

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

CHRONOLOGY

By Jeff Sweeten

Chronology can be essential; in the wrong order, everything can go sideways. Such was King David's discovery when moving the Ark of the Covenant from Kirjath Jearim to Jerusalem, after its seven month hiatus with the Philistines (1 Samuel 6:1). In his sincerity to give God the glory, replete with a "band" and much hoopla (1 Samuel 6:5), King David put the Ark on a *new* cart (1 Samuel 6:3) and headed out with great celebration. The oxen pulling the cart stumbled, Uzzah stuck his hand out to steady the Ark and dropped dead, end of party.

What King David discovered (and changed on the second go-round) was the chronology of Ark transport. Turns out, moving the Ark of the Covenant was to be done by the Levites; and a cart, new or otherwise, was not in the picture (1 Chronicles 15:2). So, King David tells Zadok, "*For because you did not do it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order*" (1 Chronicles 15:13). It mattered to God that **first**, you put poles through the Ark of the Covenant's rings and then the Levites, who are authorized to carry the ark, put it on their shoulders and **then** you move the ark. What one does to please God must be done how God pleases. His directives, even the order in which they are to be done, are not to be trifled with; Uzzah can testify to this: it can cost dearly.

So, Mark 16:16 states: "*He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*" A very old man-made religious tradition teaches that one should be baptized at birth to be saved, before faith is even possible, and later express their faith. Wrong order. Some newer human doctrines teach that one only has to believe to be saved and can be baptized later, if they like. Wrong order. The Divine order is that one comes to faith by the revelation of Jesus found in God's Word (Romans 10:17). This prompts an honest heart to want to repair a broken relationship with God (Isaiah 59:1-2) by having sins washed away (Acts 22:16) in a watery grave of baptism (Romans 6:3-4). Then, one is saved. Consult God about the proper order.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130