

When

- The Book of 1 Chronicles was written several hundred years after King David's reign.

- David became king of Judah in approximately 1055 B.C, the year Saul died. David's reign spanned approximately 40 years (1055-1015 B.C.). He reigned over Judah for 7 years and 6 months, before becoming king over all Israel. His reign over all Judah and Israel lasted 33 years.

Key Characters

- **David** - The 2nd king of Israel.
- **Uzzah** - A man who was killed by God for touching the Ark of the Covenant.
- **Obed-edom** - The Ark of the Covenant was kept in Obed-edom's house for 3 months before it was taken to Jerusalem.



Where

- David moved the Ark of the Covenant from Kiriath-jearim (Balah; 13:6) to Jerusalem.

Outline

- **UZZAH AND THE ARK OF THE COVENANT (13:1-14):**
 - + The Ark of the Covenant was neglected during the reign of Saul.
 - + David decided to move the Ark from Kiriath-jearim to Jerusalem.
 - + He invited the Israelites to gather to celebrate the occasion.
 - + The Ark was transported on a new cart pulled by oxen. The cart was driven by two men, Uzzah and Ahio.
 - + When they were passing by the threshing floor of Chidon, the oxen stumbled and Uzzah put out his hand to steady the Ark.
 - + God killed Uzzah, because no Israelites was allowed to touch the Ark.
 - + Uzzah's death killed the celebratory mood of the people, and David decided to store the Ark in the house of Obed-edom, instead of taking it on to Jerusalem.
 - + The Ark of the Covenant stayed with Obed-edom for 3 months, and God blessed his household.

Application

- Was it fair that Uzzah died?
- While we can't address all the factors in this short study, one thing to keep in mind when evaluating the fate of Uzzah is that Uzzah's fate resulted from a disobedience that preceded him touching the Ark.
- According to God's law, the Ark of the Covenant was never supposed to be transported by wagon, it was to be carried on the shoulders of the priests (Num 7:6-9).
- Ignoring God's previous instructions about how the Ark was to be transported put Uzzah into his dilemma.
- Before we accuse God of being unfair, we should recognize that if God's commands had been followed, Uzzah wouldn't have died.