep his word? What does David’s prayer reveal about his attitude toward God? Think about your own prayers: what do they reveal about your own attitude toward God?