

# TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY



## Uzzah

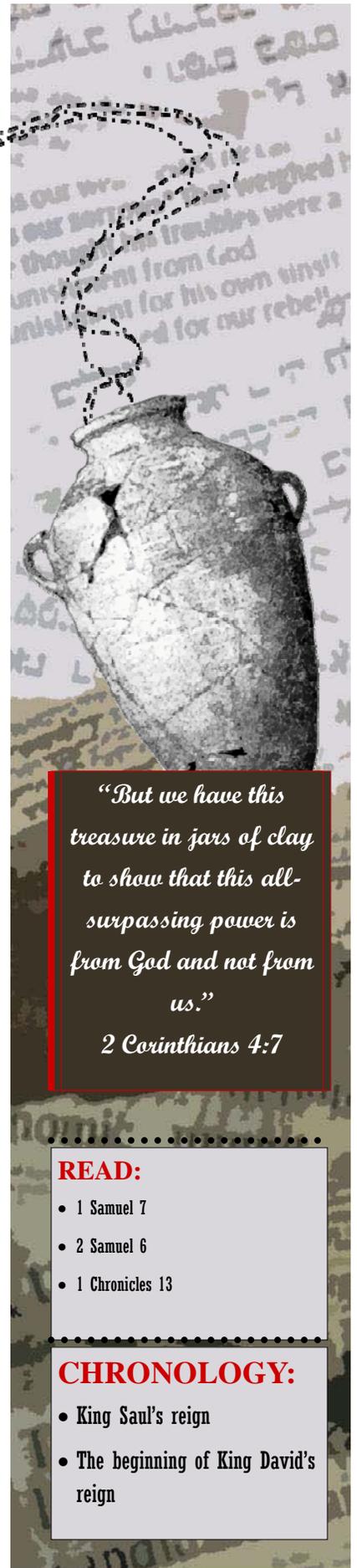
The story of Uzzah presents most of us with a difficulty in our assumptions about how God works. We just aren't sure about a God who would strike dead a guy who is just trying to be helpful.

We understand, at least intellectually, that our ways are not His ways. But sometimes He doesn't even seem to behave in God's ways...at least not with the behaviors we have imagined Him to have. He forgives when we expect vengeance, and His wrath bursts forth at the time that we least expect it. When we think we are behaving in a way that will earn His pleasure, and are rewarded with His wrath, we are doubly blindsided.

So, what is the lesson learned from Uzzah? Like Samson, he apparently accomplished more in his death than he had in his life. By his death he taught a king and a nation that ignorance is no excuse when it comes to God's instructions, and that following the example of the pagan nations around them would bring dire consequences.

Uzzah's lessons continue for us.

- He teaches us to not look for the shortcuts in acquiring God. Taking care of our spiritual life the easy or convenient way spells disaster.
- Looking to the surrounding culture, even "church culture" to influence or even define our relationship with God carries a price too high to pay.
- When we don't understand God, we must turn toward Him to wrestle honestly with Him rather than turn away from Him.
- Just as God counted the spiritual welfare of a nation worth the sacrifice of one man, so we must remember that we live and die for the kingdom of God above our personal welfare.



*"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."*

*2 Corinthians 4:7*

### READ:

- 1 Samuel 7
- 2 Samuel 6
- 1 Chronicles 13

### CHRONOLOGY:

- King Saul's reign
- The beginning of King David's reign

## Losing the ark to the Philistines

The Israelites had brought the ark of the covenant into the battle with the Philistines, apparently believing that doing so would ensure God's presence and their victory. Their misunderstanding of God led them to follow the pagan idea that by controlling the location of the ark, they controlled God Himself. What then was their reaction when the Philistines had captured the ark? (1 Sam. 4) \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think the Philistines assumed when they initially gained control of the ark? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some ways that we try to "control" God's presence and favor? \_\_\_\_\_

In chapter 5, what are some of the difficulties the Philistines encountered while they possessed the ark? \_\_\_\_\_

How long was the ark in the possession of the Philistines according to 1 Sam. 6:1? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the Philistines consult their religious experts about in 1 Sam. 6:2? \_\_\_\_\_

Why were they worried about how the task would be accomplished? \_\_\_\_\_

What method of transportation did they decide upon in 1 Sam. 6:8? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Curiosity killed the Cat 1 Sam. 6

How did the ark arrive at Beth-shemesh? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the initial reaction to its arrival? \_\_\_\_\_

What mistake did the men of Beth-shemesh make? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think they did this? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the tragic consequences? \_\_\_\_\_

What warning is given in Num. 4:17-20 in regard to the Kohathites who were to be entrusted with the care of the ark? \_\_\_\_\_

What question did the mourning people of Beth-Shemesh ask in 1 Sam. 6:20? \_\_\_\_\_

How does asking that question lead us to salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was the punishment at Beth-shemesh much more severe than what the Philistines had experienced? \_\_\_\_\_

What did they decide to do with the ark at that point? \_\_\_\_\_

Whose house did it end up at? \_\_\_\_\_

How long did it remain there according to 1 Sam. 7:2? \_\_\_\_\_



**"We can't  
stare at the  
Law without  
the cover of  
blood."**

**Glenn Packiam**

## The lesson for a nation 2 Sam. 6:1-8 and 1 Chron. 13

All through the reign of Saul, the ark hung out at Abinadab's house, in Kiriath Jearim, apparently largely forgotten by the nation of Israel. Who was appointed to watch over the ark? (1 Sam. 7:1) \_\_\_\_\_

Who else had lived with the ark? (2 Sam. 6:3) \_\_\_\_\_

We have no evidence of good or bad events connected to the ark during the time it remained at Kiriath Jearim. Why do you think that was? \_\_\_\_\_

What attitude might that foster among those who were in close proximity to the ark? \_\_\_\_\_

What was to happen at the ark of the Testimony according to Exodus 25:22? \_\_\_\_\_

This had not happened for all the years of Saul's reign, and the ark had been left neglected and ignored at the house of Abinadab. For David to desire to reinstate the ark, the actual glory and presence of God Almighty, onto center stage for the nation of Israel by moving it to Jerusalem was no small matter. David, in front of the entire nation, was putting God back on the throne. According to 1 Chron. 13:1-4, who was involved in this endeavor? \_\_\_\_\_

Moving the ark of the Testimony from the obscurity of Abinadab's house to prominence at the future site of the temple in Jerusalem was to be a grand and public event. What were David and the rest of Israel doing while the ark was being moved under the guidance of Ahio and Uzzah? (1 Chron. 13:7-8) \_\_\_\_\_

The glory of God would finally be returned to Israel! But then, right in the middle of the party, the oxen stumbled, Uzzah reached out to steady the ark, and was struck down in anger for the seemingly well intentioned act. It had to have been shocking and sobering, and surely confusing for the joyful crowd.

In 2 Sam. 6:8,9, what was David's initial response to the death of Uzzah? \_\_\_\_\_

When faced with such a perplexing event, David had the opportunity to throw up his hands and turn away from God, or to turn to Him and wrestle with his understanding of God. One of the things that made David a "man after God's own heart" was his consistent choice of the latter.

What conclusion had David come to in 1 Chron. 15:13? \_\_\_\_\_

What instructions were given about transporting the ark in Num. 4:15? \_\_\_\_\_

Why didn't David, or Uzzah follow those instructions? \_\_\_\_\_

Whose method of transporting the ark had they imitated instead? \_\_\_\_\_

Why had one incurred such a harsh penalty and the other had not? \_\_\_\_\_

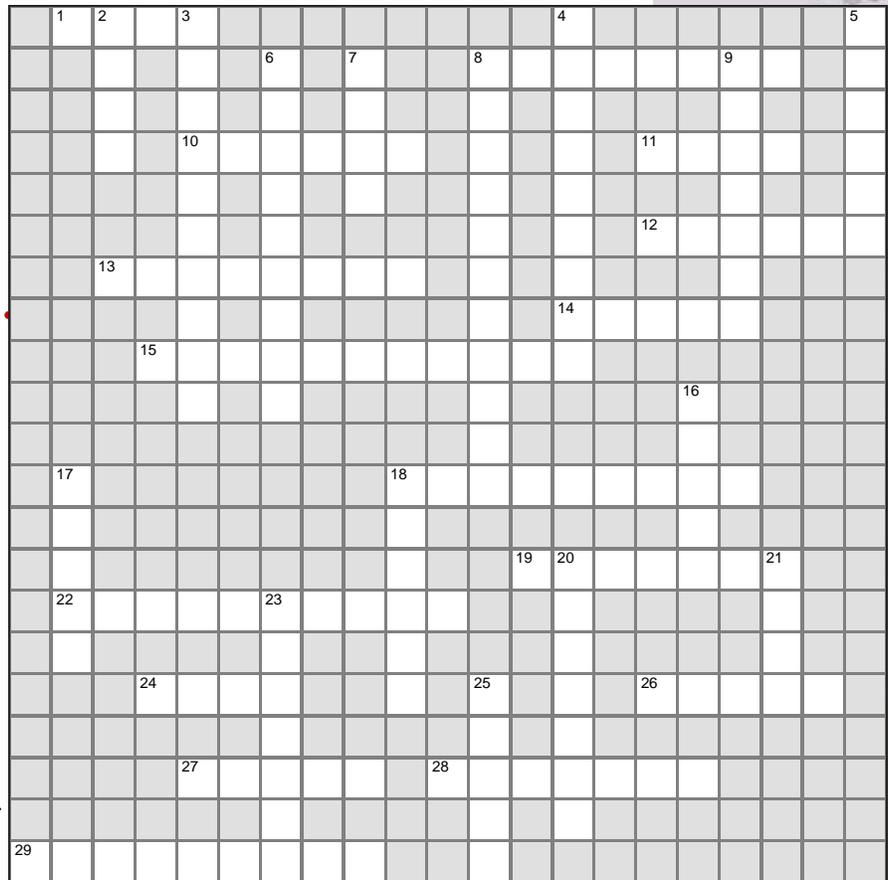
To what extent do you think we are held accountable for what we have neglected to learn? \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways did the death of Uzzah benefit the nation of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was that so important to God's plan, and therefore to us today? \_\_\_\_\_



# PUZZLE PAGE



## Clues

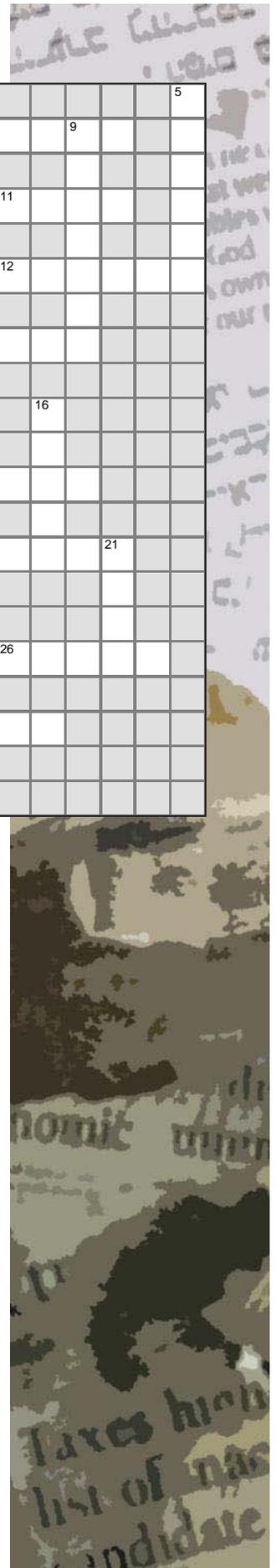
### Across

- 1 even those carrying the ark were not to do this to it (4)
- 8 after the curious men were killed, the people asked "Who can stand in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord?" (8)
- 10 Uzzah's death made David \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 wrong way to transport the ark (4)
- 12 the Philistines made a test to see if their suffering was from God or by \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 father of Uzzah (8)
- 14 Uzzah died at the threshing floor of \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
- 15 what David and all the Israelites were doing while Uzzah and Ahio guided the ark (11)
- 18 the ark of the \_\_\_\_\_ (9)
- 19 the pagan Philistines consulted theirs before moving the ark (7)
- 22 Uzzah's action was \_\_\_\_\_ (10)
- 24 color of cloth that was to cover the ark (Num. 4:6) (4)
- 26 the Philistines sent a \_\_\_\_\_ offering along with the ark (5)
- 27 Israelite who died from touching the ark
- 28 men of Beth Shemesh killed for looking in the ark (7)
- 29 David \_\_\_\_\_ with his officers about getting the ark (9)

### Down

- 2 stumbled while pulling the cart (4)
- 3 the clan who was to carry the ark (Num. 4:15) (10)
- 4 reaction of the people of Beth Shemesh when the ark was returned

- 5 Israelites thought the ark's presence would help them win this (6)
- 6 where David wanted to bring the ark (9)
- 7 Uzzah's brother (4)
- 8 captured the ark from the Israelites (11)
- 9 ark was to be covered with this when being transported (Num.4:5) (7)
- 16 the ark was to be carried by poles through these (5)
- 17 was angry because of the Lord's wrath (5)
- 18 number of years the ark remained at Kiriath Jearim (6)
- 20 the poles were not to be \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 25:16) (7)
- 21 the ark was not inquired of during his reign
- 23 in charge of guarding the ark at Abinadab's house (7)
- 25 what the men of Beth Shemesh were harvesting when the ark came to them (5)



Draw a line from the number on the map to its correct location, tracing the journey of the ark from Shiloh

1. - where the ark had been kept in the tabernacle
2. - location of battlefield where the ark was lost to the Philistines.
3. - border town between Judah and Philistia. The ark was returned to Israel here, and 70 Israelites died.
4. -home of Abinadab, also called Eleazar. The ark remained here until David took the throne.
5. - David brought the ark to this holy city

**Kiriath-jearim**

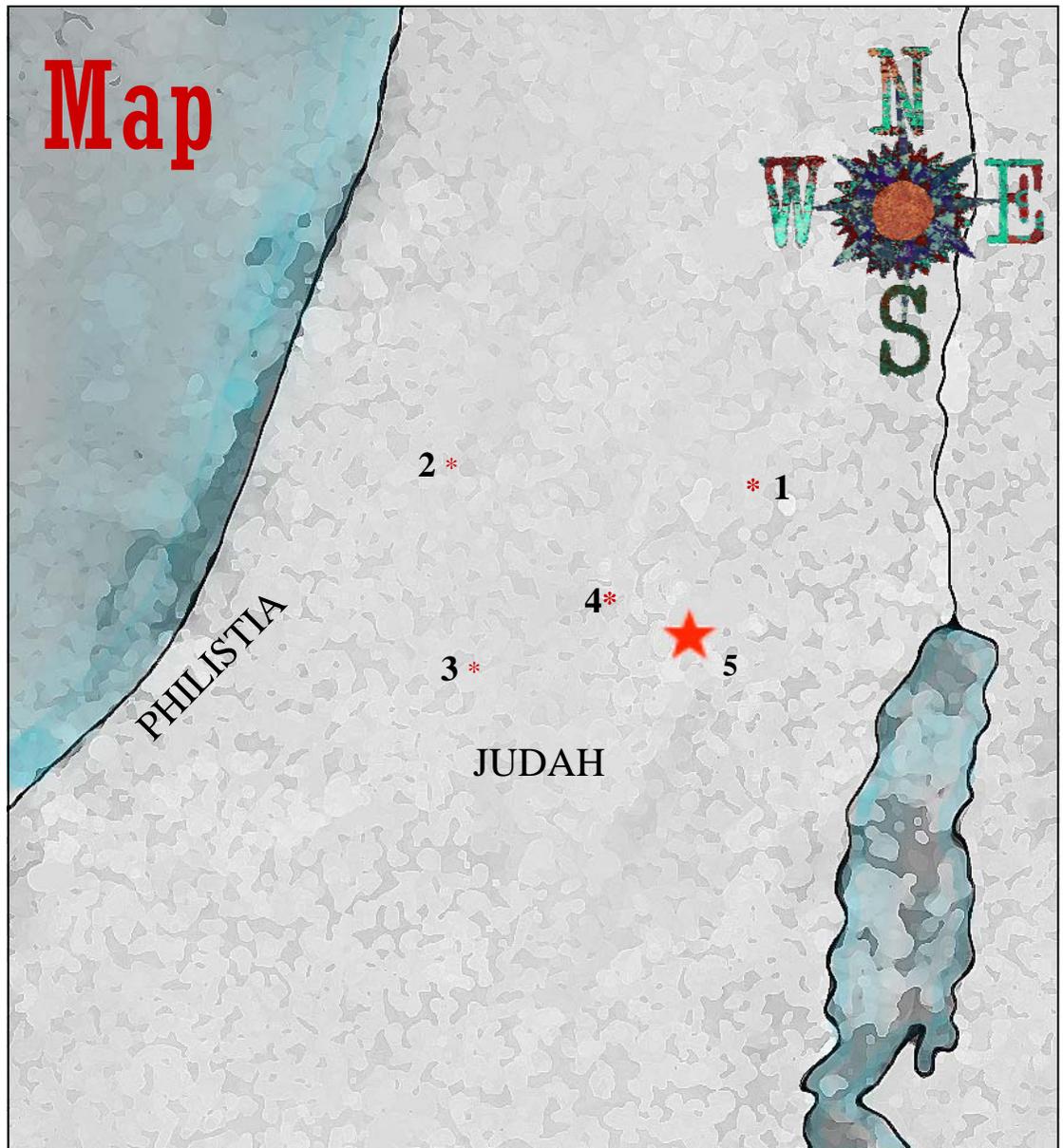
**Shiloh**

**Jerusalem**

**Beth-shemish**

**Ebenezer**

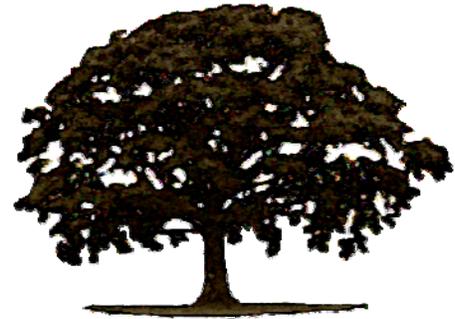
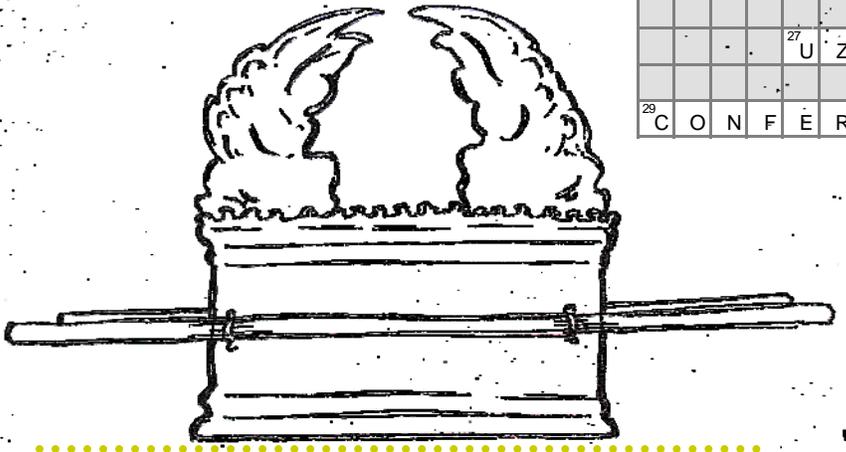
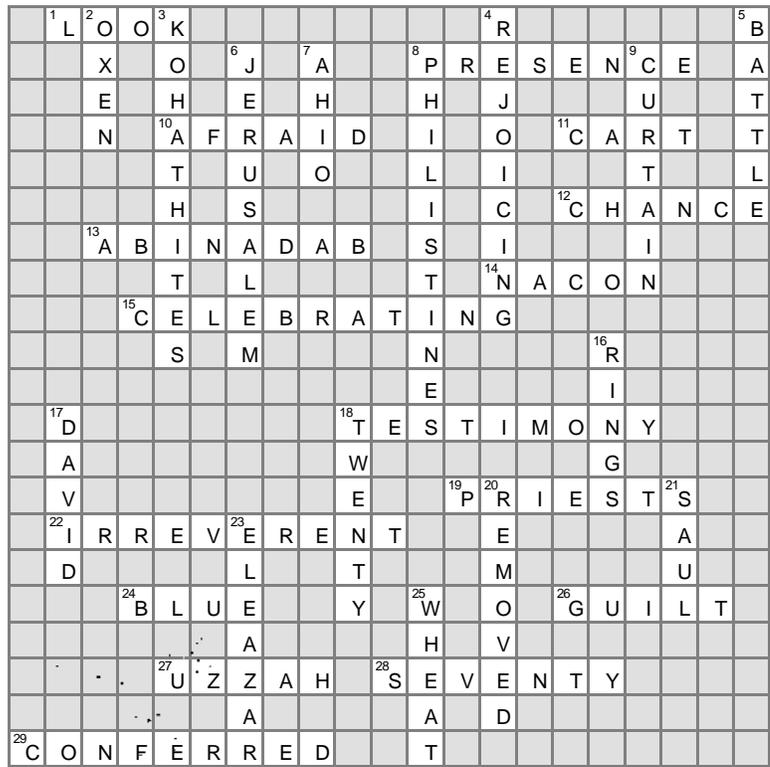
# Map



Puzzle answers:

“A cart is anything we use to ‘carry God’ for us; it is the shortcuts we attempt and the God experts we prefer...that we rely on to bring God to us in a quick, easy, but devastatingly impersonal way.”

(Peckiam 161-162)



## Sources:

**Down Victory Road**  
[www.downvictoryrd.com](http://www.downvictoryrd.com)

Peckiam, Glenn. *Secondhand Jesus*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2009. 137-170. Print.

Web resources:

<http://globalchristiancenter.com/lesser-known-bible-people-series/the-house-of-abinadab-and-the-ark-of-god.html>

<http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/Matthew-Hery/2Sam/Uzzah-Smitte-Touching-Ark>

<http://www.ecclesia.org/truth/uzzah.html>